



**Victor Steinbrueck Park
Public Meeting
May 1, 2008, 6:30 to 8:30 PM**

Meeting Notes

Approximately 40 citizens attended the first public meeting and gave their input on the following 5 key questions.

1. What is wrong with the park?

Need more police presence
Nothing is wrong with the design of the park
Class war-fare behavior is present in the park
The south end of the park is a problem – lack of constructive activity occurs there
There are not enough public bathrooms
Too much of a police presence – creates a hostile environment
Not a lot wrong with the physical layout of the park, but it could use a ‘sprucing up’ – seating
There is a lot of behavioral problems and threatening behavior in the park - drug dealing and gang activity
The park layout is good – what’s wrong is the drug dealing, harassment and gang activity
The grassy areas are soiled with waste – dog poop and needles – creates a serious health issue
Need to preserve the green space – the color green, not enough green
Crime and physical harassment are huge problems – public money needs to be spent on treatment centers
Drug dealing, criminal activity and anti-social behavior
The council ring is not used – need to do something with that space

2. What is good about the park?

No vendors – if there is a vendor, it needs to be a market vendor
Love the park. Love what Chief Seattle would have seen – the water, the mountains, the sky
Would like to see the council circle filled with sand
Beautiful setting
The park’s design and setting allows for integration and cross traffic between the market employees, parks users, tourists and vendors
Like the public restroom
Quintessential Seattle place
Well designed, physically infrastructure works well
Don’t change the design – the problems will remain
The park and market IS Seattle
Dog exercise/play area – perhaps seasonal or only at certain times of the day, etc
Like that it’s worth \$2 million
Spectacular views - Virginia St viewpoint – protected
Market Historical Commission influence/purview in reviewing any design changes
Check in with Richard Haag
Park design originally had in mind the homeless and first Americans
Greatest part is the loop – the parade of people, great use of space
Loss of restroom space will be felt – the park needs bathrooms
The park stands by itself for the people, the totem poles
Diversity of park patrons

Views and the boat lights at night are beautiful
Favorite parts: benches, berms, huge planters, iron grill art work, totem poles
Living green

3. What are the threats facing the park?

The park is built upon a parking garage (synthetic environment) need for an evaluation of infrastructure and foundation
Divisions between people, exclusions
Commerce is too narrow a focus
Commerce, activity, people around the parks – worry about gentrification
Gentrification – the poor are driven out- they don't look like the middle and upper classes
Polarizing the community
Confusion between homelessness and illegal activities – the illegal activities are what needs to be dealt with
Parks need to be perceived as safe – the perception of a lack of safety is a threat
Loss of skid road
Need to keep Victor Steinbrueck park as the People's park, for everybody
Parks department, Mayor, City
Fear – criminals use the homeless, take advantage of them, hide behind them
Viaduct replacement options, investigation will close the park

4. What are the opportunities for the park?

Seasonal small dog off leash area in the SW corner of the park, near the pergola
Homeless place of remembrance – a place of peace, beauty, reflection
Create an opportunity for hope and healing
Place of focus, place to re-channel negativity, a place of sacred things
Embracing Victor Steinbrueck's intentions and legacies
Celebrating beauty of the park
Homeless Place of Remembrance – be an amenity – a gathering place
Healing energy in formerly scary place
Support for a Homeless Place of Remembrance – one that provides dignity, support and honor
Have the park accessible to everyone
Homeless Place of Remembrance will be a place of hope
Planting area near current public toilet could be an opportunity for 'sprucing up', widen area – something easier for maintenance
Homeless Place of Remembrance – non-denominational, no name
Something for children – play elements, or sand box, the current 'play area' is not used
Dog parade
Planting circle across the street from the park should be integrated into the park
Experiment with removing benches – may draw people further in
Market security should extend down the street – include planting circle, big tree
Uniformed Park Rangers but not police
More of MID patrols
Spring clean event – Saturday from 1-3 p.m.
Activities around Homeless Place of Remembrance for elders to come and share stories
Use benches to incorporate tree in activities
Opportunities for increased programming - creating broader community ownership
For art community – park as venue
Artists to do small aspects of the larger park project
Life in the City

5. What is your vision for the park?

Homeless Place of Remembrance as part of the park
A place where everyone is welcome; fear is eliminated
A gathering place where people care about each other
A positive beautiful place that includes the Homeless Place of Remembrance
A place where law abiding people are not asked to move on just because they do not conform in appearance to the idea of acceptability held by affluent white people

A place where the homeless community matters, where they belong
A safe place for children, a gathering place for elders, a place for everyone who is lawful
More greenery
Park needs to be safe and inviting place for the total diversity of population
Homeless Place of Remembrance for visitors to see – will have positive impact that shows the
“Soul” of our City”
Fosters creativity
Homelessness is ended
Falling asleep watching the sunset
Chessboard in the circle