

Green2015 Community Meeting Facilitation Notes

Date: May, 25, 2010

Location: Sheet Metal Workers Union/1301 S Columbus Blvd.

GROUP #1 Bryan/Amanda

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?

- Very important; trees keep it cool
- Greenspace is an asset to neighborhood
- Access to fresh air
 - Pools, parks, imp. – event space, picnics
 - Riding trikes, strolling, enjoyment for all
- Community garden, a meeting place gathering/social
- Strengthened community bonds
 - Learned how to work together
- Is a focal point of community
- City Harvest – collectively grown produce = contributed to others
- Access to fresh produce for others that may not have other access
- Environmental camp in community garden
- Dickinson Park – initially was problematic (drugs/crime) but thru community connections shared responsibilities
 - Is less problematic
- Likes to have view of green expanse right out front door
- Shared greenspace via park
 - Events, etc.
- Running; visitor spots in parks other parts of city – value and difference
- Even when not using parks, wants them there – to know they are there
- Economic value from gardens, new greenspace. (vacant lots that become valued greenspace)
- Example of greenspace turned into investment property
- Historic value; shared space from other generations; other immigrants
- Developing a sense of place thru greenspaces
- Create a legacy thru parks
- Environmental health, education and connection for youth; mental/physical health; food security

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

- Accessibility for all in all areas
- Results in cleaner water for city
- Maintained and repaired

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?**

- Connectivity between greenspaces
- Quality needs to be maintained/repared
- The existing parks and spaces are very well used, why aren't they maintained or more enhanced
- Protection of nature
- Access to get to parks/space from different types of transportation
- Meeting spaces – social bonds
- Connect community to parks in new ways
Moves, reenactments, etc.
- Build it, do it, they will come
- Physical/exercise

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) Reflect community interests
 - Honor/respect the community
 - Reflect community in decision making
- (5) Value of greenspaces is varied
 - Fresh air
 - Economic
 - Protection of nature
- (5) Building/inspiring community
 - Sharing social space
 - Sense of ownership
 - Interactions
- (4) Connectivity
 - Connecting the community
 - Connecting the city/different green areas
 - Sharing community/central place

GROUP #2 Allen/Raider

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?

- Active recreation, access to the river
- Vacant land contributes by making the community feel green and open

- Only useful as dog park because of poor condition
- Place to play, gather, hold events, farmers' market, relaxation
- Craft shows, place to sell things
- Tire spinning and foam sword fighting
- Variety of pocket parks creates opportunities to explore
- Would like to have a place to congregate
- Access to the river with a kayak and canoe

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

- Increased access to the rivers
- Increased wildlife habitat, conservation
- Education – i.e., urban farming, wildlife, ecology
- Places for children to play, places to bring dogs
- Safe green space to sit on the grass and feel relaxed, clean spaces
- Community garden spaces
- Skateboard parks
- Parks to use as community gathering space – meet neighbors, shared space
- Place for fountains and water features, water is soothing
- Space for green infrastructure – storm water management

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?**

- New parkland should be located in under-served areas
- Parks should serve multiple purposes
- Parks should be designed to connect neighbors, accessible to the most number of people
- Renewal – use vacant land as a resource for new parks
 - Will revitalize neighborhoods
- Consult the citizens in the neighborhood where the park will be – “consultation” and collaboration to generate enthusiasm
- Get a commitment form the community to participate and maintain the park
- Use creation of a park to rally underserved communities and create community capacity
- Use parks for social networking
- Honor and take note of what we already have
 - Improve, take the land used by the community and take it a step further – “shovel ready”
- Honoring what was there before us – i.e., the natural habitat, natural heritage; use native plants
- Connect the past to the present – history of the site
- Places where people can connect with nature not just observe
- Schools and parks should be connected

- Connect green spaces, create green corridors
- Places to exercise – promote health
- Introduce a new urban life

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)*

Consolidated comments - B (6)

- (4) Honoring what was there before us – i.e., the natural habitat, natural heritage; use native plants
- (2) Honor and take note of what we already have; Improve, take the land used by the community and take it a step further – “shovel ready”
- Connect the past to the present – history of the site
- Places where people can connect with nature not just observe

Consolidated comments - E (6)

- (3) Consult the citizens in the neighborhood where the park will be – “consultation” and collaboration to generate enthusiasm
- (2) Parks should be designed to connect neighbors, accessible to the most number of people
- Get a commitment form the community to participate and maintain the park
- Use parks for social networking

Consolidated comments - A (5)

- (4) New parkland should be located in under-served areas
- (1) Use creation of a park to rally underserved communities and create community capacity
- Parks should serve multiple purposes
- Renewal – use vacant land as a resource for new parks
- Will revitalize neighborhoods

Consolidated comments - D (3)

- (3) Schools and parks should be connected; Connect green spaces, create green corridors

Consolidated comments - C (1)

- Places to exercise – promote health
- Introduce a new urban life

GROUP #3 Rebecca/Ben

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?

- Neighbors (and children) gather
- Lacking green space has negative effect: drugs/not safe
- Beautifies
- Relaxing

- Pride
- Lack of maintenance
- More crime (pit bulls)
- Not enough room for all types of dogs
- Lack of greenspace (and presence of vacant lots) makes parts of the city disconnected (Northern Liberties to city)
- Community building
- Raises property values

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

- Psychological health
- Pride
- Less litter – increase physical health
- Reduce energy needs
- Reduce crime
- Connect neighborhoods
- Storm water management
- Reduce heat island – cool the city down
- Source of food
- Community building – breaks down barriers
- Could be source of conflict
- Economic development opportunity
- Safety – a place for kids
- Teaching opportunity
- Public art
- Accommodate more users (kids and dogs)
- Take pressure off some areas
- Reclaim vacant land
- Green roof
- Destination
- Shade – get out of the sun/house and into fresh air
- Butterflies and birds

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?

- People in the surrounding area should be involved in the decision making process
- Foster and improve the health of the natural environment
- Get the buildings right (ecological and beauty)

- Access for all regardless of where they live, income, class. People should get parks who don't "have them"
- Be sure diverse interests and needs are served e.g.: ages, sports, species (dogs)
- Hone the history (founding story) of the neighborhood

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) Foster and improve the health of the natural environment
- (6) Be sure diverse interests and needs are served e.g.: ages, sports, types of dogs
- (3) Access for all regardless of where they live, income, class. People should get parks who don't have them.
- (3) People in the surrounding area should be involved in the decision-making process

GROUP #4 Gwynne/Lisa

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?

- Fairmount Park backyard
- Strawberry Mansion
- Work for the Wissahickon/SM
- Green vacant land in West Philly
- Kelly Drive, Morris Arboretum
- Mann Music Center, Fairmount
- Penny Pack and FDR Parks
- Temple, Rittenhouse, Fairmount
- Kelly Drive

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

- 5th District vacant lots with lots of open space
 - Raingarden on corner of Lambert & Woodstock
 - City owned land/leased thru non profit
- Community gardens, Bella Vista
- Tasker/Morris 9th/10th not a lot of space
 - Small community garden, but not close by
 - Lacking green spaces
- Urban orchards/Phila Orchard Project n southeast Philadelphia – 8th & Snyder/7th
- Pocket parks in South Philadelphia

- Greening triangles – Passyunk – places to sit
 - Gathering space
 - Farmers’ market
- Playground/dog park – Lambert/Pine
- Green infrastructure services/storm water management services (needs more education)
 - More education about trees
 - How to do the education
 - In north Philly started with litter conversations
 - Multi generational – packaged message points to reach people with guest speakers
- Rec centers – partnerships with non profits to get programming
 - Principle – use what already exists as a catalyst
- Use schools as a catalyst for open space planning, change and use
 - Partnerships with obesity prevention/public health efforts...after school gardens
- Trails and corridors to get to a park to access spaces safely and green and create safe corridors to access the space
 - Including bike signage
 - Signs to get to green space within neighborhood
- Dog parks more of them
- Dedicated pocket park spaces
- More canopy to reduce heat
 - Larger and more street trees
- Multi-generational spaces – Example: cookout space for seniors, space for youth to play all integrated
- 8th & Mercy/8th & Snyder community garden spaces – used with more exotic veggies to match community needs
- maintenance concerns with green spaces/care for – Example: Mifflin Park – no one seems to maintain...glass
- low maintenance/engagement by community members to care for space – engage civic groups because of budget concerns
- Variable levels of engagement of civic groups and their ability to access council people for resources
- Example of small park across from Pat and Genos

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?**

- Education at all levels = pre-school on, incorporate schools into the overall process , recognize that green spaces humanizes the use of greenspace
 - Engage community through greenspace
- More green vegetation in general
 - Green equity for all
- Actively ID what greenspaces exist and are missing and engage
- Having be self-sustaining/self sufficient
- Economic use of green space for gardening

- Green initiatives support access to health living/eating
- Recognize that community gardens combat hunger and encourage use of community gardens to get greater availability/access to fruit and vegetables
- Having access to better food choices
- Health = access to healthy food, healthy exercise options
- Better coordination of programs and what the city can do to promote these services and state services education/environmental

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) Green initiatives should support access to healthy eating/healthy living
- (6) Engage community through greenspace
 - Education at all levels use rec centers and schools
- (3) Green equity for all
 - Recognize that greenspace humanizes
- (3) Have it be self-sufficient/self sustaining