



Mill Park Project Advisory Committee Meeting #4 Notes

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 – 4:00pm – 6:00pm, held on Zoom.

PAC Members present: Amy, Andrew, Barbie, Francis, Jasmine, Juanita.

PAC Members not present: Anne, Audrey, Ayan, Erin, Heather, Kari, Mohammad, Pyae, Trevor.

PP&R Staff: Maija Spencer, Robin Johnson-Craig, Odalis Perez. **Mayer Reed:** Tim Strand, Jeramie Shane, Joanna Schwartz. **Project Artist:** Alex Chiu.

Agenda/Introductions: Introductions were completed and Maija shared and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Schedule Update:

Maija reviewed the Schedule:

- April 2022: PAC #5
- May 2022: Community Gathering #3
- June 2022: PAC #6 (final meeting)

Review 2nd community engagement phase in November

Maija provided a powerpoint presentation on the the feedback from the community engagement activities in November. The summary of community input was already shared with the PAC:

<https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2021/mill-park-cg2-comment-summary-report.pdf>

Questions from presentation:

1. Are there any public restrooms in the design?

Yes, there is a “Portland Loo” that was part of the approved Council Master Plan. There is one Portland Loo in the preferred Schematic Design. It is a standard single user, ADA accessible, easy to clean and maintain. It has one toilet fixture in the interior and a hand washing station on the exterior.

<https://portlandloo.com/>

Administration

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 858
Portland, Oregon 97204
503-823-PLAY (7529) | Fax 503-823-6007

PORTLANDPARKS.ORG
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Director Adena Long



2. Was there a combining of all the feedback from the three designs?

Yes, as part of the presentation from Mayer Reed this evening, they will review the feedback and how they were incorporated into the preferred schematic design.

PAC GOALS Review – Maija reviewed the goals and reminded the group to reflect on these when viewing the final design to evaluate if it meets our goals.

1. Feedback is collectively gathered from our East Portland community and different voices are sought out beyond the PAC membership throughout the design process.
2. The park is a space that will create joy and pride for everyone and connect to the broader Mill Park community.
3. All ages, ability levels, and cultures will come together in this space to create community.
4. Flexible space is provided for a wide range of activities, including birthday parties, sports like Chin-lone and soccer, places of serenity, places of respite, relief from nature's elements, music, and community festivals.
5. The park connects the community to nature, gardening, art, and play.
6. The design removes barriers to the park's use by ensuring safety, accessibility, and inclusion.

Parking/ADA Parking Update:

- There are discussions happening with Mill Park Elementary and David Douglas School District about potential shared use of the parking lot at the school near the Mill Court park entrance.

- The parking lot could be used by park users when school is not in session, such as on weekends and during the summer. We are trying to look at what that would look like and whether that might be feasible.
- We felt it was a better solution than adding more pavement to east Portland where there are a lot of paved surfaces.
- We heard from PAC and the larger community the need for more green space, more trees, and more shade rather than a parking lot.
- Currently in discussion with PBOT (Portland Bureau of Transportation) on ways to provide ADA designated parking spaces at the three entry points.
- They would be reserved spaces on the street to make use of what is already there rather than adding more pavement.

Mayer Reed Presentation:

Design slides 1-3:

- Review of the three schematic design options: Ellipse, Oasis, and Paseo.
- Preferred Option Design Review
- Updated Design Review based on PAC, Public, and PP&R feedback

Question:

Is there a consideration of marking off where the park meets up with Mill Park Elementary School? There's currently no distinction between the two and people wander into the school area.

Response:

There is a fence line planned in the preferred design, and there will also be a distinct visual difference between the planting and the pavement treatment. It will be more obvious there is a separation from park to school property, whereas now it is one fluid space.

Question:

How high will the fence be and is there a way to use the fencing as a way to install art work so it is not just a chain link fence?

Response:

The fence will be approximately 3-4 feet high. Yes, using the fence as a canvas is one of the options in the art installation possibilities.

Question:

Can you explain what an eco-lawn is?

Response:

It is a term for a lawn that is not as high maintenance. It is environmentally sensitive by reducing the need to mow and stays greener longer and reduces irrigation usage. It has a different texture and a different look than the high use durable lawn. We do not currently have any eco-lawns at any of our parks. There are meadow mixes and tall grass mixes. This will be a pilot experiment. We will test a few varieties onsite at Mill Park this spring with some 10x10 plots in a flat section to the east of the current chin-lone area. We will not amend or irrigate the lawn and if we have something that stays green all summer we'll know if that is a seed mix we can use. This is a low cost way to test the mixes with current soil. Link to seed being considered: <https://ptlawnseed.com/products/fleur-de-lawn>

Question:

Mill Park is very weedy on the school side. Is the eco-lawn better able to keep the weeds out in terms of density? How does the maintenance work? Hopefully there will not be spraying.

Response:

The biggest issue at Mill Park is the existing weed seed that is in the soil. It is going to be hard to remove the clover in the existing soil. The Turf and Irrigation team's best approach is to work with the contractor during the park construction to apply pre-emergents that will be used within a fenced area to keep the public out when those applications are made. That is the best preventative way to keep the weeds down.

Question:

Will the Community Garden be free or fee based like other Community Garden spaces. And, will there be a fence and lock around the Community Garden?

Response:

The Community Garden will function as other park locations but there is a scholarship possibility for fees.

<https://www.portland.gov/parks/community-gardens/scholarship>

Yes, there will be a fence and a lock for the Community Garden and those who are assigned spaces will have code access.

Comments:

- I appreciate the updated changes to Paseo based on feedback and like the relocation of the Community Garden and Chin-lone space.
- I love the tree design around area number nine.

Play slides 4-5

- Playground features feedback from DMA Community Gathering
- Types of play feedback from the online survey
- Look of the play feedback from the online survey
- Reviewed play concepts (nature based or modern based)

Comments

- I appreciate the tall slide example that has both a climbing and slide feature.
- The play options should be different than what is at the school in order to keep kids interested while parents are participating in other activities in the park.
- It would be good to have a large feature where kids could stay busy on and then smaller accessory play features.
- I like the idea of something with a focal or central main feature.
- The modern design would be great to bring as a wow factor.
- Some of the nature play concepts work well that I have seen at Gateway Discovery Park.
- Having a combination of the wow factor that's more high risk and play that is low risk but also accessible for younger kids.
- The Hill at Ventura Park is basic and kids enjoy it. Maybe those who are not as adventurous might appreciate features that are not intimidating but also understand that there should be some challenging features that encourage play for all kids.

Furnishings slide 6

- Picnic Shelter options: modern vs. nature and aesthetics
- Common standard park amenities review
 - Benches

- Picnic Tables
- Signage
- Portland Loo (Restroom)
- Water fountain
- Bollards -A short post used to create a protective or architectural perimeter. Keeps vehicle from coming onto the site but maintenance vehicles can remove when needing to enter park.

Comments

- I'm drawn to the modern shelter. The Mill Park area was mostly built in the 50's. I like that style better for the area than the timber framed, although beautiful, not sure it would work well in this setting.
- I like the look of the wooden benches
- The metal picnic tables may get too hot in the summer
- The modern design is eye catching and when I look at the natural, it is something you would find in a camp site or in the forest.
- The neighborhood is off of 122nd and the modern design and has more of a 2022 feel that would fit the neighborhood better.
- Kids and families may enjoy and be more attracted to the modern style to have picnics and birthday parties.
- Modern is more appealing and seems more of an authentic direction for the neighborhood.

Art Slides 7-12

- Reviewed Art Typologies
 - Murals
 - Artistic Fencing
 - Textured Concrete
 - Mosaics
 - Art Wall
 - Sculptures
 - Performance Space

- Alex Chiu shared his work with the Mill Park community and the Instagram page
<https://www.instagram.com/millparkstories/>
 - Alex interacted with a good amount of people in the neighborhood and has a good sense of what the neighborhood feels like and established a relationship in order to represent the community.
 - Reviewed the themes and categorizes based on neighborhood observations:
 - Community goods and services
 - Community resources and activities
 - Community arts and textures
 - Community Imagery/Universal Imagery
 - Gardens and Garden stories
 - Hands Imagery
 - Local Flora/Fauna
 - Foods
 - Activities

Comments

- Excited about the direction of the design and that the project is in a good place. While walking in the neighborhood noted a “Jurassic Park Dinosaur Land” under a tree in a house near the park and church and took a picture and did not post to Instagram mill park stories but will plan on doing that.
- Likes the direction things are going and how Alex is looking at art and bringing in the community. The use of hands and food and preparation of food that everyone connects to and is universal and crosses many cultures.
- Appreciates that the art will be incorporated into the landscape and not art just for art sake and have on a piece equipment or feature.
- Would be concerned about graffiti with art installations and understands some art can be a deterrent to graffiti.

- Loves following the Instagram and has learned things about their own neighborhood. Likes the direction as well. The concept of hands is a beautiful idea.
- Loves all the imagery and drawn to the gardening imagery and noticed in the modern shelter there was a low fence and thought that would be a good space for a mural and there seems to be a good opportunity to tie in all the art work.
- Really enjoys the art and imagery examples.

Cultivate Initiatives Temporary Lease Agreement Information

<https://www.cultivateinitiatives.org/>

- In summer 2021, PP&R purchased the land at 1949 SE 122nd Ave to provide a entry and expansion for Mill Park. PP&R entered an agreement with Cultivate Initiatives for a nominal fee of \$1 to provide community services on a temporary bases from this location during this interim period between property purchase and development of Mill Park.
- The initial temporary lease agreement was for three months from August 25, 2021 – November 30, 2021, and following that, the lease agreement automatically becomes a month-to-month agreement.
- The lease will be terminated when PP&R is ready to remove the building. The property was purchased with SDC (System Development Charge) funding that necessitates the building be removed.
- Cultivate Initiatives is providing houseless services such as food, clothing, and medical supplies.
- There are no overnight residents or camping services for the houseless population on that site.
- PP&R has installed signs to inform the public about this temporary use by Cultivate Initiatives.
- Wanted to inform PAC that Cultivate Initiatives are aware it is temporary use of the space and they are actively searching for a new building to move to when we need the site for construction.

Contractor Update

- Robin reported that City Procurement has gone through a public procurement and bidding process for the contractor to be engaged for the project and the selected contractor is Ramore Construction.
- We do not have an executed contract yet but currently in the middle of negotiating the contract.
- They are the contractor that will be brought on board for pre-construction services. They will help the design team in a collaborative team approach to look at the site, constructability, means and methods and how we build the park. Getting them on board is a huge step!
- Raimore is a local Black-owned construction company that hires a lot of local folks and provides leadership opportunities. They have done other park projects and have done the construction along Division Street and are familiar with the neighborhood.
<https://www.portland.gov/omf/news/2022/1/21/raimore-construction-helps-city-build-more-equitable-safe-portland>

Next Steps:

- An email calendar invite will be sent for the April 2022 PAC meeting
- May Community Event
- Wrap-up PAC meeting in June, possibly host outside in Mill Park (based on weather)