

Green2015 Community Meeting Facilitation Notes

Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Location: Bartram's Garden, 5400 Lindbergh Blvd., 19143

GROUP #1 Ben/Erin

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?

- See nature/people watch/meet up
- Can be desolate at night - questions of safety
- De-stress/relax and unwind
- Events/social gathering place
- Economic/Farmer's Market/music
- Sports – soccer, tennis, walking
- Wildlife – creeks, ponds, deer
- Children playing/games
- Closer and more accessible - more inviting
- Cooler for the city - trees on the streets
- Playgrounds/pocket parks
- Place for connections
- “Juma in the park” – Spiritual
- Commute and connection – transit thru
- Picnics/family reunions

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

- Need better maintenance
- Need better Staff in REC - for indoor and outdoor safety
- Features to include: Dog Park, gardening, trails, water feature, woodland and grass, different age groups
- Urban gardening - food and produce
- Better connection without car
- Water elements
- Education - connection and infrastructure; environment awareness
- Riverfront trail
- Revenue – Economic – Riverwalk

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) Locations in underserved areas
- (3) Focus on safety and maintenance
- (3) Community involvement and ownership
 - Grassroots from design to implementation
 - From beginning to the end – thru all stages
- (3) Percent to minority and local contractors
- (2) Convenience
 - Easy to get to
 - Connected without use of car
- (1) Diversity of uses and features
- (1) Focus on environmental sustainability

GROUP #2 Carole/Carolyn/Alan

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?

- Dogs
- Trees
- Need more efforts to increase importance to children
- Path to Valley Forge - connection of city to suburbs
- Space for everyone
- Unifies neighborhood/neighbors
- Activities - brings people together
- Makes neighborhoods attractive to move to/live in
- Nature access for children
- Non-programmed open space
- Inequity of green space
- Presence of green space and lack of green space affects mental outlook

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

- Most “open” spaces are empty lots – dumping and trash
- Maintenance - necessary to keep lots clean, takes money
- Make sure there's more space, but needs to be kept up

- Clean up empty lots - clear rocks and prior building debris - simple work to turn these lots around - clean what is there
- Urban Gardening - Good, but needs to be kept safe
 - Maintain
 - Offer community benefit
- Reuse railroad rights-of-way-trails, wildlife
 - Easy; corridor already there.
- Bike lanes need improvement with greening for protection
- Transportation
 - Railways, streets with some room
 - Lot more ways to commute downtown
 - Green, safe and connected
- Connect parks
 - Allow ability to use more than your close-by neighborhood parks
- Don't want to displace people in order to create trails
 - Other viable uses
- Pollution mitigation - air, stormwater
 - Help effects of climate change
- Improve mental health
 - ADHD, obesity, and diabetes
 - Can be reduced if people have the ability to be more physically active
- Kids being exposed to food being grown
 - Understanding and awareness of where it comes from

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?**

- Preservation of city's history
- Greenspace - Use to promote unity without displacing people
- Healthy living
- Encourages active living
- Fresh food access
- Functionality - activities
- Sustainability - maintenance
- Promotes Peace
 - Safety
 - Mental health
- Community pride
- Inspires Creativity
- Tourism - economic returns
- Provide positive activities for youth
- Job creation

- Facilitates social gathering
- Try to get it to pay for itself
 - Creative ways to sustain or be self-sustaining
- Habitat creation
- Equitable access to parks and green space
- Community/neighborhood management

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)*

- (6) Community Building
 - Community control
 - Social gathering
 - Youth activities
 - Equitable access
 - Pride
 - Not displacement
- (4) Self-sustaining
 - Maintenance supported
 - Potential for income
- (3) Multi-functionality
 - Jobs
 - Stormwater
 - Peace
 - Active recreation
- (3) Support healthy living
 - Mental health
 - Active programs
 - Fresh food
- (3) Retain history and culture
- (2) Environmental/habitat support

GROUP #3 Jean/Jennifer

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?

- Gather, Talk, Neighbors – “heart”
- Homeless’ “Home”
- Music Events
- Park as community focus

- Cool off
- Potential negative activity
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Short dumping
- Place to grow food
- Political activity

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

- Facilities/water fountains
- Re-invigorate “closed” park space
- Preserve/increase food growing
 - Educational opportunity
- Community empowerment
- Safe havens for children to recreate
- Place for religious services
- Educational experience - environmental programming
- Separate residential and industrial areas
- Economic impact
- More storm water mitigation
- Green corridors/trails/active use

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?**

- (7) Community involvement/buy-in to decisions that are made regarding green space
- (6) Assure funding available for maintenance, care and security
 - Treat green space with respect
 - Keep clean/take care of the space
- (4) Assure present use remains - preserve what we have and what is working – assure presently owned green spaces are not sold off
 - Green space must be protected from adverse use by developers
- (3) Equitable funding for maintenance
- (1) Influence City Council to attend to community values/wishes
 - Transparent decision making
- Acknowledge diverse heritages
- Flexibility and Adaptability