

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) convened a virtual community working session on February 19, 2021, to review and generate ideas for continued activation and increased coordination for programming at Cal Anderson Park.

During this working session, SPR provided the following updates to attendees:

- The volunteer work party scheduled for February 13, 2021, was postponed due to the snow; we are working with SPR Volunteer Coordinator on finding a future date for a work party
- We were able to connect with HSD's newly-formed Homelessness Outreach & Provider Ecosystem (HOPE) Team, regarding a potential community information session
  - SPR is willing to help set up the meeting, but we would like the community to work directly with the HOPE Team on setting an agenda and the format for such a meeting
  - If you are interested in getting involved in this conversation, you can email us at [2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov](mailto:2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov)

Updates from Participants on Community Initiatives

- Akeyla Jimerson has been working on a Homeless Services Guide; an informative guide for the community and recommendations for who to contact in different situations when encountering an unhoused person in need

Discussion and Comments

- Guiding question: What are the signals of invitation that help people feel welcome at Cal Anderson Park? And how do we cultivate that?
  - Cleanliness
  - Proper lighting throughout the park
  - When a park is open and accessible to \*all\* who come to the park for a variety of uses
    - One activity may be interesting to one user group while not interesting to another
  - More opportunities for park visitors to stay at the park, gather with groups and interact with others through more seating (facing each other vs benches), BBQ grills and other means
  - Increased activity for youth and families
  - If police are at the park, they should treat it as a community-building and public service exercise; they should leave their car and connect in person with park users
  - More volunteer work parties, open to more people
    - We will be able to have larger groups for our work parties as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted
  - A park becomes unwelcoming when activities of one group denies access to the park to other members of the public
    - Parks are meant as public spaces and should be accessible to different members of the public; how do we ensure Cal Anderson remains an active \*shared public\* space?
- Who are the user groups at this park? It would be helpful to identify these user groups and consider their different desired uses of the park as we plan for activation
  - College students vs families vs unhoused community vs civic action groups?
  - We must ensure the voice of these user groups are all represented in our activation efforts

- Cal Anderson Park alone may not have the solution to all of the identified challenges, so it's important to think inter-departmentally about how to address our biggest challenges, such as social and health services for the unhoused community
- Attendees had questions about SPR's rules and regulations at parks and how they might inform our activation efforts
  - To learn more, you can visit these links:
    - [Park Rules and Regulations](#) (overview of Parks Code)
    - [Seattle Municipal Code's section 18.12](#), referencing the full text of the Parks Code
- In early January, SPR staff designed a scavenger hunt and printed them on post cards for families with kids during their visit to the park; if anyone is interested in helping develop a new scavenger hunt for the park and surrounding areas, reach out to us at [2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov](mailto:2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov)

#### Next Steps

- The next Cal Anderson Park Activation Working Sessions will take place on March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup> at 11AM
  - If you would like to get on our email list and receive calendar appointments, reach out to us by email at [2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov](mailto:2020CalAnderson@seattle.gov)
- Consider how we may be able to make these sessions more accessible to more community members and who may be missing at the table