



## **BAYVIEW PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT Minutes -Community Meeting #2 Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Magnolia Community Center**

Meeting Purpose: to present the design schematics to the neighborhood and to discuss final design options with community members. 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: Pam Alspaugh (Sr. Landscape Architect), Virginia Hassinger (Project Manager).  
Audience: Sixteen residents: approximately nine adults and seven children.

Overview: This project is one of the first to be funded by the 2008 Parks and Greenspaces Levy to proceed. It is being accelerated as part of “Seattle Jobs Forward” initiative, the mayor’s action plan to create jobs and boost the local economy. The focus is on improvements within the play area and the project does not address the entire park. See more details in minutes of Meeting #1.

Before discussing the play area, we addressed several comments made at our last meeting about other park features: 1) People were concerned about transients using the east slope. Our district crews have not gotten any complaints in last several years about transients or drug use, so if you do have concerns, please report them to us; 2) The eastern pathway within the park is overgrown with low hanging branches and not inviting to stroll on; we have sent a work order to our maintenance crews to trim these; 3) Crews have also started working to clear blackberries along the north east slope behind the play area. They will need to continue suppressing the blackberries for a couple of years before re-vegetation can be done; 4) People asked for a drinking fountain in the playfield area. That is not within project scope, but we have passed that request to Parks Operations Division; 5) We have requested SDOT to install wheel chair ramps at the intersection of 24<sup>th</sup> Ave W and W Armour Street. SDOT has funding to do curb cuts around the City and responded by adding the site to their list. It is lower priority than many other sites, and SDOT says it may take a couple of years to accomplish.

Parks presented two schematic designs for the play area.

The first design would be fully funded by the current project. It includes an 8 foot high swing; two climbing structures, one designed for ages 2-5 and the other for ages 6-12; a large synthetic climbing rock; a climbing structure called “Mobius;” a zip glide and some small tot toys. This first design also includes a loop sidewalk through the play area which would be great for scooters and tricycles. The option exists to include the existing whorl (“merry-go-round”) in place of the Mobius. The second schematic design expands the play area to accommodate a 10 foot high swing and the required safety zone, along with the desired play elements noted above. It would not have a loop pathway. We would not have funding to install all the play equipment in this project, but space would be left for future equipment. Neighborhood funding options were mentioned. In both options there will be benches, a picnic table and a paved pathway connecting to 24<sup>th</sup> Ave W near the corner at W Armour Street. Pam would also like to plant a few flowering trees around the play area.

Community comments with Parks follow-up comments:

- We need a phone number to contact regarding transient problems.  
*(Parks: To report general concerns about the park, contact Central West District Crew Chief Cynthia Thurmond at 386-4280. To report criminal activity, contact the police.)*
- Could the area along 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue be gated and used as an off-leash dog park? It would reduce problems mentioned above and provide needed use. *[Parks will pass the comment on to district and planning staff.]*

- Could we save money by eliminating the pathway to the street? *[Parks: no, it is needed for ADA.]*
- Is the increased cost of the second option all due to 10' swing? *[Parks: This is due to the need to change the containment area, drainage and sidewalk removal]*
- Can play equipment be moved closer together? *[Parks: no, because of safety standards.]*
- More bushes so we could play hide-and-seek- would be nice.
- Rocks along the edge of the loop path would help with imaginative play, I could imagine the site was a castle.
- I love the loop path for tricycles and bikes.
- Community efforts for additional play equipment funding is not likely in this economic climate, our fundraising efforts will most likely be fully focused on schools.
- In my experience the Mobius at Ravenna-Eckstein is difficult for some kids to climb and it could be frustrating and dangerous for the little kids.
- Some people are not fans of the whorls and climbing the Mobius is great for older kids.
- Can we keep both the Mobius and whorl instead of the boulders?
- The rocks could be reshaped and also moved to create a little alcove.
- Parallel bars should be straight and stationary, not the spinning kind.
- The loop pathway is important for kids – not many places for them to develop tricycle and scooter skills and this is very useful.
- Keep the pathway wider than 3 feet if you can.
- A spring toy for tots is preferred to “tea cups.”
- It would be great to have bridges connecting all the rocks and play equipment.
- I like those spinning cars that you can move along a little track *[Parks: we can add these, some are shown in plan].*
- Kids often line up at both ends of the zip glide, plan for that. Also it is helpful to have a landing at both ends – look at the upturned tires used over at Lawton.
- Let have the Mobius, the rock and the whorl!
- Metal is hard to hold onto. Are there any monkey bars that would not get really cold in winter? *[Parks: we don't know of any.]* Can you add rubberized grips and rubberized flat surfacing to the existing whorl? *[Parks: We checked safety standards after the meeting, there is no approved rubber surfacing for whorls or monkey bars].*

Meeting conclusion: The group voted on options by placing dots on favored plan and equipment. The first option, including the loop pathway, climbing rocks and the existing whorl was a clear choice. Other comments will be reviewed and incorporated as design and budget allow. Meeting notes will be on website; see reference on agenda, the new websites will be operational in about a week. Our plans are to get this design completed as soon as possible and to construct late this summer.