

# Hiawatha Playfield Field Renovation

## Community Meeting

December 12, 2007

Project Manager: Lynn Sullivan, Seattle Parks  
Landscape Architect: Eric Gold, DA Hogan and Associates

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Eric Gold and Lynn Sullivan presented the final design concept for Hiawatha Playfield Field Renovation.

Due to constraints caused by including four different sports fields in the renovated playfield – baseball, soccer, football, and track -- it has become necessary to remove the elm which currently stands at the south end of the existing field. Several years ago this tree was damaged by a storm and its shape and health have been compromised.

Elms are fatally susceptible to Dutch Elm disease. This particular elm tree has not been identified as a significant elm in the city and therefore does not receive the premier arborist treatment against Dutch Elm disease. This in itself leaves the tree susceptible to the disease but stress resulting from the playfield's construction would further compromise the tree's ability to fend off the disease. The question arose as to whether it was wise to compromise the effectiveness of a \$3.5 million dollar facility for a tree whose future is unpredictable. The elm will be removed. Friends of Olmsted Seattle Parks and the Architectural Review Committee of the Seattle Landmark Board are in agreement.

Construction is scheduled to start in Summer 2008.

Comment: Fencing is needed as rogue cars will likely vandalize the renovated playfield and field events area back of the community center.

Response: Thanks for the heads up. Fencing is not in the project budget at this time. Parks will look into the issue.

Comment: Will there be track facilities?

Response: A three-lane track will encompass the renovated playfield. The field events in back of the community center will be renovated.

Question: Can we get a high-jump?

Response: Parks will only be replacing existing events due to space constraints. Presently, there is no high jump.

Comment: Don't like synthetic surfacing for playing on – it's hot and it stinks.

Comment: Do like synthetic surfacing for playing on. Also feel the heat but the surfacing is consistent so no more sprained ankles.

Comment: Please coordinate the central entrance off California with the aesthetics of the track.

Response: Absolutely, intend to do so.

Comment: Is the renovated field going to be flat?

Response: It will fall in one direction at less than 1%. It will drain sufficiently and the slope will be imperceptible.

Comment: Will there be goal posts?

Response: Yes, they will be removable.

Lynn Sullivan announced that Parks was considering leaving the football grid unstriped and asked that the meeting attendees comment on this proposal.

Comment: The football grid is necessary to effectively teach kids – it's a teaching tool. Children deserve every resource. Yard markers are needed at a minimum.

Comment: Junior Varsity and Freshmen teams deserve the same quality of field as the Varsity team that plays at the West Seattle Stadium.

Comment: The soccer field is more important than the football grid.

Comment: Include at a minimum ten yards lines and sidelines.

Comment: Include at a minimum the perimeter, goal lines, end lines, and ten yard lines.

Comment: Include the complete football grid – just like as is being done for soccer and baseball.

Comment: Need potable hose bib.

Response: Potable water will be provided.

Comment: How will storage for hurdles, general equipment, and the soccer net, etc. be handled?

Response: Current operating procedures will prevail. There isn't room on the site for an actual storage building and one was not included in the design program nor budget. At this point, permitting for such a structure would delay the project schedule another year. In addition, Hiawatha Playfield is a Historical Landmark and introducing a building onto the site would require rigorous and time consuming review by the City's Landmark Board.