

## Green2015 Community Meeting Facilitation Notes

Date: May 26, 2010

Location: Association Puertorriquenos en Marcha, 2319 N 7th Street

**GROUP #1** Carole/Jean

**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?

- Give shade
- Dog park
- Places for nuisance behavior
  - Not maintained
- Space not used/wasted/nothing there
- Becomes drug activity site
- Non-green, non-porous – used for sports
- Reduces stress
- Community gatherings
- Concerts, movies

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

- Makes you feel more cheerful
- Children play
- A quality of life
- Place for education
- Community gardens, food, etc.
- Storm water management – support eco-systems
- Water fountains
- Build community
- Mode for sustainable practices
- Place of beauty
- Extra backyard
- Help children connect with nature
- Interactive/intergenerational play
- Place for Farmer's Market – local foods
- Means to travel somewhere else
- Connect assets to resources
- More shade
- More birds
- More trees

- Air quality
- Attract economic development
- Property values

**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?**

- Community responsibility for its open/green space/maintenance
- No additional space 'til current ones maintained
- Preserve and maintain existing “unofficial” and cherished spaces
- Enforce existing laws re: spaces – Example: leash law
- Focus on assuring safety in all spaces for people and the space – Example: fences
- Community involvement in planning and naming space – Example: dedications, including artists
- Integrate multiple uses of space
- Community involvement in lobbying for what they want
- Don't take on more than can be effectively managed – resource management
- Use space as educational resource for adults and kids
- Equity – everyone has=access

**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 (9)**

- (8) Community responsibility for its open/green space/maintenance
- (1) Community involvement in planning and naming space – Example: dedications, including artists
- Community involvement in lobbying for what they want

**Consolidated comments (4)**

- (4) Use space as educational resource for adults and kids

**Consolidated comments (3)**

- (2) No additional space 'til current ones maintained
- (1) Don't take on more than can be effectively managed – resource management

**Consolidated comments (3)**

- (3) Preserve and maintain existing “unofficial” and cherished spaces

**Consolidated comments (2)**

- (2) Equity – everyone has equal access

**Consolidated comments (2)**

- (2) Focus on assuring safety in all spaces for people and the space – Example: fences
- Enforce existing laws re: spaces – Example: leash law

**Consolidated comments (1)**

- (1) Integrate multiple uses of space

**GROUP #2** Carol/Rebecca

**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?**

- Kids play (safely)
- Neighbors connect
- Gardening
- Large spaces draw diversity - neighborhood cohesion
- Many needs – elderly talk, babysitters with kids; multi-use rocks
- Parks – big – can separate communities
- Sports fields
- Vacant spaces/undeveloped (non-public green spaces) – feel personal connection
  - Green development may undermine this
- Stress reduction
- Turf disputes over vacant green space
- Drugs – crime
- Traps storm water

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

- Intergenerational, old/young
  - Multi-use
  - Kids playing soccer
  - Dog walkers
- Define character of 'hood
  - Has name/purpose/uniqueness
- Public art
- Identity
  - Participation, ownership
- Birds
- Community designs space and maintains it; neighborhood sovereignty
- Build solidarity between working class communities
- Community buy-in, sense of ownership
- Creates jobs for residents/stewarding and maintaining
- Bridge schools with hood – dissolve some of that conflict
- Get school kids involved with community
- Make denser neighborhoods more breathable
- Improves feeling of more openness – which gives hood more sense of place
- Establish tree canopy – big shade
- Storm water
- Native flora/fauna

- Environmental education
  - Trees
  - Birds
- Education regarding urban/industrial/transportation history
- Keep some of industrial quality/nature
- Economic diversification
  - Higher property values is also a negative because less accessible to others

**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 living there are part of development
- Community sovereignty – self sufficiency
- Builds community
- Not wasteful
- Put open space “where it belongs”
- Strategically planned open space
- Direct community stewardship
- Choose open space over development where best
- Long term gains over short term profits
- Use design best practices
- Every neighborhood deserves well-designed open space
- Need to be sustainable whatever that requires
- Walking distance for every kid
- Equity - maintainability

**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)*

- (4) Equity
- (4) Strategically planned open space
- (4) Direct community stewardship
- (2) Every neighborhood deserves well-designed open space
- (2) People living there are part of development
- (2) Builds community
- (1) Use design best practices
- (1) Need to be sustainable; whatever that requires

## **GROUP #4 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?**

- Lots of kids, generations – park provides place for kids to play. Safety/drug dealing makes it an issue
- East Kensington now has more green space – trees, gardens make neighborhood more livable
- Hunting Park getting more space because of demolition. What will use be? Temple building a lot – will they take it over? Space is temporary
  - People don't travel to park that is already there. Old people not able to get to it
- East Kensington – has space. Good place to recharge. Pretty tough community.
  - Space is threatened, not protected
  - Community developed without any open space planned
- Gardens are temporary. Role is key for time being.
  - Loud/noise – kids and adults don't get out. Use the spaces to grow veggies. Grab the space for some way to get some quiet space
- Open space that we've been investing in, gets taken over. Sheriff sale, gentrifying – land is being developed.
- Issue - open space is confusing; public agencies who own it – what is their agenda? Same with private.
- People dump their construction debris on open lots. Leads to bad behavior.

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

- Educational – outdoor classroom within city (learning lab). Inspire kids. Let them “observe”
- Multiple use – have lunch, education, reading, jazz festivals. Create interesting uses – outdoes negative uses. Multiple organizations, multiple eyes
- Common meeting “ground” for old residents (those who pioneered the space or old residents) and new residents. All would like grass, flowers
- Place for kids to play, parents will follow.
  - Want mix – passive use and positive active space – could provide security, lots of eyes on the space.
- No one group can control – democratic use – create more buy-in
- Friends groups model – supplement with work, money, use, accountable to city (Parks and Rec)

**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?****

- Equity – socioeconomic, perspective

- Walking access for all
- Location dispersed
- Playgrounds and natural areas
- Safety and patrolled. Must make sure new spaces are kept safe
  - Police input about locations, give tips
- Must have spaces “watched,” “befriended” by a group to keep them safe
- Make spaces already “in neighborhood use” – be permanent public space. Honor what has been made open space by residents, honor “desire lines,” go there first
- Green, not gray. Balance active vs. natural.
- Listen to the neighbors, come from the community
- Built in “eyes on street.” Not isolated, other built uses nearby. Creates safety.
- No green space rather than bad green space. Must be well-maintained – community
- Relate to perceived neighborhood boundaries. “Perceived” – not math (ie. 10 minute walk)
- All uses – all ages
- Transform heavy industrial neighborhoods into future livable places. Respect past, move them into future.

**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)*

- (5) Transform heavy industrial neighborhoods into future livable healthy neighborhoods.
- (5) Listen to the neighbors. Relate to current uses of space. Honor desire lines.
- (4) Relate to perceived neighborhood boundaries, not the 10 minute rule.
- (4) Safety and patrolled. Must make sure new spaces are kept safe