

Green2015 Community Meeting Facilitation Notes

Date: Monday, June 21, 2010

Location: Perzel Community Center, 2990 St. Vincents Street, 19149

GROUP #1 Carole/Bryan

Question #1: What role does green space play in your community or neighborhood?

If green space is missing in a neighborhood or community, what impact does that lack have on your neighborhood or community?

- Safe place to play for kids
 - Parents don't have to worry
- Keeps housing values high – asset to neighborhood - selling point
- Opportunity to relax close to home for families
- Water backup on to properties because of lack of trees and any stormwater control
- Beauty of trees, flowers and colors
- Shade of trees cools homes, saving money

Question #2: What role could open space play in your community? How would having some/more green space affect your neighborhood or community?

- More open space for kids to play
- Safety – cameras, lighting, police presence
- Open space as community space
 - People of all ages and with different purposes congregate
 - Intimate space like “town square” - older folks can gather
- Pedestrian walking tracks around perimeter with center space for varied uses
- More wildlife - build more bird roosts
- Block by block community gardens
- Businesses and politicians need to see green space is important to people

Question #3: Given what we've said so far, what values, priorities, or principles should guide the Commissioner and his staff in the Department of Parks and Recreation in their **decision-making regarding new or additional green spaces? (*ranked in order with number of votes next to*)**

- (5) Contiguous spaces for wildlife preservation and attraction
- (5) Protect undeveloped land
 - Acquire privately owned wilderness for protection
- (5) Reducing hardscaping - lessen concrete use
 - Traffic triangles
 - Edges of commercial corridors
- (4) “Green Pearl Necklace” connecting green spaces throughout the city
 - Within neighborhoods - smaller and more intimate spaces

- (3) Build on what you have
 - Use rehab to take pressure off of open space
 - City is not urban enough
- (3) Northeast needs more than just Pennypack Park
 - Uneven equity
- (3) No trade-offs to swap lands
- (1) Penn's "Greene Countrie Towne"
- (1) Actual implementation important – need to deliver on promises
- Use more of the open space standards to qualify for green instead of just solar/windows/etc.
- Public education regarding green values

GROUP #2 Kayte/Carolyn

Question #1: What role does green space play in your community or neighborhood?

If green space is missing in a neighborhood or community, what impact does that lack have on your neighborhood or community?

- Meet other mothers in the park
 - Young moms with kids
- Lack of space to meet others
- Fear of going to the present park (Holmesburg)
 - Want a place for older folks to sit, have coffee and socialize
- Love the playground facilities for kids
 - Helps in making friends
 - Great for exercise
- Opportunity to meet people
- Adds to community livability
 - Conversely – the only park is not inviting. Not maintained.
 - People use baseball field as a dog park.
 - Unsanitary – So the park is not used
- Want clean green space
- Pocket parks used to be here, so close to everyone – now gone
 - Seems that we will repeat this
 - Don't trust Parks and Rec to put space where we want them
 - Get back to recreational piers

Question #2: What role could open space play in your community? How would having some/more green space affect your neighborhood or community?

- Green space along streets
- Maintenance of space
 - Could be very positive if this were done

- Can't assume residents would volunteer
- Residents would like to volunteer
 - Aren't given a chance
 - Rules are good, but are not enforced
- Children wanting to play in parks, could learn sportsmanship
- People would talk to each other more
- Little pocket parks would spur social interaction
 - Place for picnics
 - Concerts
- More positive uses would detract the teenage hangouts
 - They would move on
 - Create safer places for young kids
 - More activity would add to safety
- Lights would make a big difference
 - Especially in winter
 - Would detract bad uses
- Music, art – events
- Community Garden - Ability to grow fresh produce
- Destination to walk to
- Farmers Market
- Like idea of a square as central spot in the neighborhood
- Like to have a designated dog park (e.g. Clark Park, doggie bags)
- Teach kids how to combine both dogs and play in the same park
 - Learn to co-exist
 - Model good behavior about acting in open space
- Neighborhood Bulletin Board
 - Post notes about events
- Caution
 - Need to maintain
 - Avoid letting it fall into disrepair
 - Don't let one age group take over the uses and programs in the park
 - Want diversity of programs
 - Make sure programs reflect age groups and cultures in the neighborhood

Question #3: Given what we've said so far, **what values, priorities, or principles should guide** the Commissioner and his staff in the Department of Parks and Recreation in their **decision-making regarding new or additional green spaces?**

- Make sure lights are put in
- Keep it safe and maintained
- Programs reflect who lives in community
- Listen to community as to where they want the park put: old buildings, empty lots
 - Use existing spaces – don't move community out
- Avoid places that will invite noise nuisances or set rules to allow this
- Places to allow diversity of use

- Art shows
- Music events
- Volunteer
- Dog parks
- Play areas
- Good neighbor
- Benches
- Meeting place
- Size to promote community access
 - Walkable
 - Small, not too large
- Community building
 - Central Square
 - Moms connect
 - Learn good behavior
 - Benches, not all green – simple

Question #4: Given these examples, what “values-based principles” emerge from the work we’ve done so far? ? *(ranked in order with number of votes next to)*

- (7) Keep it maintained, clean and safe
 - Lights
 - Don’t let fall into disrepair
 - No nuisance
- (6) Promote community access
 - Small size
 - Walkable
 - Connection place for residence
- (5) Diversity of uses – need to co-exist
- (4) Use existing, don’t move residents out
- (3) Community programs - listen to community
- (2) Community building