



**Thomas C. Wales (formerly Dexter Pit)  
Community Meeting #3  
January 8, 2008**

Presenter: Mark Brands

Staff: Patrick Donohue & Kelly Davidson

**Introduction:**

Patrick Donohue gave a brief update of the project status and timeline for bid and construction.

**Presentation:**

Mark Brands gave an overview of the project design including the artwork since artist Andy Cao was not able to attend. The project has not changed much since the 2<sup>nd</sup> community meeting.

**Q & A:**

- The community was interested in the views available from the top of the hillside. Why wasn't a viewpoint part of the design? At the first community meeting a view site was discussed. Residents of the Windwatch building commented that if a viewpoint was included in the project, they would like to make sure it did not include access to the alley above the site for safety reasons. While the design was being developed it became clear the budget could not accommodate a viewpoint on the hillside. This remains a possibility for a phase two of the project. The community feels it is a huge missed opportunity and will lobby the Community Council to follow up.
- The project will have log benches. What is the lifespan of the wood that will be used? There are multiple woods that will hold up well to the weather especially when treated properly.
- Is this a kid friendly park? Yes, this is a family park, with a passive unstructured design.
- Is parking available? No parking is available due to limited space. Looking into safety improvements with SDOT.
- The trees currently block visibility. Will this be resolved? Yes, Parks is working with Seattle Police Department's crime prevention staff to ensure clear visibility to the site.
- Is there ADA parking? There is no ADA parking in the plan. Parks will continue to work with SDOT and there may be an option for a load/unload zone.
- The community would like to get an estimate on the cost of adding a viewpoint so they can lobby for funds.
- Are the LED lights still planned for the artworks? Yes. Parks is looking for a way to use solar power for the site.
- The community appreciates the new official name of the park.
- Some community members have consistently requested that an element of Queen Anne's history be incorporated into the park in the way of names used on tiles or benches. Fountains would also be a consideration. Why hasn't this been included? Projects that incorporate names of community members go through a different process and would be generated by the community.

- A tree count to identify the trees that will stay those that will go was requested. Why is that not available? We have not confirmed what trees will be removed, but it will only be those that are a hazard. The canopy will not be lost.
- Will the current drawings be posted to the web site? Yes.
- How will the park honor Thomas Wales? The name is a very new element of the park and we have just started talking about how to do this. Have considered if something can be placed at the entry. Ideas from the community are very welcome.
- How is the wetlands boundary defined? There will not be a firm boundary, but there will be distinct plantings to create an edge and text will be including at the edge for interpretation.
- Will the willows be left alone? Yes, and we are considering how to place the artwork so they are not covered.
- Parks is looking at options for solar power to operate lighting and irrigation. May require a panel in the hillside. Strong support from community for solar power.
- What is the maintenance schedule once the park is complete? Maintenance staff do daily trash pick up and gardening on a regular basis.
- Are the goats still an option. The concern is how to stabilize the hillside if the blackberries are gone. Budget does not allow for the necessary new planting that would be required.
- How will Parks ensure that no birds will be killed during the construction of the project? All efforts will be made to not harm wildlife during construction, however there will be disruption to the habitat while construction takes place, but in the end the habitat will be enhanced dramatically.
- If there is a phase two that would include a viewpoint, how can the community be involved in that design? Pedestrian traffic on Aurora is not safe with the limited access there is now, increased pedestrians at this site would make it even worse. Currently only considering access from the bottom of the site, even if a viewpoint goes in. There would be a whole new set of community meetings for any additional phase designs.
- The Queen Anne Community Council will look into a memorial wall or something and be in touch with Parks.

Next Steps:

The project is expected to be completed this summer.