

Meeting Notes

Project: Washington Park Diagonal
Meeting Date: Aug. 30, 2011

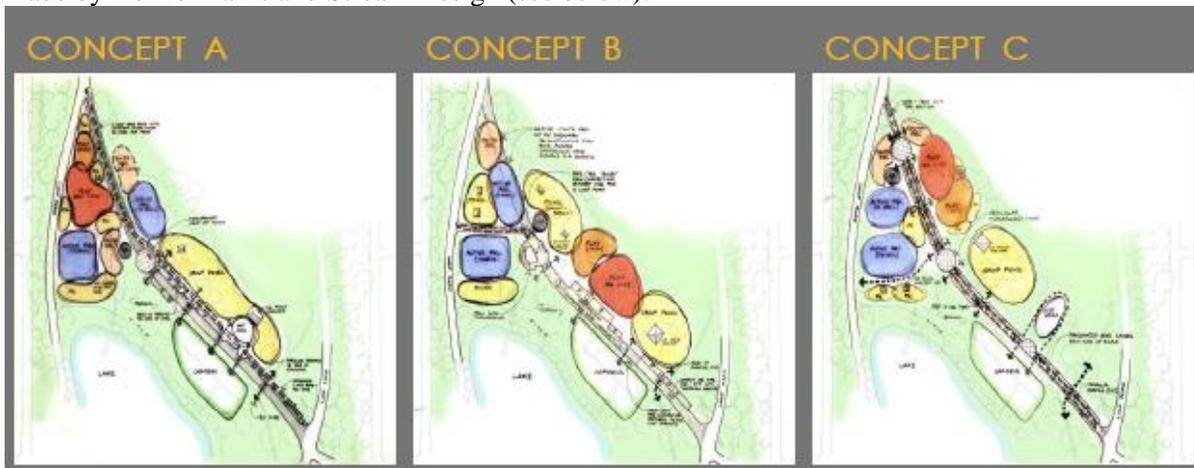
Re: Public Meeting #2
Location: St. John's Church
Date Issued: Sept 2, 2011
Compiled By: Paul Thomas

Present:

See attached sign-in list for meeting attendees
Denver Parks Staff- Nicole Stahly, David Marquardt, Stewart Bader, Mark Tabor, Bob Finch
Stream Design (landscape architect/lead consultant) - Jess Clark, Paul Thomas
Urban Play Studio (play consulting) - Kerry White

Topics Discussed:

A presentation of the proposed Diagonal improvements, and 3 programming/conceptual diagrams was made by Denver Parks and Stream Design (see below).



Comments were recorded on large poster sheets during general discussion, and received on feedback / comments sheets collected from individual attendees.

Number of comments is indicated in parentheses i.e. (0)

1. General--All Concepts

a. Road, Turnaround & Parking:

- Access to park from Downing St. difficult--dangerous crosswalk (3)
- Keep cut-through traffic out of Diagonal area--and slowed down
- All alternatives lack sufficient parking for new play and picnic uses
- Need more parking
- Want fewer cars
- Want less parking-- (3) ("people can walk to park", "South High parking good even for Moms w/ strollers")
- Add a drop-off zone (2) ("want 15-30 min parking/drop-off zone")

- Need a "Not a Through Street" sign @ Diagonal and Franklin/Mississippi intersection

b. Bike/Ped

- Bike circulation on road works fine now--traffic is light--not a problem (2)

c. Activity Areas

- Excessive number of uses on W. side of park add to traffic & congestion on west loop Rd and Downing
- Would rather not increase basketball court capacity
- Too much picnicking & other activities--not enough parking
- Like one permitted group picnic area + small, un-permitted areas near play)
- Too much activity proposed in all of the concepts (8)--("need to disperse activities to other side of park like youth rec at Franklin & Louisiana where teens can park at South High and be supervised by South High personnel")
- Reduce amount of active and youth play
- Don't want skating / youth rec area (4)--(" is it necessary?", "keep away from play if it can't be eliminated", "omit youth areas")
- Any plan needs to include skate-able areas for kids--Ruby Hill too far for 10-12 yr. olds who want to skate
- Main design issue is where play goes--drives everything--picnic will happen everywhere anyway
- Can use trees for picnic shade, don't want picnic shelters
- Put youth rec in high visibility area for safety/law enforcement
- Separate youth area from basketball, play and picnic
- Keep basketball and tennis as is
- Would like safe place for young kids to learn to skate
- Expand the Mount Vernon garden
- Why only one set of restrooms?

- d. Timing/Phasing of improvements: If picnic areas are significantly changed/improved and if the playground is eliminated as part of the improvements, will it not get put back until additional funding is available?

2. Alternative A

a. General:

- Prefer: (0)
- Generally Like: (1)
- Generally Don't Like: (4) ("least favorite", "poorest overall", "burdens neighbors at Downing w/ too much activity/traffic").

b. Road, Turnaround & Parking:

- Don't like Turnaround (2)-- too small, too close to loop rd & Downing)
- Like turnaround (2)
- Like parking away from play (less cars)
- Like smaller road (3)
- Like head-in parking
- Not enough parking
- Like less parking (3)
- Don't like parking away from play

- Like idea of keeping road for events

c. Bike & Ped:

- Don't need bike lanes: (4) ("put bike and ped together")
- Like separated bike/ped path (3)
- Dangerous for bike and ped

d. Activity Areas

- Too many activities near loop road
- Dislike grouped activities in wedge (might cause congestion due to lack of space and proximity of roads) (2)
- Don't like Play area (6) (dangerous, On race days play areas get separated by event, smaller than other concepts, not good access, too near roadway)
- Like play area
- Group Picnic too big (7)--need to break up, will overtake the nicest part of the park)
- Like Group Picnic Area (3)-and like other smaller areas, spread out)
- Don't like reduced tennis (3)
- Like youth rec location
- Like alternate youth rec location better (2) --("opens up NW side of Diag.)
- Like basketball where it is (don't turn into basketball)
- Keep active rec areas near each other
- Like restroom location--central
- Like historic area

3. Alternative B

a. General

- Prefer: (2)
- Generally Like: (2)
- Generally Don't Like: (2)

b. Road, Turnaround & Parking:

- Like Turnaround (7)
- Like road (3) -- like smaller, add'l parking would be good for events-keep vendors off grass)
- Too many turnarounds

c. Bike/Ped.

- Like shared bike/vehicle use of road (3)
- Don't like shared bike/vehicle use of road (4) conflict w/ vehicles, need ped path)
- Don't like bike /ped circ. (2)--Don't like lack of continuous thru bike access)

d. Activity Areas

- Active rec too close to picnic
- Prefer B-Ball at current location
- Don't like basketball near picnic
- Separate Youth Rec from younger play areas
- Youth Rec:
 - Need better visibility for Youth Rec

- Don't put youth rec on Diag.
- Like youth rec in this one--it's smaller
- Like next to B-ball and away from small children
- Like spread-out activity areas (4)
- Activity Areas too dispersed
- Like play area location (4) (away from traffic, has buffer from road, like tots and big kids together)
- Like picnic location (6) (good for events, like many smaller areas)
- Want bigger picnic area

4. Alternative C

a. General

- Prefer: (3) by far,
- Generally Like: (0)
- Generally Don't Like: (3)

b. Road, Parking, Turnaround

- Don't Like Road (goes too deep into site--like less road, causes more car traffic,) (8)
- Like 2 turnarounds (2)
- Like parallel parking
- Not enough parking
- Too much parking (3)

c. Bike/Ped

- Like bike lanes: (3)
- Don't like bike lanes (4--"conflicts w/ vehicles")

d. Activity Areas

- Concentration of activities on w. side will burden neighbors along Downing & traffic
- Would like basketball to stay S. of tennis
- Move play to the east
- Like Historic Areas (5)
- Don't need Historic Area--just use gardens
- Like picnic location (2) ("like smaller group + pic areas near play")
- Like play location (5) ("better if more internal to park", "good access")
- Don't like small kid play--too close to road, has less shade
- Like youth rec. (2)
- Youth rec too close to play
- Like expanded basketball
- Like location of tennis and basketball together (2)
- Don't like restroom location (2) (not central, better on same side as play)

Stream Design believes this report accurately reflects what transpired at the meeting. Please provide comment to the appropriate project manager if you have a different understanding of what occurred or would like to add specifics or additional information. Notification should be made within 5 working days of issuing this report, after which, it is assumed that all parties agree that this report is accurate.

CC: File