



## Jefferson Park Expansion Phase Two

### Community Meeting One Meeting Notes

**Tuesday, April 21, 2009 from 6:30 – 7:45**  
Beacon Hill Library, 2821 Beacon Ave. S.

#### **Staff Members present:**

Kim Baldwin, Project Manager  
Kevin Stoops, Director  
Karen O'Connor, Public Information Officer

#### **Other Team Members present:**

Greg Brower and Andy Mitton, The Berger Partnership

**Welcome:** Over 100 community members were welcomed to the meeting.

#### **Questions/Answers/Comments**

- Q. Why do we need to use these priority forms when they don't include important items such as fields? Form: process that does not include fields or 15<sup>th</sup> avenue south side – P-Patch  
discussion: 1) orchard; 2) food production costs
- A. There is a place on the priority sheet for items not listed to be written down.
- Q. Are all the walking paths paved?
- A. The majority are asphalt or concrete and the rest are crushed rock. All paths are accessible.
- Q. Use of spray parks? Linked to temperature? Will it be open on only sunny days like the pools?
- A. If there's a spray park, it will have similar operational standards as the existing ones.
- Q. What about a Bathroom?
- A. Restrooms are in the plans.
- Q. Play area – is it funded?
- A. Yes a play area is funded but Beacon Mountain is not funded
- Q. Why no track or baseball field?
- B. When synthetic turf was removed and costs were cut, the track and backstops were removed. The turf is over lid and will be scheduled accordingly as we see how the turf performs.
- Q. Timing?

A. Phase 1 – begins this summer. Complete in fall of 2010.

Q. Is the skate park funded?

A. Yes, Skate park funded – one million dollars.

Q. Will some items take more design work to get ready to build?

A: All items will take some work but it's relative to the complexity of the specific item. For example, the SW corner of the site has many possibilities but it hasn't been brought to the level of schematic design so preparing construction documents will be take considerable time and effort.

Q. Will the access road on the east side be abandoned?

A. SPU uses this access at this point but it's something that can be considered in the future.

Comment: Concern about online messaging; getting duplicate responses and too many from outside the neighborhood. There was a desire to add voices from Jefferson neighborhood. Can you request name and address when people are submitting input?

Response: We can ask that people add their name and address to the priority worksheets so we don't get duplicates.

Comment: There are kids around today who want to use the park and play area. We want something that will last but that will get done when our kids are still children. Please get something built.

Comment: What about smaller scale items that should be included for safety such as lighting? Scope should be safe and integrated.

Comment: Pavement – cement everywhere –is this Olmsted vision?

Comment - May 30th is neighborhood planning meeting. Big ticket items should be done with levy funding. Use grants for smaller items.

Comment -Beacon Mountain playground adds much needed water features in this neighborhood.

This neighborhood isn't near any large water bodies like some other communities. It addresses ecology and learning, is a place for everyone including people of all ages, cultures and abilities. It will be a place that brings everyone together. This opinion was supported by a large portion of people at the meeting.

Comment: Who is who in the room was asked by a community member? There was a raising of hands to show who was part of Jefferson Park Alliance, the soccer community, and who wasn't specifically associated with either.

Comment: There was a strong outpouring of support for playfields – mostly from soccer supporters. There were multiple comments in support of providing synthetic turf and lighting over the lid as well as providing improvements at Jefferson Playfield. Samoan cricket is currently played at Jefferson Playfield and there was support for this use.

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Comment: Play areas create community and bring people together.

Comment: Soccer creates community and brings people together too. It also generates revenue.

Comment : I've been coaching kids and this neighborhood needs soccer.

Comment: This site is a designated view corridor. The lights will interfere.

Comment: I don't see how lights on the lid could interfere with the view corridor.

Comment: Have the maintenance costs for this new park and turf field been taken into consideration? How about vandalism?

Comment: I went to the new park Cal Anderson which is built over a reservoir – this park is great. This community needs to celebrate the joy of the park. It's going to be a great place and people need to remember that.

Comment: Neighborhood youth – we like soccer and turf fields.

Comment: Community member did not know there was this much tension – the neighborhood needs a place to practice year round. Youth in the neighborhood need year round place to play and kids in the park makes parks safer. Why can't we have field turf for practice all year around, need to train all year – it is safer.

Comment: This has been in the planning for a long time we can't revisit every issue over again.

Comment: Take the money and build something. I was carrying my child on my hip at the first meetings I attended and now we're looking at colleges.

Comment: Parks apologized for under estimating the turnout and not scheduling a larger room. This amount of people at a community meeting is wonderful, but very unusual. The room capacity is 100, 112 people signed in, and probably 10-20 more didn't sign in. Thanks for the great participation and for being accommodating to all.

At the start of the meeting, Parks discussed the history of synthetic turf and lighting over the lid. This topic was brought up throughout the meeting and Parks received many emails afterwards. The following is a more detailed explanation that was provided after the meeting through emails and warrants being included in these minutes although it isn't directly from the meeting. It's a response from Timothy Gallagher, Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation.

*"During work on the Jefferson Park Site Plan, the topic of lighting a synthetic field in the new Jefferson Park was brought to the Board of Park Commissioners at its July 11, 2002 meeting. Park users presented a petition with 342 signatures of people advocating all-weather lighted fields.*

*The Jefferson Park Schematic Plan (without a lighted field) came back to the Park Board on February 23, 2006 for its review, and the question came up again about lighting the fields over the reservoir. At the March 9, 2006 Board meeting, specific questions arose about technical aspects of lighting the reservoir lid fields.*

*In late 2005 and early 2006, the Project Advisory Team representing the community held seven meetings and three broader public meetings. They discussed the issue of synthetic turf, and lights were discussed at length during that time.*

*On May 25, 2006, the Board held a public hearing, well attended both by athletic field advocates and citizens who did not want lighted fields. The Board recommended against lighting for the field on the lid, but they were sensitive to the voice of the field advocates and encouraged Parks and Recreation to provide lighting at the Jefferson Playfield (south of the Parks facility at 1600 S Dakota St.) and renovate it for increased use, consistent with the Joint Athletic Facilities Development Plan of 2002 (JAFDP) that recommends that Jefferson Playfield be converted to synthetic turf with lights.*

*It was at that meeting that the Board recommended against lighting at the new fields. Further, the Joint Athletic Facilities Development Plan, in an effort to increase field capacity without building new fields, includes an analysis of the policy basis for field development; Parks' partnership with Seattle Public Schools, under which we share athletic fields; trends in athletic field usage and demand; and how to meet a reasonable level of demand. One of the conclusions of this analysis and an element of the plan is that pairing synthetic turf and lights maximizes the scheduling capacity for a field. Simply put, the policy directs that synthetic turf and lights go together.*

*Finally, as you surely know, the City is facing a serious revenue shortfall, particularly in revenues from the Real Estate Excise Tax, which funds projects like this one. Installation of*

*synthetic turf at this site would not follow the policy set forth in the JAFDP. Faced with significant reductions in funding in 2008, reductions were made to many project budgets, which resulted in the scope changes for this project. It is for these reasons that I decided not to include synthetic turf at the site."*