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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

August 4, 2011

Convened 8:30am
Adjourned 2:00pm

Projects Reviewed

Barton Pump Station
Midvale Stormwater Facility
Vacation Process

Commissioners Present

Julie Parrett, Chair
Malika Kirkling
Laurel Kunkler
Tom Nelson
Osama Quotah
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige
Debbie Wick-Harris

Excused Commissioners

Julie Bassuk

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast
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August 4, 2011 **Project:** **Midvale Stormwater Facility**

Phase: 90% design
Last Reviewed: Feb 17, 2011
Presenters: Chris Woelfel, SPU

Attendees: Steve Resnick, SPU
 Claira Le, intern
 Ron Hornung, community member

Time: 10:30am-11:45am

Project Presentation

SPU presented its plans to develop a 1.8 acre stormwater pond north of N 107th St between Midvale and Stone Ave. N. The 3-foot deep pond would fill to 7-feet during heavy storms and prevent flooding during 25 year events. The people who will most use the site are members of a nearby preschool, dog walkers, and residents of the immediate neighborhood. The site features gravel trails, boot paths, sidewalks, pedestrian lights and floodlights. The landscape includes trees, low vegetation, wetland plants, and river rock beaches. The site will be fenced with a 6-foot chain link fence on the west side to deter undesirable activity from Aurora. Based on the commission's advice from the last meeting, the team replaced the split rail fence; they proposed black vinyl chain link, but presented a couple of other options.

ACTION

The Design Commission would like to thank SPU for its clear presentation of Midvale Stormwater Facility. By a vote of 8-0, the commission approved the 90% design, with the following comments:

- **Make design decisions based on what SPU wants the site to become, an attractive amenity for the residential neighborhood. Weigh the input on the design from the residential neighbors over the business neighbors on Aurora.**
- **Pull the path on the north side of the site away from the slope and do the necessary grading so that a handrail is not necessary along the path. Ensure the path is ADA accessible.**
- **Do not install a fence on the west side of the site. If a fence proves to be necessary at a later date, install one that is no taller than 4 feet. Explore options for the fence to jog and be discontinuous to make the fence a psychological barrier for those who should stay out and porous for those who want to exit from within; the plant palette would work well with such a fence. The fence should recede and not be vinyl chain link, but should have the character of the two alternatives shown. Vinyl chain link fences are not sustainable.**
- **Explore LED lighting and motion triggered lighting. Do not use floodlights, as they give an impression of security problems, which would deter visitors.**
- **Make the boot path an actual path, not simply a swath that is not planted. Make it 4 feet wide, continuous around the pond and visible.**
- **Incorporate interpretive signage that encourages activation of the site. Consider a placing a dock at the end of the peninsula.**
- **Phase the installation of boulders over time, and initially limit their placement to the east side of the site.**

- **Use the artwork to activate the site. The commission is excited that the project will receive 1% For Art.**