



2020 CAL ANDERSON PARK

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION + VISION

Public Meeting 1 SUMMARY | August 2020



Meeting Purpose

The purpose of the Public Meeting #1 was to introduce the project, outline the goals and outcomes intended with this project, review the history of the park, and gain initial feedback on some of the community investments that have happened in the park throughout the recent protests and the CHOP/CHAZ process.

The meetings were held at two separate times:

- Wednesday, August 5th 6:00pm – 7:30pm
- Thursday, August 6th 12:00pm – 1:30pm

The same meeting content and format were presented for both meetings. Both meetings were also live-streamed on YouTube and recorded. The recordings and meeting materials are posted on the project website at 2020calandersonpark.com.

Overview of Comments

The majority of the comments received during the meeting fell into the following categories, with a description of the comments, questions or concerns raised and some example comments pulled from the meeting recordings. A full list of questions, comments, and responses will be provided on the project website.

1. **Safety and Security** – Comments and concerns raised include questions around homelessness in the park, improving lighting and views through the park, and making the park feel safer for everyone.

Example comments:

“Public safety has been a problem in Cal Anderson Park. Several years ago there was lighting study to improve public safety. What is the timeline for the city to implement the lighting improvements?”

“What conversations have been had around security for the park?”

“I am a longtime resident of Capitol Hill and live across from C.A, former border of CHOP. I have a small daughter, and would like to be able to feel safe, welcome and build the sense of community and help out”

2. **Park Programming** – There were a number of comments and questions about different types of programming in the park. A number of participants asked if a dog park was being considered as part of the park improvements. Others suggested different types of uses for the Shelter House, and concerns with how to better utilize this structure. Other ideas suggested for future programming included turning the adjacent street into a pedestrian only street, creating a larger plaza, and bringing in food trucks and vendors.

Example comments:

"I'm Ella, I'm 12 years old and I've been going to this park my whole life, and I think that the park needs a designated dog area (also to prevent trampling/ eating garden), has anyone thought about that recently?"

"How will you ensure that the programs and resources provided in the new park are not co-opted by those with privilege? / that a diverse group maintains leadership?"

Can the pump-houses and shed on the east side of the park be considered for community and concession uses as well?

I'd like the "tennis court" to be a more official skate park. It's already an unofficial one, let's make it better/more permanent.

3. **BIPOC / LGBTQIA+** – A number of questions were raised asking how SPR will engage members of the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, how the concerns of these groups will be addressed, and how will the park prioritize these concerns. If improvements are made specific to the BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+ community, such as a community garden, will SPR exclude other types of users. There was also a concern that a specific focus on the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ community through this process would exclude the concerns of residents living near the park who may not identify as either of these communities.

Example comments:

"What strategies is the design team using to reach the black community? Are you going to them? How will you ensure black voices aren't being overshadowed by non-black voices?"

"How will you intentionally include the Duwamish people in your planning of these lands? For instance, you could speak with them about how they traditionally used that part of the land, and if there is any knowledge around how we could restore it to its traditional uses."

"How will parks ensure that their staff is trained in equity and justice? Not only do there need to be BIPOC folks in leadership and decision making, but we also need to be ensuring that everyone, including white folks, are educated on these issues around land sovereignty and justice."

"Why is the park process be led by the BIPOC populations, especially if they are not residents of the Capitol Hill neighborhood around the park. . They represent a small part of the population on Capitol Hill and while they should be included (definitely), their wants should not overrule what people who live on Capitol Hill want."

4. **Health and Human Services** – A number of health and human services are current available in the park, or were available during the CHOP/CHAZ process. There was a desire expressed by many to continue these services and expand health and human service programs in the park to meet the growing need of the Capitol Hill community, and particularly to support those experiencing homelessness. Potential use of the Shelter House to support these services was part of this discussion as well.

Example comments:

"Are counselors able to come in to the park from time to time to provide assistance. How about even having police if they wish to volunteer to have something in the park where they can work with folks in the community so we can get to know the police like - meet 1-3 police and community harvesting in the garden today. Just something like that."

"I think all of these are good ideas, but one of the largest problems facing Seattle is homelessness, and I've heard many people say they want services for the homeless community."

"Can we offer services for the homeless and educational services?"

5. **CHOP / CHAZ** – Three types of uses were developed in the park through the CHOP/CHAZ process. These included the community garden, conversation corner, and a number of community-based public art installations. Community members commented on these uses and offered different opinions on if they should find a permanent home in the park. The live-poll results around this topic are shown in the following section. Some questions raised relevant to this discussion included how the public art could be preserved, what would a permanent community garden look like, and what is a conversation corner.

Example comments:

"Community gardens are wonderful. However, the location of the main part of the garden, other than the raised beds, takes up space that we use for community events such as the garage sale, movies, clean up Cal Anderson events, charity events, etc."

"Specify conversation corner for bipoc folks, and centering their voice."

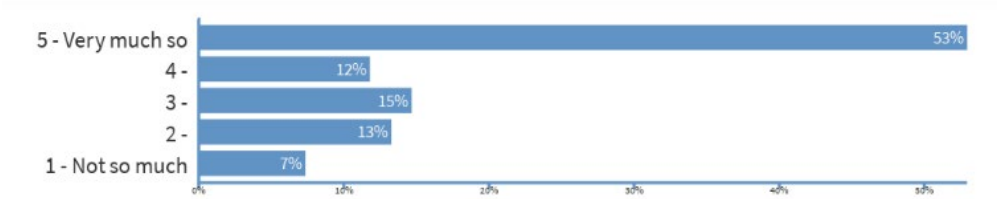
"Community garden: Who would maintain....perhaps local school children to learn more about gardening? Who would reap the harvests? I would say low-income households on Capitol Hill. Someone has to maintain the garden, so an investment needs to be made. Otherwise, it will become a bunch of weeds. One thing I do not want in Cal Anderson Park is it becomes a tent encampment where children and adults feel unsafe."

"Retain nothing except possibly the Black Lives Matter street sign – nothing else."

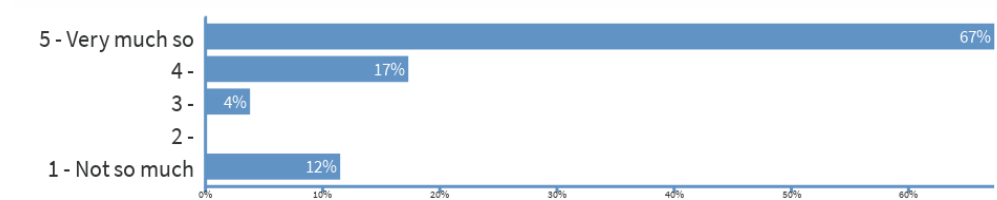
6. **Operations and Maintenance** – With the current COVID pandemic restricting access and use of the park, maintenance and operations activities have also been limited. The use of the park through ongoing protests and activities held through the CHOP/CHAZ process have also affected the overall maintenance of the park. There were also a number of questions reopening some of the current park elements, such as the water fountain and the restrooms, that have remained closed throughout the COVID pandemic. Funding for continued maintenance and being able to maintain the current improvements to an adequate level were also concerns raised during the meeting.

QUESTION 4: How much would you support the idea of retaining some of the artwork from the protests to foster a better sense of belonging for underserved communities in Cal Anderson Park?

August 5th Meeting Responses:

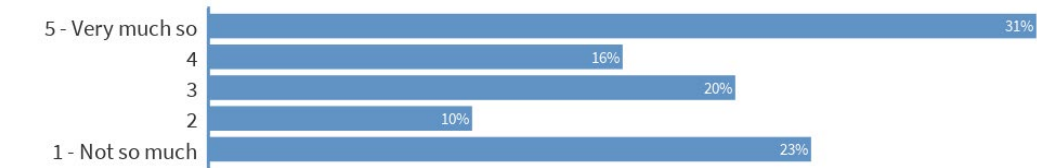


August 6th Meeting Responses:

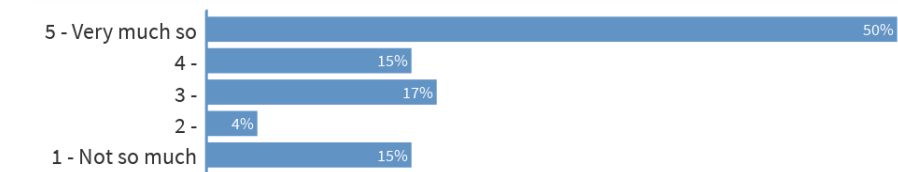


QUESTION 5: How much would you support the idea of a conversation corner to foster a better sense of belonging for underserved communities in Cal Anderson Park?

August 5th Meeting Responses:



August 6th Meeting Responses:



QUESTION 6: What other ideas or questions do you have?

Comments are listed in the table below with responses from SPR included. Responses were added after the public meeting.

Question	Response	Category
Any changes planned for Bobby Morris?	No, not unless we hear ideas to suggest otherwise	
Do we intend to reopen the bus station next to the park (on Pine and 11th)?	We will research	Contact Metro
Do these plans impact the AIDS memorial pathway?	We will dovetail efforts and communicate out. The Parks liaison to the AMP is closely following how this process unfolds.	
If we chose to memorize the protest, I believe we should memorize the good and bad things about it. Not just the good things. As a resident living in the area, CHOP had a lot of bad sides, especially at night. If we are to capture its history, we should capture all	Thank you for sharing	Memorial
How would you make the park a safe place for YOUR young children to visit any time of day?	From the polling "safety" is a primary concern. We are hopeful, that through this process, we will arrive at ideas for positive activation.	Safety
Can the garden be run as a co-op where anyone can participate and there is a level of organization that manages how the produce is distributed?	There are a number of different models for operating assets in a park. The most successful models address operations and maintenance to insure sustainability. A co-op could definitely accommodate sustainable operations if it were well organized.	Garden
How will you make the park a safe place for families and children?	Together, we need to find ways to positively activate the park. This includes caring for those who are less fortunate.	Safety
If we have homeless encampments, tents, fires, vandalism, and garbage - like we have giving people's voices priority because of their race is not inclusive, it is bad and racist.		
If the garden is going to prioritize BIPOC members of the community and perhaps houseless folks, how will you imagine them feeling welcome in a predominately wealthy and white neighborhood now that occupied protest is no long there? More importantly, how will these "underserved" members of the community feel safe claiming this public space as their own without being heavily policed?	The operations model will have to consider the all aspects of use including safety	Safety
Is there a consideration for an off leash dog park? People already illegally let their dogs off I'm the park today. By offering a fenced in area for the community, it would help people meet each other while not disrupting park goers who do not want to deal with dogs disrupting their experience	Yes, we need to find opportunities for additional OFAs in the area.	There is a separate planning study for OLAs in Capital Hill
Let's get data driven in programming our public spaces. This forum is a nice gesture, but it in no way is designed to collect statistically valid responses.	We will be conducting on-line and intercept surveys throughout the process.	
The park is a place where people from diverse backgrounds and with diverse needs come together. There's a tradeoff between "specialized areas" and general accessibility. The garden is a nice concept, but it benefits only a small portion of the community. The area was previously a "blank canvas" which transformed from night to night: On Summer Fridays it was used for screening movies (which brought hundreds of community members, mostly LGBTQ together), other nights you had people set up their slack lines. Before we set up a specialized area, let's make sure it truly benefits the majority of the local community. We should also remember there are multiple parks in the city, and it'd be great to look at what the specific local community needs are (I'm guessing most parks are visited by local residents)	Thank you for sharing	
As diverse and underserved members of the community are invited to permanently inhabit parts of Cal Andersen how does the Parks Department or others involved intend to deal with fringe elements that are using the opportunity of these protests and community conversations at Cal Anderson to vandalize the park and deface buildings and streets with divisive and crude messages that appear along with the positive respectful messaging and artwork that appeared in the last month and a half.	Thank you for sharing	Garden
The rocks in the fountain should be replaced, half of them are missing	Point well taken. We have a plan and as funding becomes available we will replace the cobbles.	
How would the art be protected?	An operations a maintenance plan will have to be part of the proposal.	Art
Off leash dogs do not create an inclusive environment. Many people, including those from cultures other than European/white, are fearful of dogs. A fenced off leash area would be nice. It would also help with issue of dogs urinating on the synthetic field. This had created a very unhealthy condition.	Yes, we need to find opportunities for additional OFAs in the area.	Capitol Hill OLA Planning Study
How can we make sure that Cal Anderson is a safe place for everyone - including women, families and children? It's not a safe park if there are people camped there, selling drugs, needles, garbage, and human waste.	Together, we need to find ways to positively activate the park. This includes caring for those who are less fortunate.	Safety
Is it the position of this planning process that camping should be considered or permitted in Cal Anderson park as a means of solving the homelessness crisis?	This process does not directly address the homelessness issue.	Homelessness, Human Services
I love the idea of a conversation circle. What are possible ways to have the space somewhat moderated to maintain respectful and safe discussions for all community members?	This will have to integral to the proposal.	Conversation Corner, Safety
How will tents and homelessness be addressed with the addition of the gardens?		Homelessness, Human Services
I believe that Cal Anderson would greatly benefit from full-time parks employee being in the park helping to facilitate activities, events, and maintenance.	Point well taken.	Activation
Could the garden be done with the P Patch program but also have a community garden space where produce is grown to be donated to local food banks? Garden education here as well. I'd also like to mention that there are other community gardens in parks that are not done via p patch and it's confusing who "owns" them and who is able to participate.	Point well taken. We need to adopt the best management model possible for the site.	Garden
How will you make Cal Anderson safer? As a woman, I don't feel safe being in a park with a lot of homeless people camped there. In the past there were certain areas of the park with a lot of drug use too.	Together, we need to find ways to positively activate the park.	Safety, Homelessness
How do we ensure a safe and clean environment for all to enjoy?	We need to work through that issue in this process.	Safety
How will access to the park maintained throughout the day? How will nights be treated in terms of noise issues with the potential addition of the gardens and conversation	This will be part of the operations and maintenance models for any proposal moving forward.	Safety
What about some kind of music stage separate from the housing amphitheater nearby?	We will add this to the list of ideas! That being said, the sloped lawn area to the immediate North of the Comfort Station and Shelterhouse was intended for large gatherings. Movies have been shown in this location in the past.	Add to "Ideas"
Why does the garden need to be in Cal Anderson, rather than a larger park with more land, like Volunteer Park?	There has not been a determination as to whether the garden remains or if it should stay in the same place if it were to remain.	

Question	Response	Category
<p>The Capitol Hill Eco District and Seattle Audubon request that Seattle Parks and Recreation practice transparency and openness in both the creation of this process and manner in which it is conducted, clarifying how you will demonstrate accountability with community – especially with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color whom you say you will center in this conversation.</p> <p>For several years, the Capitol Hill Eco District and Seattle Audubon have collaborated with Seattle's Urban Bird Treaty City coalition to advocate for Pesticide Free Park designation at Cal Anderson. Our specific concern has been the extensive use of toxic rodenticides. We have heard multiple claims from Seattle Parks and Recreation, including that Cal Anderson is already pesticide-free and that the park cannot be managed as pesticide-free.</p> <p>While toxic rodenticides pose risks to birds, wildlife, and humans, we are pressing pause on this aspect of our work. The experience of Christian Cooper as he was birdwatching in New York hit home with us and we acknowledge that the same dynamics of white supremacy are in play in Capitol Hill, too. The lack of safety experienced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color who either use Cal Anderson, or who feel unwelcome and therefore avoid it must take priority.</p> <p>Our experience with Seattle Parks and Recreation has been less than transparent. To be equitable, any public process for Cal Anderson Park must be transparent and demonstrate accountability to those most impacted, namely BIPOC communities. Decision making for park improvements should be led by BIPOC community voices. We urge Parks to begin an open process that co-creates space and stewardship with community members.</p>	<p>Lead this project through participatory engagement as well as shared decision making.</p> <p>Elevate and center BIPOC voices, concerns, experiences and our decision making will be led from this guiding principle.</p> <p>Utilize our equity analysis tools and continued relationships with BIPOC community to continue evaluation of our efforts and they are servicing BIPOC needs, desires, mitigate historical injustices etc.</p> <p>These are how we hold ourselves accountable</p>	
<p>This is a comment rather than a question but could be reframed as "how will Parks and Rec co-create with and demonstrate accountability to BIPOC people?"</p>	<p>Lead this project through participatory engagement as well as shared decision making.</p> <p>Elevate and center BIPOC voices, concerns, experiences and our decision making will be led from this guiding principle.</p> <p>Utilize our equity analysis tools and continued relationships with BIPOC community to continue evaluation of our efforts and they are servicing BIPOC needs, desires, mitigate historical injustices etc.</p> <p>These are how we hold ourselves accountable</p>	
<p>What will happen to all the queer and community programming that used to happen on the lawn where the garden is now?</p>	<p>There has not been a determination as to whether the garden remains or if it should stay in the same place if it were to remain.</p>	Garden
<p>What was meant by the "conservation corner" in this context?</p>	<p>Community circles allow a way for people to congregate and share their ideas. This was an integral part of the CHOP/CHAZ community experience.</p>	Conversation Corner
<p>I am curious how long Marcus has lived on Capitol Hill?</p>		
<p>Duwamish land memorial</p>	<p>Point well taken</p>	
<p>We need a dog park. I know that would take up some space but there are no good spots for Capitol Hill dog owners to bring their pups to run, and there is tension between people/park staff when unleashed dogs are released on the field. There are so many dogs in this neighborhood.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing!</p>	Capitol Hill OLA Planning Study
<p>Would space for recreation be reduced by pursuing any of the initiatives around the art, garden, or conversation corner? I would not want to see that, especially given ever greater needs for recreation space in the community.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing! Let's see what the site analysis unveils.</p>	Site Analysis
<p>Another vital aspect of CHAZ was space for black entrepreneurship. Some form of "market" space for vendors could add vitality to a garden and community conversation corner.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing!</p>	Garden, Conversation Corner
<p>We feel that the main purpose of the park is to provide open space for the community and that should be the goal. I don't see any need to have an additional p-patch.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing!</p>	Garden
<p>Consider locating the garden in a community where there are food deserts. Cal Anderson Park is located near expensive condos and the larger part of the p</p>	<p>Point well taken</p>	Garden
<p>1) A large covered gathering space for community members to convene</p>		
<p>2) Open to the public the currently closed building opposite from the bathrooms</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing!</p>	Community
<p>3) Repurpose the pumphouse to better serve the community</p>		
<p>How will you prioritize those in need over the dogs of gentrifiers?</p>	<p>There is a separate planning study for OLAs in Capital Hill</p>	Capitol Hill OLA Planning Study
<p>The long-term sustainability of uses and programming being planned. We want an activated park, but there's got to be consideration for funding, practicality of plans, Why not make the vegetable garden in Cal Anderson idea into something really effective and have Black Star partner with SPR on a larger parcel, at least an acre, for a small managed 'farm' - think Edgefield in Oregon on a small scale. Something with water and a serious shed or building eventually. A Cal Anderson garden is too small of a gesture in a space already programmed for other important uses.</p>	<p>Point well taken!</p> <p>Thank you for sharing!</p>	Garden
<p>Are there current programs around community volunteering in Cal Anderson? If not, is this something that feasibly could be integrated to the park's management?</p>	<p>Hopefully this process will reinvigorate a Cal Anderson Park Stewardship group</p>	Safety
<p>I mainly want the park restored to the pre-chop state. Cal Anderson cannot meet every possible need. Please, no dog runs in the park. Put it someplace else.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing!</p>	Capitol Hill OLA Planning Study
<p>What about working with SDOT to close down the adjacent portion of Pine street as a way to add space for a conversation corner?</p>	<p>We have reached out to SDOT to consider alterations to the ROW surrounding Cal Anderson Park</p>	Conversation Corner
<p>Public Safety! Particularly at night. The park needs better lighting (or other ways) to make all who use it feel comfortable.</p>	<p>Point well taken. Safety and sustainability of operations is key.</p>	Safety
<p>Rico, can you briefly go through how the design and contracting process is put together? Who is design team? Who is designing? Anticipated budget allocations for design and installation?</p>	<p>The current process is a planning study. Once we get a better idea of the community initiated ideas for changes in response to the protests we will develop a road map forward including design of certain elements. There is currently no budget allocations for design and installation because we don't know exactly what the projects are.</p>	

Question	Response	Category
I would love to see a classroom built, that could regularly be a place for community gatherings, that could host discussions around diversity & inclusion, and lectures about the history of Seattle and its community. It could be a place for farmers to teach about gardening and a home for conversation circles. It would also be great if in the spirit of the protests, it could be a forum where government and police leaders regularly meet with their constituencies, to directly hear the needs of the community and work to make progress together.	Point well taken!	Safety
it's very encouraging to see a number of people here and wonderful ideas. I think it's important to put some emphasis on safety and ongoing stewardship. There was a lighting study and plan conducted several years ago. maybe brush the dust off and provide some funding so the park is more accessible during the winter. Also operable and safe restrooms for everyone's use. Finally an ongoing maintenance plan so this park can properly support the activism that organically gathers here. Let's not be reactionary. Let's find a way to continuously maintain.	Point well taken. Safety and sustainability of operations is key.	Safety
Hello, Jordan here, one of the founders of the Conversation Cafe of CHOP. CHOP created a unique culture that encouraged vulnerable sharing and openness across difference that is hard to replicate. Have the discussions around the conversations circles been approached in a way that works to foster co-created programming and empowered agency for the community to guide different moments for this public space (potentially with a guiding mission for the types of experiences that are co-created)?	Absolutely! These programs need to be community initiated and co-lead w/city if they are going to be successful.	Conversation Corner
I think any of the options proposed need to be flexible and activated by the community. If there is public art from the CHOP/protest, who is deciding what goes in? What is the plan for changing out art to keep this relevant to ongoing efforts for racial equity and inclusion? Who is activating conversation corner? As the timeline acknowledged, it is important for the park to reflect the current needs of the community and continuously go back to these questions. That seems more important than the specific design of what is put in place.	Absolutely! These programs need to be community initiated and co-lead w/city if they are going to be successful.	Community, Art
How will these discussion be accessible to BIPOC communities that were displaced by the current community in Capitol Hill?	We are reaching out to the broader BIPOC community for this reason	
A big push for creative mental health programs & an initiative for inclusive mutual support	Great idea!!	Human Services
I think providing an area of the park for artist of Seattle to collaborate to provide a story telling of the events would be great.	Great idea!!	Art
CAL2020		
Also I think Cal Anderson park should be a community resource area and allow for neighbors to come together and meet varying cultures and people	Point well taken!	Community
As I suspected, no one has answered either of my questions because they are unpopular opinions. I use the park every day.		
We had a real sense of community here during CHOP/CHAZ that was amazing to see. I think we need to continue to lean into that - community trash pick-up days, movie screenings, farmers-market style events that showcase our small businesses, etc. (obviously when it is safe to gather!) Cal Anderson is an amazing space that could be so much more of a community hub.	Point well taken!	Community
2020CAP		
What are ways folks in the community (like us in this meeting!) can participate in keeping the parks systems accountable to the initiatives being taken and the intentions behind them as we move forward?	Hopefully this process will reinvigorate a Cal Anderson Park Stewardship group	Community
How will you address safety???? It	We need to talk thru what this looks like and partner with community stakeholders to sustain a higher level of safety.	Safety
It's not a safe place for women and children	We are hearing that enhanced health and safety for all park patrons is an initiative in and of itself.	Safety
Why not allow the current program in Cal Anderson that was arrived at through long and involved community input to stand and use the park for ad hoc round tables etc. which are not prevented in anyway now. It becomes a question of equally allowing use for everyone in the community and to avoid conditions where the lack of stewardship will tarnish and degrade what started out with high ideals. My concern is that a permanent round table built-in area will be become a mini CHOP which was not all positive despite the wonderful things that happened and not a place where any progressive group was able to maintain respect for the park or the perception that it was a safe space for everybody.	Thank you for sharing!	Conversation Corner, Community
I hear mostly buzz words, not real plans. We were asked whether we wanted a conversation corner but no one was able to say what that meant. It is clear that the main way to make the park feel safer is to deal with camping in the park. I felt the digging up of my neighborhood park for private garden plots was not a form of "community", but vandalism and private appropriation of public place. I firmly oppose giving the building opposite the bathrooms to specific groups. There used to be a preschool program there. I support using the building more. But not giving it to a private group to run, but needs to be shared by the entire community.	Points received. Conversation Corner will be further explained in next mtg.	Conversation Corner, Community
How about improving the walkways and lighting (especially during fall, winter, spring when it's dark and the pathways flood) and making this a preferred thoroughfare to/from the light rail station, south. Right now most of the foot traffic (prior to COVID) uses Broadway due to the issues mentioned above. This would be a natural activation of the space which may help address some of the maintenance issues mentioned earlier (Andy said activation helps against some maintenance issues) and further support some of the initiatives mentioned earlier (garden, art, community corner, whatever goes in the shelter house)	Points well taken!	Safety