

June 21, 2010

Project: **International Children's Park**
Community Workshop
June 15, 2010

Present:

Liana Woo	Rebecca Frestedt
Joyce Pisanant	Laurie Ames
Ben Han	SCIDpda/WILD volunteers
Monica Le	Stuart Nakamura
Kim Baldwin	Karen Kiest Landscape Architects
Pam Kliment	

I. Purpose of the Third Public Workshop:

Briefly recap past efforts in the previous two workshops from last year. Present the updated site plan to reconfirm the direction of design. Discuss play equipment opportunities. Introduce the Public Art artist, Stuart Nakamura, to the community. Gather information on ideas and preferences on the art component of the park.

- Does the park design fit in with the neighborhood identity?
- How to further reflect the community culture through design elements?
- Do the types of play equipments shown appropriate for the neighborhood?
- What ideas for public art are preferred?
- Does the direction of the current art development represent culture of the neighborhood and community?

II. Description and Summary

The third community workshop was held in the International District Community Center from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Approximately 45 people were in attendance, including community participants, the presenters, the SCIDpda/WILD volunteers to translate during presentation and city staff.

Ben Han gave a brief overview of past efforts to date, and discussed the continuation of the project timeline which will begin construction in the spring of 2011. The completion and re-opening of the park will be in summer 2011 and will coincide with the 30th anniversary of existence of the park and the dragon sculpture.

Karen Kiest then recapped the previous workshops that took place last summer. The findings all conclude that the main focus of the park should be for the children. Therefore, play and play equipments are essential to the park design. Karen proceeded to present the current site plan and discussed a variety of play equipment types and opportunities.

Stuart Nakamura introduced types of his work and his preferred mediums to the community. He presented his current art concept, 'many facets, many faces, many paths', and described his ideas of adding art elements along the park path to attract children's interests and to encourage cross generation interaction.

Participants then broke into small groups to discuss the site plan, play elements and art based on the key questions asked.

III. The following comments were noted from the three groups:

Table 1 - Cantonese (Facilitated by Ching and Phuoug)

- Want more shelter from rain
- Suggest Chinese poetry inscription as art component to encourage learning in the park
- Want a statue of Confucius
- Suggest panels or inscription of history and story from important early immigrants/pioneers in the community
- Like grass
- Dislike existing boulders. Move the stones to make park feel bigger
- Want the current broken merry-go-round to be removed
- Like slides and see-saw
- Want toys that require kids to think and encourage problem solving

Table 2 - Mandarin (Facilitated by Gui)

- Like all elements shown in the current plan
- Dislike shelter due to concern for park loitering
- Question why all elements are arranged on the outer loop leaving the middle empty
- Want something symbolic in the middle to define the park
- Consider bamboo, flowering cherry and peony as culturally identifiable plants
- Dislike any play equipments that have hiding places
- Emphasize safety first on both park design and play equipment selection
- Keep park edges open for looking in and out
- Want public toilet
- Suggest cartoon characters as art components to attract children
- Want park construction to start as soon as possible. "Children will be all grown up by the time it's done!"
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Table 3 - English (Facilitated by Liana)

- Question whether feng shui has been considered in the design
- Worry about boulders at the NE corner. Want to know more about grading in that area
- Emphasize public safety at the boulder and want to balance it with boulders being an element of play
- Want to include orchid and floral design that express Asian aesthetics
- Tie in children stories, games with the play equipment. Multi-layers/uses
- Want to know about seat wall elevation/grading to see if it can be sat on from both sides (facing plaza and lawn) so the walls can be multi-functional
- Want to have lighting for safety. Consider path lights besides pole lights
- Believe boys like forts and girls like spinners
- Think ID district map inlaid at the plaza as proposed by the artist may be too big and more suitable for Hing Hay Park. Instead, would like to use poetry and other Asian elements as inlaid
- Like sand as a play element for children even though parents may not like it as much
- Want to include multiple languages in the park to better reflect the neighborhood
- Want to know why the dragon will be relocated

IV. Other comments:

There were two children, Quan and Tian-Jiao, present during group discussion, below are their comments on play elements:

- On a combo equipment (climber-platforms-spiral slide) found at Ward Springs Park: One said it's okay. Not special
- On a Kompan equipment found at Bayview Kinner Playground: One said it's okay. The other thought it has lots of ?
- On a Kompan equipment for younger kids found at Bayview Kinner Playground: One said it's pretty cool.
- On a Kompan stand-up spinner attached to the Kompan equipment: One liked it and thought it's good for ease of getting off.
- On a spring toy: One said that it's a pony toy. The other thought it's okay for little kids.
- On open lawn: Both liked it. One said people need space. The other thought it's very nice.
- On chalking on the pathway: One thought it should not be on ground.
- On sand pit: One said it's okay.
- On climbing wall: One wanted higher wall. The other thought it's too dangerous.
- On a Kompan triple shift climbing piece: One thought it's too dangerous.
- Tian-Jiao also mentioned that swings are her favorite play equipment.