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Moscone Playground Meeting Notes from the October 1, 2015 Public Meeting

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Part 1: Water Conservation Program Background

Park 2: Moscone East Project (Overview, proposed site areas, budget, schedule and site options)

Park 3: Project Priorities, Comments and Questions

Refer to the Power Point Presentation date October 1, 2015 for background information on the overall bond program, project budget information and proposed project schedules for each project (Playground/ Water Conservation)

Part 1: Water Conservation Program

Staff presented the proposed project closely following the slides in the Power Point presentation

Public Comments:

- Ensure low groundcover plant material is used. No large shrubs that people can hide behind. (5" or so)
- Irrigate the new planting areas at night for additional water savings
- The Department does not plan to remove trees as part of this project. We will work with gardening staff to select the appropriate plant material that will work with the existing trees.
- Succulent plant material should be considered like the material located down on the Maria Green.
- Needle problem is a huge concern in the sand and in plant material where people camp.

Park 2: Moscone East Project (Playground)

Staff presented the proposed project closely following the slides in the Power Point presentation



Public Comment:

- For play uses consider a rolling bike/pump track. The undulating track should be incorporated for learning to ride bikes for young children.
- Current Uses at the Site: 10am to 1pm there are approximately 25-40 kids per day. Pre-schools and pre-school license providers go there due to heavy use at the other playground. These groups have provided their own toys in this area which had to be removed because homeless were using them as shelter. After 1pm, grade school age and special needs kids use this space. Providers like this enclosed area for monitoring the users. From 1pm to 3pm middle school kids used the space unsupervised. They tend to hang out and abuse the swings. This current play area is not appropriate for this age group.
- Keep the fence for safety purposes. The fenced in area should also be equipped with the ability to lock the space at night.
- Make sure that whatever is designed in the area that you don't have hiding spaces or blind spots
- Keep the existing trees on Chestnut frontage as a buffer.
- This area is a maintenance challenge
- Mixed age use is required in the area
- An off leash dog area is needed for this park and should be limited/defined zone
- Provide space for a mix of age groups especially teens and families
- Tiles/ donor tile seating walls or bench should be considered
- Flat seating area and gathering area for seniors
- Like the current safety of the fenced tot area
- Bike riding area for young kids to learn how to ride a bike. There are no safe areas in the neighborhood where young children can learn to ride.
- Kid area and dog area conflicts currently
- Perhaps a dedicated dog area here or somewhere in the park.
- For Dog Areas consider (2) locations: The other side of the basketball courts on Laguna Street or the far west side of the park where there is little use. Trees would need to be pruned and area can be opened up. Trees are a concern in this space. The area on



Laguna had been considered as a DPA in the past but it's just too busy and noisy and dogs get "spooked".

- A fenced in dog area is needed. There are no designated off leash dog areas in the Marina. We need a safe area for the dogs.
- The Moscone East playground is too small for a viable dog run. The group would prefer a larger space. There was a letter sent to the Department from Chuck Nelson regarding a dog run but he never received a response.
- The benches and gathering space had been removed on the north east side of the courts. They were removed due to neglect as they were an attractive nuisance with the homeless. These benches were located in a hidden spot on the site without great sight lines for supervision
- The area around the library should be kept open for future expansion. The facility is too small and needs to be increased for additional programs for the elderly. There are too many noisy kids that use the library.

Priority Exercise with the Public

Staff presented three possible improvement options/areas for discussion which they would consider for possible refinement. The goal was to determine the public's priority. These included the following:

1. Existing Main Playground: repair the rubber matting, replace the sand with rubber matting and make modest improvements to the existing tot area in the west playground
2. East Playground: Improve this area as outlined in the bond measure that meets the needs of the community and that can be funded with the allowable budget.
3. Landscape Link: This is the space between the clubhouse and the east playground which would include a new fence, landscape and passive use improvements.

Priority Results:

Each member of the public where given two stickers with a Priority 1 and 2 marked on them. They were asked to affix the stickers to their highest priority improvement areas.

	Area	Total Number of Votes	Priority 1	Priority 2
#3	Existing Main Playground	7	2	5
#1	East Playground	15	8	7
#2	Landscape Link	7	5	2



Staff conducted a separate exercise specific to the East Playground Area to help guide program priorities and options for this space. The categories generated were based on feedback heard during this meeting.

East Playground Area Ideas

Possible Improvement Ideas (public)	Response (stickers)
Maintain as a similar tot area with improvements including a children’s bike area	1
Multi-generational play/gathering/shade area. Space for older kids and special needs kids	3
Off Leash Dog Area	It was determined that the existing east PG area is too small for a DPA
- West Side DPA (adjacent to school fence)	8
- East Side DPA (boat area)	
Senior Gathering Area across from Heritage	2

Note that the DPA was a discussion topic which was explored in detail to determine if the current project zone could support this use. This discussion identified that the public would like to consider a DPA in another area of the park either as part of this project or a separate project.

General Notes and Comments:

Do not hold future meetings on Thursday nights. This conflicts with an established meeting.

Staff reiterated at the conclusion of the meeting that this was a great start with terrific feedback. Staff’s next steps including going back to evaluate this information and come back for a second meeting with several concepts. It was also mentioned that this project has limited funding resources and that we would not be able to complete all the improvement’s discussed but would prioritize and refine the program based on the information received and within the allowable project budget.

