

October 28, 2019

Public Meeting Number 1

Hiawatha Play Area Renovation

VISIT DATE: October 25, 2019

TIME: 10:00 am

PRESENT: Ed Pottharst, Parks
Shannon Glass, Parks
Karen Kiest, KKLA

I. Purpose of the First Public Meeting:

Seattle Parks and Recreation is planning to relocate and replace the play area at Hiawatha Playfield. The project will transfer the location of the play area from the north end of the park to the grass area just south of the wading pool. The project includes new play equipment and restoration of the old play area site.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project and capture community input. A survey has been posted online as well. Goals for the meeting:

- Get input from all ages
- Chat about relocation concerns
- Get input about types of play and equipment

II. Description and Summary

The first community workshop was held in the Hiawatha Playfield Community Center from 6:00 to 8:00 PM alongside the Hiawatha Halloween Festival. A couple hundred people were at the Center for the Festival; the majority were able to pass by and comment on the boards as they flowed through the Center.

III. Boards

Four boards were available for review and comment:

Then (Olmsted History)

- People were familiar with the history of the park
- People loved the old 25-foot high play equipment!

Now (Detail)

- Several parents were sad play area was being relocated
- People like the trees
- People liked the stones
- Neighbor to the north said whole area is play; kids run through trees to equipment, back to the lawn. She indicated there is no safety concerns with this corner of park

Setting up the frame (Site Study)

- Some were happy to get out into the sun
- People were concerned to fill up the lawn with play area
- Not many comments about removing fitness equipment (comment that mostly used by kids)
- Few comments about removing the existing swings

Play (Options)

- Having the photos of equipment was really a way to just talk about the project. Small kids needed some encouragement; parents were very specific in likes/dislikes, etc.
- Lots of parents preferring fewer colors, fewer plastic items, more metal equipment
- Many comments supporting nature play
- Support for tall towers, element of danger
- All slides supported
- Net climbers supported
- Climbing pieces, the taller the better, i.e. element of danger!
- Classic swings were easy
- Support for unique items – the art play piece was popular
- Comment to have music
- There is a toddler class at the CC M/TH – provide equipment
- Obstacle courses

