



ATLANTIC STREET PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT Minutes - Community Meeting #2 Saturday April 25, 2009, 1:30 – 3:30 PM Atlantic Street Park

Meeting Purpose: To present the schematic concepts to the community and to solicit input on play equipment types and specific neighborhood needs. The project includes play area improvements for children ages 2-12, safety surfacing, improvements to accessibility and site improvements that may include picnic tables.

Attendees: Parks: Pamela Alspaugh (Senior Landscape Architect), Virginia Hassinger (Project Manager),
Community: Nine residents.

Presentation: This meeting was held as an open house in the park. We displayed poster-sized color schematics of site layout and play equipment alternatives. Included in the schematic is a large play structure with multiple functions and wheelchair accessibility from the street level and exercise stations for adult use. We displayed two types of play equipment, one a brightly-colored structure from NW Playground Equipment which was configured for the site. Another poster board showed examples of Timberform structures.

Community Input: Everyone who came was glad to hear of the upcoming improvements. Only one adult arrived with a child, although we learned from neighbors that the site is used much more in the summer. Several neighbors met for the first time and they shared information about other children/potential playmates in the neighborhood. They told us the site is currently limited in play value, especially for the older children (6-12). Parents suggested we include more elements designed to build upper body strength. Everyone liked the adult exercise equipment. They told us that many people use the adjacent I-90 trail for walking and they were supportive of opening up the park to the trail. We observed a gentleman using a well worn "desire trail" to cut through the shrubbery to the park. A drinking fountain would be a nice addition. There was not a clear choice between play equipment styles, although several liked the palette of bright colors presented on the NW Playground equipment board. The next door neighbors offered to bid on park maintenance contract, saying they know the area the best and could certainly take good care of it. One final observation, there were hundreds of flying and burrowing insects in the sand under the play equipment, including what looked to be ground dwelling bees. This does not appear to be an inviting play habitat with potential for stings and bites, although no one was stung or bitten while we were there. We will be notifying maintenance staff about the insect problem.