



Seattle Parks & Recreation

healthy people healthy environment strong communities

SOUTH PARK PLAZA PARK PROJECT

Seattle Parks and Recreation's Planning & Development Division

South Park Plaza Park site, 11am – 1pm

Saturday, November 16, 2019

MEETING NOTES

Present

- Garrett Farrell, Seattle Parks and Recreation Capital Project Coordinator
- Ed Pottharst, Seattle Parks and Recreation Planner
- Meredith Hall, Karen Kiest Landscape Architecture
- Karen Kiest, Karen Kiest Landscape Architecture
- Staff from Seattle Public Utilities and the Seattle Offices of Housing, Sustainability and Environment, and Planning and Community Development

Community Members – About 50 community members attended.

Project Schedule: The project is currently in the planning phase; two more public meetings will be held in early 2020. Schematic design will be completed by the mid-2020 with construction planned for late 2020-2021.

Open House Summary

A public outreach meeting was held from 11am-1pm at the South Park Plaza Park site on Saturday, November 16, 2019, featuring a bouncy castle and open-house style presentation board in a large tent.

The main themes were around the need for low-income housing and community spaces for services and gathering of families.

We had a long conversation with a group of Spanish-speaking women who were concerned about being displaced from South Park because they have strong social connections in the neighborhood (neighbors watch out for each other) and access to a lot of services and school community. One mother spoke at length about driving an hour each way to South Park so that her children can continue at Concord International Elementary School. Their social cohesion and sense of community are strong in South Park, and they do not want to lose that. Requests for housing were paired with space for businesses that will serve the community.

Shelters or community rooms for families to gather in all kinds of weather were also very important.

Other strong themes were the need for event space (especially music and movies), daily activation that will keep the park safe, walking/running/biking loops for kids within the park and connecting to the Riverwalk, play features, and river access.

Children and adults drew 21 plans for the park, many featuring soccer, basketball, and other structured games; play equipment; and vending.

Themes

The following notes were collected from the post-it notes on the presentation boards:

Housing

- Affordable/low income housing (many people echoed this)
 - o “the City gave us a space for every family to make our own home” (translated from Spanish)
 - o with open space
 - “a park feels like a gift for the new South Park” (from a resident being displaced) – she’d like to see “something like DubSea [Greenbridge], something great in the middle of affordable housing”
 - o With business (many people echoed this)
 - El Centro de la Raza model (Beacon Hill) – housing above community rooms & businesses with outdoor plaza
 - Apartments and businesses and a bank and a pharmacy
- Displaced families are coming back to South Park for the closeness they feel to the community and the resources here

Community Building/Gathering space

- Multi-cultural center: a place explicitly for celebrating cultural events from all of the segments of the community
- Outdoor pagoda
- Covered & lit space
- Spaces for Latin extended families to gather/for bringing kids

- Gym (two other people voiced this)
- Meeting place for young people
- Childcare
- Space for small businesses
- Restaurant space

Vending

- Utility connections for vendors
- Access for food trucks and vendors
- Other vendors would bring activity and promotion to the South Park business district

Events/Music/Movies

- Screening movies on warehouse building/outdoor movie theater/summer movie nights (voiced by four other people)
- Outdoor music venue/amphitheater (echoed by one other)
- Aim music toward river and away from homes (on Sullivan/Dallas)
- Multi-use space for events (voiced by another person)
- o Honk Fest
- o Lucha Libre

Water access

- Public small boat launch (marina not open for all) (voiced by one other)
- Duwamish Rowing Club Boat House (at surplus property)
- Steps to water
- “views to water” (echoed by another)
- o one resident spoke about his love of Jack Block Park, as well as throwing rocks in the water and biking around freely

Safety

- Use principles from Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CEPTED)
- o “eyes on the park” from S Orr & Dallas Streets (and not blocked by vegetation)
- “more than just a hang out” (i.e. there’s enough going on that people hanging out won’t make others feel unsafe)
- Encourage daily use
- o Activation during non-event times

Art

- On or screening the adjacent warehouse
- On the South Park Bridge wall
- Show the multicultural connections with a “center” or a “statue”
- Sculptures kids can climb on
- Fountain as central feature (photo on board) > “love this”
- Incorporate kid art (tile/mosaic)

Park Facilities

- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains

Play

- Multi-age play features
- Playground
- Zip line
- Skate park
- Play spaces
- Environmental climbing structures for kids on edges
- “jungle gym”
- Mini-soccer field & turf
- Games
- o Chess/checkers (large set or tables)
- o Ping pong

Plantings

- Trees at bridge side/trees at warehouse side (screening)
- “greener space”
- Grass for kids to run on

Paths

- Path for kids to ride bikes on (circuit) (echoed by one other)
- o “bicycle accessible path”
- Loop trails: running, walking
- Intermix green space and stone tile
- Connections:

- o Get the Port and City of Seattle to work together on the Riverwalk project
- o Walks to Terminal 117 on the riverfront
- o Tie into the Riverwalk

History

- Interpret the old oxbow edge
- Remembering playing music at the County Line (this resident moved to South Park because he'd played there)

Other

- Water/drainage
- Cut bridge noise

Next Steps

We are especially interested in hearing from you if you were unable to attend the November 16, 2019, Open House. Please give us your input via our online [survey](#).

In early 2020, Seattle Parks and Recreation will host other events to gather more community input.

We look forward to sharing a brand new neighborhood plaza park with the community in 2021!

Please feel free to contact SPR Planner Ed Pottharst, ed.pottharst@seattle.gov, 206-386-4232, with any questions.

Thank you for participating!

