

BELL STREET PARK SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING #2

held on January 13, 2010 at PACCAR Pavilion, SAM Olympic Sculpture Park



Meeting notices were mailed throughout Belltown and beyond. The Belltown Community Council contacted residential and business members via e-mail. Posters were displayed at multifamily locations and a project sign was posted on Bell Street.

OVERVIEW

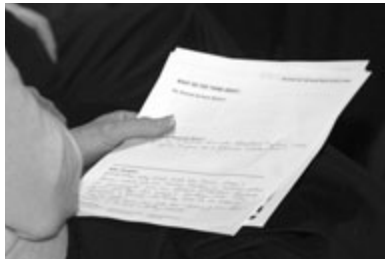
Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Belltown Community Council jointly hosted their second public meeting for the planned Bell Street Park on January 13, 2010. Based on public comments and ideas gathered at the first meeting last November, the design team of SvR+Hewitt created two distinctly different approaches to encourage comparison. Over 160 people attended the meeting to discuss the “Sluiced Surface” and “Measured Movement” design concepts, express their preferences and guide the design team in shaping choices for a preferred alternative. Lively discussion, note taking and hand raise votes began to home in on the design elements that the community identified as most responsive. Through the exercise, a blend of elements from the two concepts emerged, providing excellent direction for the design team. The new park will be located between 1st and 5th Avenues and is funded with \$2.5 million from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. Meeting #3, to be held in Spring 2010, will be an opportunity for the community to view and advise on the merging of elements into a single preferred alternative.

PRESENTATION

Park policy and programming information was presented in response to questions raised at the first meeting. The artist selection process is underway with a choice anticipated by March or April. A detailed presentation based on the lighting analysis for Bell Street was shown with light readings for the street, comparative standards for appropriate lighting levels and examples of built projects that have achieved safe lighting levels through different approaches. The design team began with a slide presentation to describe the historical context that inspired their two design concepts. Then, the “Sluiced Surface” and “Measured Movement” concepts were explained in detail. Using the vibrant, safe and green comment categories from the first meeting as a framework for comparison, they described the difference in design approach taken in the two schemes. The presentation is available on the project web page.

Vibrant Safe Green

BE PART OF THE NEW PARK IN BELLTOWN



COMPARISON OF OPTIONS

	SLUICED SURFACE	MEASURED MOVEMENT
VIBRANT		
Form	dynamic gestures and meandering movement, a faceted surface	rhythmic gestures and measured movement, a metronome
Gathering Spaces	more variety of smaller spaces, more intimate, built-in seating	more flexibility of larger spaces, less intimate, café seating
SAFE		
Lighting	catenaries overhead and bollards and accents in irregular network	12-foot pole lights on regular interval of bands
Pedestrian Safety	curbed and more controlled street, pedestrians directed to sidewalks and pay more attention	curbless and less controlled street, drivers pay more attention as pedestrians cross at several locations
GREEN		
Vegetation	flexible geometry can save more existing trees, low groundcovers on tilted planes in variety of forms	more modular geometry may replace more existing trees, robust knee-high vegetation within ribbon of stone
Stormwater	runnels direct stormwater to variety of planted “pockets”	infiltration bands direct stormwater to ribbon of stone and trees

WHAT WE HEARD

The selection of comments on the two options are organized into the categories of vibrant, safe and green. For additional project information and detailed comments, visit www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/bell_street/boulevard_park.htm.

SELECTED COMMENTS ON THE OPTIONS

VIBRANT

Form—Blend of two options preferred

Prefer bigger, more flexible spaces, not nooks and crannies • Dynamic meandering spaces allow one to find a place to relate to • Prefer aesthetics of Sluiced Surface • Measured Movement option promotes movement, not lingering • Reuse materials, employ more ‘obtanium’ • Provide flexibility to extend to Denny Park and waterfront • Dog park generates lots of activity

Gathering Spaces—Blend of two options preferred

Areas of various size promote interaction • Provide gathering spaces for families • Sluiced Surface option is too confining for future development • Provide a play area with slides and swings, possibly in Regrade Park • Preserve authentic character of Belltown—don’t gentrify • Reduce size of off-leash area and use Regrade Park to anchor Bell Street Park

SAFE

Lighting—Sluiced Surface preferred

Employ CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design)

Pedestrian Safety—Measured Movement preferred

Prefer curbless design • A multi-modal ‘woonerf’ and festival street will attract people • Provide removable bollards at 2nd and 3rd avenues • Consider safety for both pedestrians and cyclists • Create a visually narrow street and add diversity • Programming will be a key to success

GREEN

Vegetation—Blend of the two options preferred

Prefer more regimented vegetation

Stormwater—Measured Movement preferred