NORTH TRANSFER STATION
Green Group Workshop 2 Summary
October 3, 2011
Lake Washington Rowing Club 6:00 – 8:00 PM

ATTENDEES

Green Group
Erika Bigelow
Norm Davis
Teresa Donovan
Allison Hogue
Kristin Kildall
Guy Peckham
Erik Pihl
Nancy Rottle
Kathy Stetz
Lori Tang

HDR, Inc
Olivia Williams

Seattle Public Utilities
Tim Croll
Bill Benzer
Jeff Neuner

EnviroIssues
Penny Mabie (facilitator)
Alissa VandenBerghe

Hough Beck & Baird, Inc. (HBB)
Dean W. Koonts
Arielle R. Farina Clark

Observers
John Teutsch

MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting was to present the North Transfer Station (NTS) open space programming concepts developed based on input from Workshop 1 and to select concepts or elements of concepts to be presented at the Community Meeting on October 26.

AGENDA ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Welcome and Introductions, *Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues*
Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues, convened the meeting by introducing herself and asking the participants to introduce themselves. Penny then recapped the last Green Group workshop and explained the purpose of this evening's workshop.

Penny reminded meeting attendees that there were two questions from the previous workshop that needed to be answered. She first addressed the question about the demographics around the transfer station. A brief summary of the findings is attached as an appendix. The second question was in regards to the length of the perimeter of the site including the transfer station, 1550 building, and Carr Pl parking lot parcels. Dean W. Koonts, HBB, noted that the site's perimeter is approximately 2,500 linear feet.

Concept Discussion and Narrowing, *Dean W. Koonts, HBB*

A group member requested that Penny read through the amenities recommended by the Stakeholder Group to refresh the Green Group of their purpose and to ensure that decisions made are consistent with the Stakeholder Group's recommendations. Penny agreed and read through the amenities from the Stakeholder Group Recommendation Report.

Dean began the discussion of the draft open space concepts by explaining that the design team used the visioning exercise from the last meeting to create these concepts. The team made sure that everything on the visioning list was used in at least one of the concepts.

Dean described each of the concepts in detail. Meeting members asked the following questions about the concepts:

Buzz

- An observer asked how far the green roof is from Woodlawn Avenue N. Tim Croll, SPU, replied that the distance is 65 feet.
- A member asked why the play area reduces the Green Factor point value. Dean explained that to get points, you need to have a certain depth of planting soil and the playground doesn't have planting soil underneath it.
- Another group member said she was under the impression that if the neighborhood wanted a playground and a ball court that it wouldn't decrease the ability to achieve the Green Factor requirements. Tim explained that if the neighborhood wants a ball court and a playground, SPU would be able to provide that but that the rest of the open space would need to be landscaped in order to meet Green Factor requirements.
- A group member asked what parts of the campus were required to meet the Green Factor. Tim explained that it applies for the entire transfer station facility including the existing transfer station, 1550 building, and Carr Pl parking lot parcels, not just the industrial-zoned spaces.
- Penny asked SPU to clarify what the green factor is. Bill explained that the Green Factor is a City of Seattle program that measures landscaping and environmental features.
- One member asked if it would be possible to preserve the trees that are currently located in the areas that are planned to have trees. Dean explained that as long as the trees don't need to be moved for construction purposes, they should be able to be preserved. The Design Build team will be able to determine this later in the design process.
- Penny reminded group members to not be too descriptive because this process will only provide guidelines for the final station design. The group member explained that she wanted it to be noted as a design preference for the Design Build contractor to keep the trees in place where possible.

Hook
No questions were asked.

Spin

- Tim asked Dean to explain if some trees were better for natural surveillance than others, for instance if evergreen trees block more views than deciduous trees. Dean pointed out that it's difficult to say with certainty, since many evergreen trees lose their bottom limbs as they mature and open up sight lines underneath their canopy. Some deciduous trees sucker (regrow at low heights) and end up blocking views.
- A group member asked what surfacing material would be used for the plaza area. Dean explained that the materials haven't been decided on but that it would have to ADA accessible. The stakeholder

recommended that it be crushed rock that meets ADA accessibility requirements but makes it difficult to for skateboarders to skate on.

Step

- A member asked the team to clarify where the viewing room would be located in the concepts (from the Stakeholder Recommendation Report). Tim noted that the viewing area is inside the administration building and is not part of the open space planning. It can be assumed as a given on all the concepts.

Swish

- One member asked if it would be possible to use excavated soil from other areas in the project to level the slope in the Carr Place parking lot. Dean explained that several of the concepts incorporate this idea, balancing cut and fill quantities. In the other concepts the slope remains as small as possible to prevent having large retaining walls.
- An observer asked what the grade change was in the parking lot. The team used the site analysis graphic from the previous meeting to explain the different elevations and grade changes.
- A group member asked if the design of the green roof will be consistent with the rest of the open space design. Dean replied that some of the concepts have a plaza space nearby so that the park goers can see the green roof. The group member asked that the design of the green roof take into account the general theme of the open space so as to be compatible and complimentary.
- A member asked how thick the green roof would be. Tim said that it would likely have a minimum 2-inch growth media and would be made up mostly of grass.
- An observer asked if the recycling and reuse building would be taller than the current warehouse. Tim replied that it would not be taller and that it would be set further back from where the warehouse is currently located.

Concept Discussion and Narrowing, *Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues and Dean W. Koonts, HBB*

Penny and Dean then led the group through an exercise to determine which elements were favored to be able to narrow down the concepts to move forward to the community meeting. The group members were each asked to list their most favorite element and their least desirable element.

Most favorable:

- Meadow
- Want the most active space, children's play area
- Meandering pathways
- Trees around the right side (walking through trees)
- Children's play area
- Interactive children's play area with more greenery and natural playscapes (*Swish*)
- Play area
- Children's play area
- Play area for all ages
- Integration of trees around green roof as long as they don't block views or surveillance

- Circuit around perimeter
- Play area surrounded by residences
- Plaza anchoring Woodlawn and 34th
- Olmsteadian walk
- Ball court (adjacent to recycling building)

Least favorable:

- Too much plaza
- Plaza
- Terrace in step
- Interpretive signage (would be lost in the other features)
- Underutilization of trees on all sides (wants more trees)
- Lack of green space around the station (More green space around the station on all sides)
- Non-integrated plaza
- Placement of trees in *Swish* and *Hook*, not safe, block views
- Amphitheater won't be used as much
- Plazas

A member said she was surprised that there are no P-Patches in any of the concepts. She said there should be as many uses for as many users as possible. Other group members agreed and said they were interested in learning more about a P-Patch.

Another group member asked if SPU could find out if there is research on whether or not P-Patches attract rodents. Tim said that SPU would check in with the P-Patch organization and see if they have information they could provide.

A member mentioned that during a survey of the South Wallingford neighborhood, P-Patches ranked as one of the most desired elements to add to the neighborhood.

Another member of the group said that she didn't think that P-Patches were very neighborhood-focused because the plots are rented out to people from all over Seattle. The neighbors of the P-Patch may not actually be able to use it depending on the current waiting list. Dean clarified that P-Patches are open to the entire city so it's possible the users won't be the neighbors. He noted that the P-Patch organization often requires the area be fenced off. He also added that the Seattle Parks Department manages a community garden program that could work better for the neighborhood. A group member referenced the Bradner Gardens Park as an example of a community garden that is well integrated into the neighborhood.

Following the discussion on the possibility of including a P-Patch or a community garden, group members asked more questions about the concepts and discussed in more detail some of their most favorable and least desirable elements of the concepts.

- A group member asked if the basketball court could be moved closer to the recycling building. Dean said it could be possible.

- Another member said that the meadows won't look very nice for the majority of the year because the grass will be either flattened from foot traffic or mowed down. Another stakeholder said she had seen a meadow where temporary, meandering paths had been mown on a seasonal basis.
- A member asked how the team would prevent moss and dandelions. Another stakeholder said that the Olympic Sculpture Park is a good example of a planted meadow.
- Another group member expressed concern that interpretive signage would be lost on N. 34th Street due to the traffic and noise but that large art would be a good idea. Penny told the Green Group that the Stakeholder Group was very interested in improving the pedestrian experience along N. 34th Street. Another group member agreed and added that it would be nice to look at something other than the transfer station.
- A group member said he would like more information on the stormwater dry cobble swales. The transfer station should be a place to showcase these type of stormwater infrastructure.
- Another group member suggested the terraces be planted informally. Other group members agreed with this suggestion.
- Another member like the amphitheater idea, but said that there is already too much built environment in the area. He would like to see an absence of built material and have more landscape that responds to the natural environment.

Review Action Items and Next Steps, *Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues*

Penny thanked the group members and observers for coming to the meeting and providing some very useful information for the design team to take back and create a more refined pair of concepts for the community meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, October 26. The meeting time and location is:

6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presentation at 6:45 p.m.

Lake Washington Rowing Club
910 N. Northlake Way
Free parking will be provided in the adjacent U-Park lot.

A group member requested that the meeting information be sent on to the group members to forward as well as the Fremont Neighborhood Council, the Wallingford Community Council and Wallyhood.

Another group member expressed some concern that the group hadn't progressed far enough in the design stage to show concepts to the community. Penny explained that the group's progress will be made clear at the meeting and that the team won't say that the Green Group has approved these concepts, just that their input had been used to create them. She added that the team would send the stakeholders the concepts in advance of the community meeting.

The next Green Group meeting will be held after the community meeting. All Green Group workshops are open to the public.

For more information, please visit: www.seattle.gov/util/transferstations.

North Transfer Station
Seattle Public Utilities
Green Group Workshop 2

Demographics near the North Transfer Station

Below are some charts and summary information for **age, household type** (family/non-family) and **unit types** (single or multi-family) for Tract 54 (which includes the North Transfer Station (NTS)). We also pulled the same data for 2000 and the City of Seattle overall, to have some points of comparison for how Tract 54 has changed over time, and how it compares to the rest of Seattle to see if it is unique in any way.

Age

Age	2010 – Census Tract 54 Total Pop: 4,948	2010 – Seattle Total Pop: 563,374	2000 – Census Tract 54 Total Pop: 4,241
Under 18	502 / 10.1%	87,827 / 15.5%	348 / 8.2%
18 to 24	474 / 9.6%	66,934 / 11.9%	440 / 10.4%
25 to 44	2,721 / 55.0%	217,359 / 38.6%	2,355 / 55.5%
45 to 64	1,008 / 20.4%	123,447 / 21.9%	866 / 20.4 %
65 and over	243 / 4.9%	67,807 / 12.0%	232 / 5.5%

Key trends:

- Tract 54 has INCREASED in population of under 18 year olds since 2000 (up from 8.2% in 2000 to 10.1 % in 2010).
- Tract 54 has significantly FEWER people under 18 years of age than Seattle overall (15.5% in Seattle vs. 10.1 % in Tract 54).
- The MAJORITY of people in Tract 54 are in the "young workforce" age – 25 to 44 years of age (55.0 % 25 to 44), which is different than Seattle overall (38.6%).
- Tract 54 has significantly FEWER people over 65 than Seattle overall (12.0% in Seattle vs. 4.9% in Tract 54)

Household Type – Family or Non-Family

Household Type		2010 – Census Tract 54 Total Households: 2,620	2010 – Seattle Total Households: 283,510	2000 – Census Tract 54 Total Households: 2,259
Family		899 / 34.3%	121,690 / 42.9%	655 / 29.0%
Non-Family		1,721 / 65.7%	161,820 / 57.1%	1,604 / 71.0%
With related (different than own) children under 18 years		350 / 38.9%	54,337 / 44.7%	230 / 35.1%
Own children	Under 6 years only	175 / 19.5%	17,985 / 14.8%	86 / 13.1%
	Under 6 and 6 to 17	41 / 4.6%	8,056 / 6.6%	25 / 3.8%
	6 to 17 years only	124 / 13.8%	25,197 / 20.7%	106 / 16.2%

Key trends:

- Tract 54 has INCREASED in family households since 2000 (up from 29.0 % to 34.3%).
- Tract 54 has significantly FEWER family households than Seattle (42.9% in Seattle vs 34.3% in Tract 54)
- If households in Tract 54 have children, MOST (19.5 % + 4.6% = 24.1 % vs. 13.8% 6 to 17 only) are households with children UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE. Seattle has a fairly even split of children UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE and OVER (21.1% under 6 and 20.7% over 6).

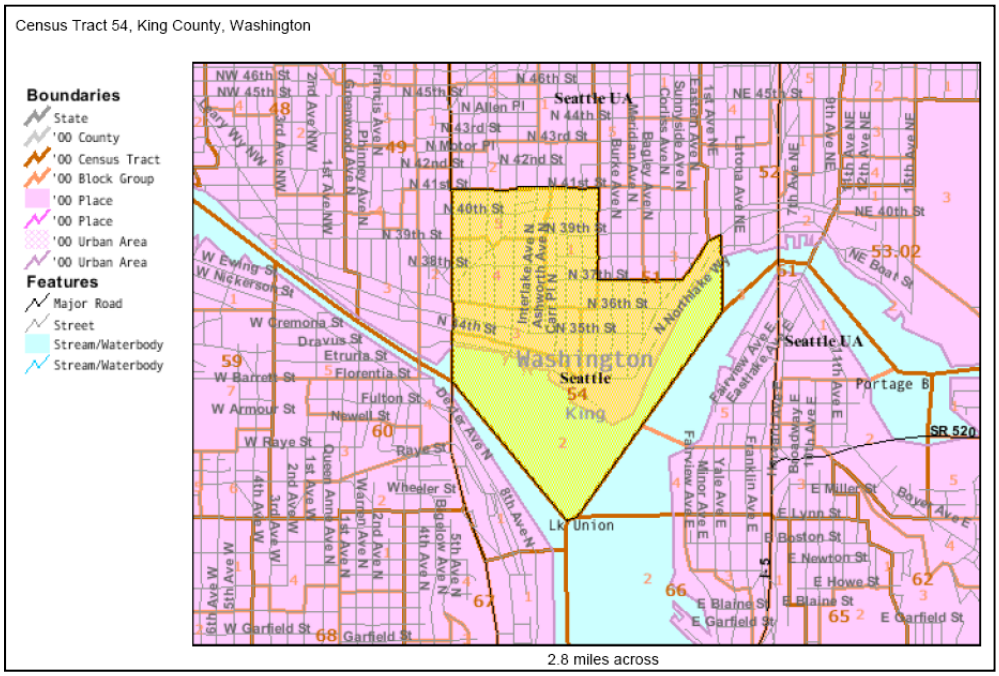
Unit Types – Single or Multi-Family

This data was only available for 2000.

Units in Structure	2000 – Census Tract 54 Total Units: 2,368	2000 – Seattle Total Units: 270,536
Single Family (1 detached or 1 attached)	801 / 33.8%	138,827/ 51.3%
Multi-Family (2 or more)	1,567 / 66.2%	131,709 / 48.7%

Key trends RE: Unit Type

- Tract 54 is almost opposite from Seattle in terms of multi/single-family home split. The MAJORITY of households in Tract 54 are multi-family (66.2%), vs. the majority of households in Seattle overall are single-family (51.3%).

Sources

2000 and 2010 Households and Families (Summary File 1, 100-Percent Data)
2000 and 2010 Age Groups and Sex (Summary File 1, 100-Percent Data)
2000 Units in Structure (Summary File 3, Sample Data)