



**Myrtle Reservoir Park Development
Public Meeting #3
Thursday, May 1, 2008, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
High Point Community Center**

Present: Virginia Hassinger – Seattle Parks Project Manager
Cheryl Fraser – Parks Resource Manager
Kevin Stoops – Planning and Development Director
Tamara Barnet – Parks Staff
Jim Yamaguchi - Nakano and Associates, Project Designer

Purpose: Public Meeting #3

Handout: 1 handout was passed out. It showed a brief description of project past and present, explanation of how decisions are made, and factors that may have an impact on the outcome of the project. It also showed the agenda and rules of the meeting as well as the approved schematic design for Myrtle Reservoir Park.

Introduction:

- Cheryl started the meeting by introducing herself and the project. She then introduced Virginia Hassinger as the Project Manager of the project.
- Virginia gave a brief description of the project, project history, update, timeline, project budget, and the meeting agenda, including rules of the meeting. Virginia also went over what was discussed at the 2 last prior public meetings.

Discussion / Overview

- Virginia stated that Parks took the design recommendations from the 2nd meeting to SPU to discuss their design options. Currently SPU is still completing the grading of the site. Virginia also took the design to the Seattle Design Commission. They expressed that they like the design. On April 8th the design was approved by the internal parks review team.
- Virginia then introduced Kevin Stoops.
- Kevin Stoops stated that the skate park will not be pursued in the park at this time, and that the design will move forward with the current funding we have to finish the park. The Parks Department is currently building a large skate park located at lower Woodland. We are also looking at areas in the southern part of Seattle for an additional large skate park.
- Jim Yamaguchi then came forward and explained the approved schematic design in more detail. He pointed out several areas such as the activity area for ages 5 – 12. This area includes a sand box and a play structure. He also spoke on the swale area and open view area as well. A plaque will be placed in the open view area to describe the view point.
- Most rent trees will remain on site. A few smaller trees will be removed at NE entrance. Trees and shrubs will be added. Jim said he has also proposed fruit trees but most of the trees are deciduous.

- The SPU access road will be blocked by bollards. This will not be accessible to the public vehicular traffic.
- Virginia stated that artwork is not funded by the project, but the community could apply for a matching grant for the Department of Neighborhoods.
- The top of the reservoir is mainly for unscheduled play. This will be great place for usage as a community festival. Tents can be used in this area – but stakes driven into ground must be 12” or less.
- A citizen asked about lighting in the park. Virginia said that it’s not our intension to light the park – we may consider local safety lighting as needed.
- Several young adults asked about the skate park as to when and where will one be built in West Seattle.
- Kevin Stoops responded that the Parks Dept. is currently putting the finishing touches on the Lower Woodland Skate Park. They are also pursuing looking at various southend areas for a large skate park, but there will be no skate park in this project. The project from the beginning was not funded to add a skate park, and the parks department is going to continue with the project as it was originally projected.
- A citizen said that he would like to see the Parks Dept. step up to the plate. People / communities need to lobby for skate parks. He said that Kevin didn’t really answer the questions. He is now 37 years old and has been skating most of his whole life. He is still waiting to see a skate park built in West Seattle.
- Another person asked about parking and if there are going to be restrooms. Virginia responded that we usually don’t put in restrooms and parking in neighborhood parks. Parking on curve of 36th & Myrtle is hazardous. Where parking is a hazard we can work with Seattle Dept. of Transportation (SDOT) in helping to solve the problem but maybe putting up some signs.
- A couple spoke up, saying they live at the corner of 37th and Myrtle and are requesting that a fence be put up to block off people from coming onto their property. Their back yard currently has a fence but people still come onto their property. They have had several break-ins. They would like to see some consideration as to have some sort of boundary put in on that corner. Cheryl Fraser said that we will be in contact with them to discuss this issue.
- A man who lives on 36th Ave SW. said that one of his major concerns is lack of play areas. He is also concerned that there is no water fountain and his last concern is that there is no one here of color. There are no minorities. He wonders if we have reached out to all the community.
- Another person said that on 35th and Willow there is no crosswalk. The community would like to see a crosswalk put in at this location. Another person said she has a problem with the Parks Dept. in planning a park that they don’t make it safe for kids to walk to the park if they don’t install a crosswalk. Parks said they have no authority to install crosswalks. Project manager can pass on concerns to SDOT.
- Someone asked if we can have some kind of education artwork on the wall that will reflect water education.

- Another man commented that he liked the design, but there seems to be a lot of redundancy in the amount of concrete used in the pathways. He also has concerns of water drainage to the bottom of the park. It's very wet and soggy there. Jim (the designer) said that earlier in the design a rock path was considered but Parks maintenance had concerns. Concrete will be used.
- The wet area will be used for a raingarden .
- A comment came from a neighbor that lived within 5 miles and find 3 play area's within that radius. The concrete path and rails and anything skateboarders can use to skate on will be used and damaged by them. With the money that is used to fix and maintain these areas, we can build a skate park.
- Another woman commented that she liked the pathway for her 3 year old daughter to learn how to ride her trike.
- Another person asked how is the decision made as to who gets what and how much money they get to complete it. Kevin Stoops said that a year ago at the 1st public meeting comments were received from the public. The person then asked what happens with the comments and why we didn't advocate for a skate park then? Virginia commented that we have progressed from one meeting to the next, by incorporating design features from comments received. The design is then reviewed internally by parks staff.
- Someone asked how recent was the decision made not to put a skate park in at this park. Kevin Stoops replied that in the beginning of the project there initially was never any funding to put in a skate park. We are continuing on with the design as it was in the beginning with no funding for a skate parking. The Parks Dept. is currently viewing other options for a southend skate park.
- Kids in the back asked the question of putting in a skate park up at High Point. Virginia said this issue can't be addressed here, but they can write to the superintendant of the Parks Dept.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm. Virginia stated that those interested in creating a Friends of “ “ to talk to Janine VanSanden after the meeting.