



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Mary Johnston
Chair

Andrew Barash

Julie Bassuk

Graham Black

Brendan Connolly

Lauren Hauck

Laurel Kunkler

Julie Parrett

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Guillermo Romano
Executive Director

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

February 18, 2010

Convened 9:00am
Adjourned 3:00pm

Projects Reviewed

Bell Street Park
DPD Planning Division Update
Waterfront Planning Briefing
Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement – Portal Area Planning
9th Avenue NW Park

Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair
Andrew Barash
Brendan Connolly
Julie Bassuk
Graham Black
Lauren Hauck
Laurel Kunkler
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Jenny Hampton



**Department of Planning
and Development**
700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000
PO Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

TEL 206-615-1349
FAX 206-233-7883



February 18, 2010 **Project:** **9th Avenue NW Park**

Phase: Schematic Design

Last Reviewed: N/A

Presenters: Kellee Jones, Dept. of Parks and Recreation
 Clayton Beaudoin, Site Workshop
 Bob Shrosbree, Site Workshop

Time: 1 hour

(000/RS0000)

ACTION

The Commission wants to thank Kellee Jones, Clayton Beaudoin, and Bob Shrosbree for their presentation of 9th Avenue NW Park and approves the schematic design unanimously with the following comments:

- The Commission appreciates the attention to community input in the design process, however the feedback received should be sorted and prioritized focusing on strong elements that will be an asset to the community without over-programming the space.
- The westernmost pathway should be reconfigured so that it flows with the secret garden space instead of cutting through it. Allow the secret garden to be “secret”
- The Commission supports the sidewalk bioswales, however encourages more attention be paid to the street trees framing the park.
- Look carefully at the vertical structure and how it might interplay with other surrounding activities and areas.
- The Commission is supportive of gathering skills and input from the community to help with the secret garden space.
- Consider how the skatedot functions and a pay attention to careful separation of uses and entries.
- Supportive of the fire pit as a gathering space, but needs careful consideration of its function within the park.
- Consider materials and methods of irrigation that will enhance sustainability.
- The Commission suggests reworking the graphics to better illustrate the ideas that are present in the design.

Project Presentation

Part of the Seattle Parks Levy and Green Spaces Levy, this project is a park design for 9th Ave. NW.

The site is a lot that used to be the location of a church. The site is 400 feet long and 100 feet deep, with 20 feet of elevation change. Historically, there has been a strong history of food production on the site, which is evident in the existing fruit trees and garden plots still on the site. There are also three buildings on site that will be deconstructed as part of the design process. This site had been abandoned, however it was purchased by Seattle Parks and is currently used by community members for recreation. The community has participated in pruning vegetation, hosting a movie night on the wall, and actively using the sledding hill on the site.

The proposed scheme for this site incorporates feedback from three community meetings. These meetings aim to establish resident ownership and participation for this new design. The proposed scheme tries to accommodate community needs. It features:

- a P-Patch space for gardeners that will be transparent and open to the public
- maintaining the existing foundation walls creating a secret garden space
- a gathering space with a vertical shaded structure that is flexible for activity.

- playful movement throughout the space with a small area called a play channel containing with logs and forest that would enhance unstructured play. A more formal play area including a play set and a swing element is proposed as well.
- inclusion of a “skate dot” that would function for play, seating, and an entryway
- moving the edge of the street to meet the existing sidewalk and create bioswales that would take storm water from the streetscape.



Figure 1: proposed 9th Ave NW park plan

The proposed project is currently headed into design development with plans to participate in the Sustainable Sites Initiative program.

Commissioners' Comments and Questions

What are the boundaries of the site, are they fenced between the park and private property?

There are quite a few fences around the edge between resident property and the park. Community members have also been working together to build more for people that might want one.

Will the buildings be deconstructed and reused?

The intent is to get into the buildings before demolition process and keep some of the items for our new design.

What are you doing with the built walls? What are the current qualities of the buildings on the site?

The buildings on the site are quite old and have a lot of asbestos in the insulation.

What are the proposed materials? What do you plan do to with the existing plants and trees?

The pathways will be crushed rock and pavement. Plans are to keep some of the existing vegetation and trees that create a barrier between park and private residences. A vegetation analysis was completed by Parks and much of the trees and vegetation will be removed do to health, and may be replaced with new, healthy vegetation/trees in accordance with design. The goal is to provide plantings that create a seasonal experience and are native to this area.

Were there any objections to the skate park when presented to the public?

There was some interest by the public and no objections.

What is the vision with the P-Patch transition into the secret garden?

The details of the two spaces will help with the transition from one to the other.

The community design process is very thorough and is applauded, however the design has maybe been driven too much by the public feedback. There are places that are over-programmed, such as the skate park and fire pit. It needs some editing and a hierarchy of features. It is important to think about experience and the quality of how a place flows. There needs to be a key element that ties the design together.

When you are choosing materials, place emphasis on sustainable features.

Reworking the P-Patch configuration might help to make the space more fluid and open and could create a greater connection to the secret garden.

Fire pit adjacency to housing may encourage/cause noise complaints during evening and nighttime hours.