

Parks Concept Design Project
Meetings notes from Neighborhood Association meetings
and written comments
March 2018

Westminster Triangle, Richmond Highlands, Highland Terrace

March 8, 2018

City Staff: Eric and Kirk

Included discussion of Richmond Highlands Park, Shoreview and Westminster Triangle

- Generally supportive of the concepts
- Really liked the proposals for Richmond Highlands
- No strong preference for any single concept
- Like the bigger field at Richmond Highlands bigger
- Integration with activities in building g is a positive
- Move the picnic area away from houses
- Very skeptical of an active area at Westminster Triangle.
- Concerned about traffic circulation if street closed or just one way
- Like idea of interactive art at Westminster
- Like improved parking lot at Shoreview off-leash area
- Lights a good idea on the field but not sure neighbors will be pleased
- Like the open grass playfield on the east

Ballinger Neighborhood Association Meeting

March 5, 2018

City Staff: Eric Friedli and Amanda Zollner

Eric presented Brugger's Bog park improvements

Concept A

1. One person commented positively on the ADA path
2. One person commented that they did not like the tree removal

Concept B

1. Comments on location of the play structure and its current use. Where it should be located for better use.
 - Comments on Brugger's Bog plans
 - "It's always going to be a bog"
 - "Do we want this to be a park or a Bog"
 - "The kids are asking about the play structure, can we do swings in the spring"

- “I think swings are really important”
- “Right now there’s not official access on the north side and I don’t see it on these plans”
- “Boardwalks are great but they require more maintenance”
- “The art is great, I love the art”
- “I want to reiterate how important access is and safety where things are place”
- “I would like to comment on the plazas, I like the plazas.”
- “I think there should be proper signage that welcome people into the park and lights on sensors and signs to let people know that someone is watching”
- “The lights from the county maintenance yard light it up quite a bit”
- Brugger’s Restoration projects

Comments from volunteers

- “We planted 65 plants in 2 hours. The challenge was to find vegetation that will grow and stay small enough under the power lines”
- They put in over 100 “live stakes” in the NE park where they can grow bigger in June.
- “I want to make sure if huge earth works are happening that our restoration will not be impacted.”

Ballinger Open Space discussion

- Comment on making it more appealing to Teens “need zip lines and bike paths”
- “Would make a wonderful nature playground”

Ronald Bog discussion

- Comments on proposed changes
- North Maintenance Yard discussion
- Fueling Questions and comments regarding safety

Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association

March 13th, 2018 7:00 pm

City Staff: Eric and Susana; Park Board member: Cindy Dittbrenner

- Dedicate less space to off-leash dog area
- Like the off –leash wooded area in Concept B rather than the big field in the middle of the park
- There are concerns with the integration of off-leash area and open public area. Needs to be well fenced and gated
- Do something with the landscape to buffer the noise from the freeway
- Like the vegetation along the rail system that Concept B shows
- Incorporate handball in either design
- Like the playground area closer to the park entrance (Concept A)
- Playground in Concept B looks OK as long as the trees do not cover the view of the playground

- Community safety should be #1 priority (no places to hide)
- Skateboard Park would be OK based on the Freeway noise
- Consider life size chess board in plaza area
- Suggested to have several levies with different options rather than a big levy with all parks and aquatic center
- Some are worried about tax fatigue
- They would like to know when the repair and replacement for the Ridgecrest playground is scheduled (in case that the funding does not materializes for the improvement)

Briarcrest Neighborhood Association

March 13th, 2018 7:00 pm

City Staff: Eric and Mary; Park Board member: Christine Southwick

- Liked idea of Briarcrest-facing park
- Think at least one field should be kept
- Like smaller amphitheater
- Keep all the trees
- Keep all the parking
- Like splash pad

Hillwood Neighborhood Association

March 29th, 2018 7:00 pm

City Staff: Eric and Lynn

General Comments:

- Consider the potential for shared parking with Einstein to increase capacity
- Provide a ramp or steps between the school parking lot and the park
- Keep a lot of parking – the need will increase with a splash pad or spray park
- We don't need as much parking – it's a small park and the parking lot is only full during games. If the field isn't being scheduled anymore there will be plenty of parking
- Design for crime prevention
- Add more public art
- Could the Salmon public art piece currently located at Einstein be relocated to the park?
- Add a small amphitheater (Cromwell Park-style)
- Keep a horseshoe pit
- Include the police department at the next meeting to integrate public safety elements
- Include updated middle school designs at the next meeting for perspective
- Make part of the playground attractive to middle school children

- Make the spray park big – don't undersize it or it's not useful
- I like the boardwalk in both designs

Concept A

- park entrance feels dangerous for children
- the splash pad and kids' play area is too close to the parking area
- it's a long way to walk from the car to the far end of the park
- takes people away from the middle of the park
- I like keeping the cars out of the park
- concern about potential for less parking

Concept B

- Could the parking lot head west once it enters the park instead of going straight up?
- Like the parking going into the park
- Like the location of the spray park in this design

Shoreline Park Proposed Construction Projects 2018

Dear Director Friedli and PRCS Board Members,

I have visited Hamlin Park for over 14 years, and live in the neighborhood near the park. Along with regular individual visitors, role play and orienteering groups, mushroom enthusiasts, and organized sports activities, I've met many school and day camp groups, (even a "home school" family), all exploring, playing and learning from the natural habitat of Hamlin Park.

We do not need, nor desire any construction projects, vendor projects or "improvements" as outlined in the present proposals. It is the natural beauty and somewhat "wild" nature of the park that is one of its best assets. Children have the joy of discovery and playing in the woods. Stressed out adults have the joy of being in nature.

Regarding Hamlin Park North Concepts A & B

Do not implement any of the proposed designs. Continue environmental restoration and maintain the park, and otherwise, leave it alone.

Notes on the "North" site:

1. NO VENDORS or commercial sites.
2. NO NEW ENTRY IS NEEDED. We have a perfectly fine, relatively flat, entry at 15th Ave N.E. There is also ample parking in two locations at that entrance.

Note: More developed entry off of 168th would not be a good idea, both due to the slope, breaking up the nice tree line that "shelters" the park from 168th traffic, and lack of safety due to busy traffic at various times of the day.

If the parking area at 166th is "improved" do not remove any trees. It is, at least, not on a main road. Though it may pose a traffic problem (or other unwanted shenanigan activity) for neighbors as it is a more isolated location.

3. For goodness sake: no paved path, manmade play areas, "music pod", "play nests" (very ugly) etc. Rather than "structured" manmade designated play, a natural habitat nurtures children's creative play. We already have structured play elsewhere in the park. (And the kids still go for the canons.)

Note: I prefer habitat restoration as described below be the only improvement. If development, the giant roped climbing web item and "tree house" appear to be most interesting. It would really depend upon how these elements were incorporated into

the native meadow and pre-existing trees. They may also be best placed elsewhere, where it is already more developed.

4. DO NOT CUT ANY TREES. Preserve trees present already in the park. Remove ivy that is growing up the sides of the trees; it kills them. It also keeps new seedlings from sprouting. This can be done by cutting the ivy at the base of the trees, as well as removing some around the base. If it isn't done, we will lose the trees. Restore understory with native plants, all varieties. (Not just Oregon Grape, Flowering Red Currant and Salal.)
5. RESTORE THE NATIVE (RIPARIAN*)/MEADOW FOR THE ENTIRE NORTH AREA SITE (that was previously invasive scotch broom) to be replaced with native plants that produce multiple seeds, flowers and berries to provide habitat for small birds who were using the Hamlin Park "North". This will maintain and enhance the entire Hamlin Park ecosystem.

Use a diverse variety of Native plants, rather than the "typical" few over used in "native landscaping". Do not make it a manicured landscape, rather design it to recreate a natural meadow like area. This can be done in an interesting manner that helps the ecosystem, creates a beautiful landscape that is pleasing to view, visit and walk through and which encourages the "discovery" process and relationship to nature for all of us.

Maintain a trail winding through it. It would be good to connect to the present trail from the 15th Ave parking lot, as well as the pre-existing access entry for those who come from the neighborhoods.

These Native meadow plants can also attract butterflies. Rather than the proposed commercial area (zip lines) or a manufactured play area plunked into the middle of a forest, one can create a discovery path including a bench or two, a couple of logs or flat rocks on which to sit. Maybe a place to nibble lunch. There could be places to view where butterflies and birds live; a place to learn and experience nature.

This fits better within the Hamlin Park/Urban Forest setting. It is also possible that this is a riparian meadow habitat. This should be explored and restored if so, as it allows for very interesting nature discovery.

6. In general: Continue to maintain. Including rehangng of bathroom doors (near the canons) that are, at this time, misaligned and won't close properly. On-going monitoring of the water fountain so the water stream is a decent drinking height (and

able to refill water bottles) and doesn't stay "stuck" on. New faucet, or lengthen time of water stream in sink to enable more thorough (healthy) hand washing.

Notes on proposed "East" site:

1. DO NOT IMPLEMENT ANY OF THE PROPOSED DESIGNS. People and teams are using the ball fields. Team playoffs benefit from more than one baseball diamond in the same location. We already have two "developed" play areas in the park.
2. More development is absolutely unnecessary, and does not fit with the nature of the park. NO SYNTHETIC PLASTIC TURF, NO SKATE PARK, NO SPRAY PARK, NO CONSTRUCTION WITH MORE PAVEMENT.
3. Adults also use the park, and this population needs to be considered. The Hamlin Park setting is precious, and rare, and lends itself to enhancement of the nature experience, and natural play; not vender projects, manufactured play areas and more concrete. Some other Shoreline Park setting may lend itself to more developed play structures, spray parks, climbing equipment and so forth.
4. If a ball field is taken away, this area could be beautifully restored for public enjoyment. I would urge no pavement structures, and definitely no artificial turf. Any construction such as an amphitheater, or additional picnic sites be kept natural; nestled in trees, and designed to blend into the nature and trees of the park. Avoid obvious manmade structures plunked into nature.
5. If any new entrance with improved wheel chair ramp is considered at 25th Ave N.E. I would urge that is be kept simple and welcoming, not overblown. We appreciate the trees, as well as the animals that frequent that area, including a Barred Owl.

(Note: There is already an entrance in that location. Does the present wheelchair ramp meet accessible requirements? If not, could redo in the same location. Could also be improved with maintenance. However the paved path already available at the North end of the same parking lot appears user friendly with a more gradual slope. I don't know that a new entrance is needed. However if others in the neighborhood feel it is essential, at the least, there is already a parking lot, separate from the main street and traffic. This is a much safer location than what is noted in the North Proposals.

Overall recommendations for capital expenditures of public monies for Shoreline Parks:

Note: Many of us in the public already feel "over taxed" by upcoming transit improvements and so forth. Just wondering where all the money will come from?

1. Use monies to continue to properly maintain the parks.
2. The parks are already wonderful and provide the open space necessary for sane City living. Restore the habitat, preserve what we have for future generations. Don't be swayed by passing "fads" that cut or damage trees for redundant development or business ventures. Do not try to turn them in to mini-amusement parks.
3. Instead use monies for purchase of more parkland acquisition for the City of Shoreline. As the population density increases, it will be needed. Including use of some for "pea patches" (community gardens). It is better if these are not "combined" with existing public parks, but are separate locations within neighborhoods. (This will help minimize the rodent and raccoon populations-- If you put a pea patch in a park with ivy you've created a comfy place for rats as well as disrupted the native wildlife with the closer proximity of human food).
4. Use monies for purchase/building of Shoreline recreation center if/when the school district sells the present site.
5. If there are funds and a desire to "improve" and enhance the parks for children, (youth & adults) use one of the Park Job Positions for a Nature Ranger, or hire a Naturalist who can "roam" the park or schedule to teach on-site about nature.

Thank you. I look forward to continued discussion and review.

Susan Colton

-----Original Message-----

From: Sean Osborn [<mailto:feanor33@comcast.net>]

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 8:01 PM

To: ShorelineParks <shorelineparks@shorelinewa.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] BALNA meeting

Thank you to Eric Friedil and Amanda_____ for their presentation tonight at the BALNA meeting.

In general, the preliminary designs look great, and thoughtful. I especially love the public art, picnic areas, and the ADA accessible path leading to Ballinger Way.

Some things that I think are important to consider:

- There needs to be access from the north end of the park, preferably leading to the parking lot on the north side.
- Keep or replace swings!
- I like B's plaza because it can double as a bus stop area for commuters

- Boardwalks are a nice idea in boggy area, but they require additional maintenance in our wet climate because they get very slippery, and people will injure themselves if they are not maintained.

- keep the current bridge

- lights would be great, especially at access points, but perhaps even solar-powered, motion-sensitive lights in many other places

- the whole area may be reverting to more boggy or even a pond. Something to consider seriously with any plan going forward:

How much control over nature do we want to exert here?

Thank you,

Sean Osborn

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