# MEETING MINUTES

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| **Time: 10:00-11:30** | **Topic: Open House 1 Review and Guidance** | **Meeting Date: 7/7/2016** |
| **Location: Frances Anderson Center** | **Project: Edmonds Civic Center Playfield Master Plan** | **Project #: P3282.01** |

Attendees:

Carrie Hite, City of Edmonds

Renee McRae, City of Edmonds

Rich Lindsay, City of Edmonds

Frances Chapin, City of Edmonds

Chris Jones, Walker Macy

Ann Marie Schneider, Walker Macy

Rob Chave

Valerie Stewart

Barbara Chase

Doug Sheldon

Steve Shelton

Lesly Kaplan

Joe McIalwain

Alex Witenberg

Kyla Blair

Pat Woodell

Bob Rinehart

John McGibbon

Diana White

Emily Scott

Christiana Johnson

Dave Teitzel

Mike Echelbarger

Citizen:

Attachments:

Open House Results / Presentation

Introductions of team and attendees.

In attendance: Carrie Hite, Renee McRae, Frances Chapin, Todd Cort, Chris Jones, Ann Marie Schneider, Rob Chave, Valerie Stewart, Barbara Chase, Steve Shelton, Alex Witenberg, Kyla Blair, Mike Echelbarger, Bob Rinehart, John McGibbon, Diana White, Emily Scott, Kristiana Johnson, Dave Teitzel, Linda Malan for Pat Woodell

Absent: Lesly Kaplan, Rich Lindsay, Joe McIalwain, Doug Sheldon, Dick Van Hollebeke

One citizen, Roger Hertrich was also in attendance.

Open House Recap and Input Review

Questions and Discussion:

- Role of the PAC is to provide guidance to consulting team on feedback received from community. Recommendations will then be shared with the Planning Board, whose role is intermediary.
- Almost half of the PAC was present at the in-person open house.
- Carrie provided updates on deed restrictions, the State allows for facilities that support outdoor recreation such as restrooms, parking, shade structures, etc. No definitive answers yet from Snohomish County whose funds are generally more restrictive.
- A copy of the presentation power point will be posted online the day after the meeting.
- Draft meeting minutes will be posted and PAC members will be allowed to comment within a brief time-frame following the meeting.
- Request was made to receive presentation materials in advance (current meetings materials went out the day before). Project team will try to publish them earlier going forward, however they are often compiling data from the Open House until a day or two before the meeting.

Public Engagement

- There was high turnout at the in-person open house and to-date for the online open house (which doesn't close until EOD the 7th), with some overlap in participants.

Questions/concerns were raised about individuals participating in both and double-voting. There is no way to prevent participants from multiple votes and this is taken into consideration to the degree possible. Suggestions were made to remind participants that they may only vote once.

- Discussion ensued about the challenges in capturing public input, which is an "imperfect process" by nature. Surveys are a good place to start but offer limited utility. There was general agreement that we need to develop realistic parameters to start honing in on.
- Suggestion was made to put the online survey link on the District website.
- Concerns were raised about young adult outreach and the fact that the project public input process does not coincide with school terms. This is a challenge given the project schedule, there are plans to engage a group of Parks Dept. summer youth interns.
- Also discussed assistance from Kyla for facilitating social media coverage (e.g. Twitter and Facebook sharing).
- The issue was raised that the public open house (in-person) better accommodates the elderly (which is why the online open house is also offered). It was suggested that PAC members also share the online open house links with others, particularly those with children.
- Question was raised to group on whether the list of priority programs that came out of the open houses was in-line with their expectations; a significant majority agreed that the list seemed to be a reasonable representation of community sentiment.

<u>Structures</u>

- What is the Boys & Girls Club envisioning for their building? Team updated the PAC on the stakeholder meeting discussion, that the Club would like an 18-25,000 SF facility and a long-term lease. There is generally strong support from the City Council and conversations with the City and with the ECA about options for expansion or relocation are ongoing. The direction of these conversations will have a significant impact on the park design.
- Importance of having the Boys and Girls Club in the city was expressed.
- Grand Stands have a significant impact on park design and a decision is needed soon for design consideration. There are structural and safety concerns, and the structure is not ADA compliant.
- The HPC offered no recommendation on the Grand Stands.
- After consultation with the State, the Development Services Department has concluded that removal of the structure, with proper documentation before it is removed, is appropriate.
- Most agreed that removal of the stadium, if it doesn't have historic significance, is desirable. One member suggested keeping the steps, possibly creating a lookout area.

- Most agreed that some historic acknowledgement/marker should be considered for the site.
- Some have historic and emotional attachment to the bleachers and would like to consider that portions of it remain. Others stated it should only remain unless it is important and integral to the new park design.
- It is possible to use some of the grant funding for demo of the Grand Stands, this would have to be determined soon.
- Large event seating could be provided by other options, i.e. portable bleachers.
- Carrie will talk to the state RCO office about completing a Cultural Resources report for the Grand Stand, and possibly the Field House. The PAC agreed that if the report results show that the Grand Stand is not of historical significance its removal is appropriate. The scope of the report was removed from the Civic Center Playfield contract and will be a separate but related initiative.
- Approximately 50% of Grand Stand storage is used by the City. The City is seeking a replacement/new facility to consolidate their storage. Other stakeholders have been briefed on the situation and options are being discussed.

<u>Events</u>

- Sentiment to not design for festivals was raised, and has been heard repeatedly via community and stakeholder input. The design team needs guidance however, on what level of footprint to consider in the design process. The PAC agreed that some reorganizing and possible consolidating of the Taste of Edmonds footprint should be explored and considered. Particularly there are large areas used for vendor parking.
- Middle-scale events should be considered and weren't well represented in the questionnaire (e.g. a summer market with option for some street closures). Relocation of the current market to the park edge along 6th should also be considered.

<u>Program</u>

- Some felt strongly that the park should be active, others felt that purely active program only serves a segment of the community and that passive program is equally important.
- The importance of beauty and the significance of a downtown signature park should be considered.
- Having some shade trees is important, but need to consider the height and views
- Options for some program to be accommodated in other parks should be considered such that Civic Playfield can be special.
- Options to consider multi use spaces was discussed, i.e. Petanque.

- Questions were raised about the 2-acre unrestricted area and whether there should be consideration for development, in addition to Boys and Girls Club expansion, for example low income or senior housing. It is believed that there are not funding restrictions to keep this area as part of the park but that the intent of the purchase, and the funding, was to keep it as part of the park. Most felt that private redevelopment would not be an appropriate use.
- Program should include a mix of active, passive and civic. Many uses are not mutually exclusive.
- The project team is experienced in developing flexible use space (space that accommodates multiple programs), which will be a key component in the park design.