



Mill Park Project Advisory Committee Meeting #5 Notes

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – 4:00pm – 6:00pm, held on Zoom.

PAC Members present: Amy, Andrew, Audrey, Barbie, Juanita, Kari, Mohammad, Pyae, Trevor. **PAC Members not present:** Anne, Ayan, Erin, Francis, Heather, Jasmine, Nang.

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.

Meeting Outcomes: Preview and provide feedback on the final design and materials before the final community engagement in May.

Schedule Update:

Maija reviewed the Schedule Update

- What's next after tonight:
 - May 18, 2022 – 5:30-7:00pm: Community Gathering #3
 - Outdoors at the Mill Park basketball court
 - Online component for folks who are unable to attend
 - Division Midway Alliance will be available for interpretation/translation
 - June 2022: PAC #6 (final meeting)
 - Check in on what we heard from the community in May and if any major concerns came up.
 - PAC final support for the design to move forward in the process.
 - Celebrate our time together
 - There is the possibility to bring the PAC back together if any issues come up deeper in the design where feedback is needed.

Administration

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Mayer/Reed Presentation on Final Design

- Review of the three schematic design options: Ellipse, Oasis, and Paseo.
- Preferred Option Design Review – Paseo was the preferred design by the PAC and the broader community.
- Final Design Feedback and Incorporation of elements from other designs
- What we heard:
 - The Community Garden in the preferred design was not to the scale the community wanted and should be larger and closer to other activities.
 - Community wants more trees and liked the feeling of Oasis with more vegetation.
 - There are limitations to the location of the spray area in front of the play area. The location might impede community gatherings, presentations, and performances.
 - Excitement around exercising in the park.
 - Really liked that the final design had the promenade with activities adjacent/centralized to the park with two flexible fields in comparison to the other designs that had one centralized field.
 - Liked the location of the playground and the feeling of safety.
 - The Chinlone community was happy with the location and that it was adjacent to the field.
- Evolution of the design based on feedback
 - Increased the design of the community garden and located it closer to the promenade and other amenities.
 - Introduced more trees to the plan.
 - Adjusted the location of the water play as to not impede the picnic shelter and its use as a performance space.
 - Kept the alignment of the promenade and adjacency of different programming.
 - Kept the playground location where it was.
 - Adjusted the fitness location to be next to the Chinlone area and created an activity/fitness hub. There was desire for those using the fitness to provide adjacency to the play ground so that caretakers could bring their kids and also get exercise.
 - Added seating along the perimeter pathway.

- A new connection to Arthur's Court Condominium. In the previous plans, there were existing connections to the multi-family housing and wanted to keep, honor, and respect those connections but also wanted to include Arthur's Court.
 - Added more of a formalized location for the memorial plaque and bench with seating adjacent to the pathway. The area provides picnic possibilities and nestled within trees and away from the more active locations of the park providing contemplation space.
 - Created a new entrance from the NW corner at Mill Park Elementary School. PP&R has been in conversations with the school as to a shared parking agreement. Wanting to make sure there is accessibility into the park but not losing any programming within the park boundaries.
 - Continued conversations with PBOT about ADA parking stalls on our right of ways adjancencies.
 - Added a secondary entrance off of 122nd to increase permeability into the site.
 - Included in the plan is an art concept on the feedback that has been received and the extensive work that Alex has been doing with the community.
- Reviewed enlarged three dimensional plans
 - These plans will be shared at the Community Gathering #3 on May 18.

Question: The large trees showing in the plan, will there be larger trees planted as as shown or is this what it will look like several years down the road?

Response: We will unlikley plant mature trees at the initial construction of the project. The image is showing the trees at 2/3rds maturity.

Question: Will there be benches under the trees closer to the community garden?

Responses: There are benches planned next to the flexible lawn, the picnic areas, and either side of water play. We can look to fit in in these areas as well as part of the experience. At the entrance, there is a seating gathering area and along the promenade, there is seating along the edge and along the perimeter pathway. Diversity of seating options is important.

Comments: I really like the wide pathway. I can see people walking in either direction. I would not want seating in this area so that it stays open but seating in shade is important especially as trees mature.

- Reviewed Promenade and Perspective
- Picnic and Gathering Area
- Playground
- Spray Play Fountain
- Fitness and Chinlone Area
- Community Garden
- View from the Promenade
- Play Concepts
 - Informally polled PAC members present as to Vibrant or Natural Colors option preference:
 - Three for vibrant, three a mix (kids play area vibrant and picnic area natural), two for natural
 - Might look at a combination of nature and modern mix with a possibility of modern equipment with natural tonalities.
- Site Features
- Art Typologies
 - Alex shared and elaborated on the Art Fence Panel Studies and where the art work is headed.

Question: The new lights being installed in Parks seem to be brighter and glaring and can there be a design that helps with that? I love the old lights at Mt. Tabor since they are beautiful, dim and yellow and if that can be replicated.

Response: It is an important point, the goal is to work with lighting experts who understand those luminetrics. We want safety coverage and not to create hot spots, hot spots create blind spots. We also want to be protecting night sky and protecting the adjacent residential properties and not throwing light into their yards and homes.

Comment: Appreciates the lighting at Gateway Discovery Park that has an upward facing bulb at an angle reflector. The only light you get on the ground has been

reflected and shining on a block. It does not go up but down and has a nice light. That might be a template for this property.

Comment: Likes the look of the picnic shelter, being open and large. Traditional and older picnic shelters tend to be dark and trap smells. This option looks very nice.

Question: Loves the imagery of the art but concerned about the use of plastic, can it be a different medium. Also concerned about the durability of the material and possible need for replacement in the future.

Response: We can explore different materiality for the art pieces in the fence. This material is partially being looked at because of its cost effectiveness and have seen the installation used in other places. Durability is a question and it could be a concern for vandalism. Since this is a public art piece, some of the maintenance of the art piece will be the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC)'s responsibility. RACC's Public Art Committee will provide guidance on approved artist piece and would want representation of the community needs and desires. RACC has not been approached with the fencing idea yet. There are concerns that the plastic might be a temporary rather than long term piece and needing to define what that might mean from the RACC PAC perspective, so there is room for more conversation.

Comment: Very beautiful fencing imagery and appreciates the concern of durability but also remembers earlier discussion of using the fences as a way to improve current fencing on the property. Fencing is not always durable and long lasting so turning something unattractive to something beautiful even if it will not be around a long time is something to be considered.

Overall Final PAC Comments:

- Alex appreciated the feedback and a reminder that this will not be the final plan. Glad that folks are enjoying the color scheme. Will coordinate with the design team and the art piece design to be cohesive.
- Likes how the design is inclusive. There is something for everyone. Looking forward to 2024.
- I am wowed getting to see the design more up close and appreciates how wide the promenade is and the tree alley will be fabulous.

- Very excited about all the play and exercise equipment and thinks it will be a great park. There are concerns about the plastic and would like to see a different medium but is sure it will be gorgeous in the end.
- Curious to learn results of the eco lawn testing.
- Everything looks great and very excited. No complaints, all thumbs up!
- Appreciates all the adjustments. We may have gotten a little hung up on the fence, and one thought of a similar design is using tile mosaic as something to consider and also involving the community in the tile process - but other than that thinks it will be a fantastic park.
- I like the 3-D rendering. The lush and fullness and vibrancy of the plan.
- Love the idea of using art fencing but wanting to see high quality, good looking, and long lasting material that is not always thought about in East Portland and wants to keep that at the forefront.
- Very excited about the park. Can't wait to take granddaughter to the park. Enjoyed looking at the 3-D perspective and believes the plan is in good hands.
- Very impressed how the community input was integrated. Loves the community garden and addition of the trees. Wants to second the tile mosaic idea.
- Excited for the process of coordinating a community effort to fill in the art fencing but could also be done with another medium.

Formal Vote

- Vote from the PAC for support of going to the public in May with the package of final design as presented.
 - *Unanimous yes vote from the PAC*

Community Gathering #3

- Community Gathering #3 on Wednesday May 18, 5:30-7:00 at the Mill Park basketball court to share the final design
- Will share the three original designs along with the final chosen design
- Comment forms will be available for the gathering

- There will be food, games, and activities (parachute game, large wooden jenga, soccer balls, and invitation to the Chinlone community to participate in a game).
- Considering several stations looping through the park with pop up tents and design boards so that folks could stop at the stations and have a sense of the future siting of the different park elements.
- Materials will be on line with a survey for those unable to attend the event
- DMA will be bringing community members with language access for Burmese, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, Nepali, Karen, and Somali speakers.
- Food suggestions for the event: Salad rolls, Lilly Market on 102nd Halsey has good salad rolls.

Contracting Updates

- Raimore Construction has been chosen as the project contractor.
- 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.
- Contract execution should be completed soon.
- Raimore has done some previous great projects for PP&R, and they are excited to be involved in this project.

Announcements

- Mill Park and Hazelwood Neighborhood Association Solve Clean up scheduled for Saturday, May 14 on 122nd Avenue, 9:30-12:30pm
- Midland Park weeding on the same morning. Meet up is at Midland Park Library; 9:00am-12:00pm

Next Steps:

- May Community Gathering Event #3
- An e-mail calendar invite will be sent for the June 2022 PAC meeting
 - Preference from PAC to meet in person outdoors for the final meeting.
 - Cake included!