

# Scobert Gardens Park Renovations

## Neighbor Input Meeting - #1

December 5, 2017

### MEETING REPORT

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**Workshop time:** 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Workshop location:** Whiteaker School / Head Start of Lane County, Eugene

**Workshop facilitators:** Emily Proudfoot, Rex Redmon, Phillip Richardson, Scott Milovich

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### BACKGROUND

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City of Eugene Parks and Open Space has identified improvements to Scobert Gardens Park as a priority project. This meeting was the first in a series of meetings intended to gather public input to help guide the design process

This was a two part meeting which consisted of an initial presentation which briefly identified some of the park history, park issues and the neighborhood park design process. The second portion of the meeting was a "Listening Session" where the attendees divided into small groups and were asked to answer three separate questions. Each person then shared their answers with others in their group while the group simply listened. Listening sessions are not intended to be discussion groups, but rather a setting where each attendee can express their opinions or feelings and be heard.

#### Key goals for the meeting were:

- Share information about the project and the anticipated process.
- Provide an opportunity for attendees to voice their concerns about the existing park, their ideas about what the park could potentially become and their thoughts about what steps could help achieve their desired goals for the park.

### LISTENING SESSION PROCESS

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During the listening session three questions were asked and participants wrote their answer to each question on a separate card. After a question was asked and participants had time to write their answers to that question they then took turns sharing their answers with the group.

The three questions each attendee was asked to answer were the following:

1. "What is the worst possible outcome of planning for and renovating Scobert Gardens?"
2. "What is the best possible outcome of planning for and renovating Scobert Gardens? "

3. "To achieve our best outcomes for Scobert Gardens, what activities, uses or facilities would you like to see in Scobert Gardens?"

The process allowed all of the attendees to have equal time to share their personal thoughts about the park now and their desires for what the park could be in the future.

Below is a list compiled from the answers provided by the attendees. Answers which were similar to other's answers to the same question have been combined and a number is provided corresponding to the number of people who made that similar comment.

### **LISTENING SESSION QUESTIONS AND INPUT**

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#### **What is the worst possible outcome of planning for and renovating Scobert Gardens?**

- We go through the process of providing public input, having a new park designed and spending the money to build it only to have the same problems return. (9)
- The existing fencing is removed or opened to the public and the neighbors lose the buffer zone that has helped prevent problems they have suffered through in the past. (3)
- There will be a loss of open public green space, plants and trees to excessive paving or fencing. (4)
- The park is sold to developers who build on the property and a neighborhood park no longer exists. (4)
- The park will be shut down because of serious violent activity such as someone being killed or seriously injured in the park. (1)
- The new park design will be undermined by overload from the mission or another major homeless service added (2)
- A bathroom will be added and become a major crime magnet. (2)
- An expensive unused attraction such as a large fountain will be built (1)
- The plantings that were removed to eliminate places for people to hide will be restored. (1)
- The park will become party spot for drunken neighborhood visitors. (1)
- No project will be developed and the park left as it is currently. (1)

#### **What is the best possible outcome of planning for and renovating Scobert Gardens?**

- A place where families and neighbors feel safe. Ongoing cleanup and monitoring would be provided to prevent health and safety hazards. (6)
- The park would maintain a noise level that respects the adjacent neighbors. (1)
- That the park would be respectful of the neighbor's (3)
- The park would keep the buffer zone fenced. (2)
- The park would be an aesthetically beautiful destination that attracts neighbors to the park. (3)
- A restroom with no problems. (3)
- A park that is monitored and utilized by families, neighbors and the unhoused in a way where they are all having fun. (2)
- There would be lot of fun diverse activities such as more music, art and other fun stuff with regular programming and staffing (3)
- There would be a small band shell (2)
- A place where the community can congregate (2)

- The park would have managed activities like ping pong, a bocce area, games, parkour obstacles or a velodrome. (2)
- An urban farm or community garden could provide regular activity in the park. This could possibly provide a buffer zone from adjacent uses. (3)
- The park would have public green space with lots of trees, grass and places to sit as a cool spot in the summer. (2)
- There would be a play structure for the kids. (1)
- A park that builds community and strengthen neighborhood identity. (1)
- The park would be a clean active space where neighbors and visitors bring children and pets and enjoy each other. (1)
- There would be seating for users in the park. (2)
- The park could provide WPA type well paid work opportunities for people who want to work. (1)
- This would be a park that takes advantage of the unique opportunity to make a vibrant Whit worthy park that still feels like a neighborhood park. (1)
- The park would have a Whiteaker Market. (1)

**To achieve our best outcomes for Scobert Gardens, what activities, uses or facilities would you like to see in Scobert Gardens?**

- Restrooms - possibly monitored, composting toilets, sink. (6)
- No Restrooms – would be an instant crime magnet. (3)
- Well lit – (1)
- Small Stage or music venue – provide power, solar. (3)
- Band Shell (2)
- Plaza / gathering spot - functional flexible programming space, opportunities for small / medium community events, all inclusive. (6)
- Places for people to sit - picnic tables, benches. (2)
- Enclosed / covered space – for groups to use or for markets. (2)
- Live music and performances – Relatively quiet performances, acoustic music, continue summer concerts/music in the evenings, Shakespeare in the park, movies in the park, fire dancing (10)
- Music - more popular than concerts we have which often are not well attended (1)
- Music events but not a party for local alcohol focused businesses (1)
- Place for block party stage / event that incorporates the entire intersection (1)
- Food carts / markets (13)
- Electric / water connections for music and carts (3)
- An urban interface with the more active part of the hood to make it appear and serve as a connected space. (1)
- Play structure and play equipment – Swing for adults, swing for kids, beautiful, cool play structure maybe include water. (6)
- Locate play area closer to front. (1)
- Equipment for active games / sports – concrete chess tables and chairs (3), disc golf baskets (2), smooth walks for roller skating (1), Concrete ping-pong table (1), basketball hoops (1)
- Space for game playing – Croquet, touch football, hacky-sack, bocce (5)
- Neighborhood gatherings / meetings – Fix-it fairs, Sunday Streets, Classes, Tour de Paris in Whiteaker, organized kids activities (9)

- Mind/body classes -Tai Chi, Yoga (6)
- Creativity activities – Art making, fence art project, painting, whimsical activities (5)
- Dog activity – Room for dogs to run, dog park, dog bag dispenser, dog agility course, room to play with dogs (8)
- Open lawn space – area to run around (6)
- Trees / shade. (6)
- Ornamental garden – return to garden, quiet, contemplative, plants and flowers similar to Hendricks Park, living plants but not so many that they invite illicit drug use and other activities (4)
- Food production – Small garden space for neighbors, move fence forward so gardens are closed to public, food forest with open plantings, educational urban farm growing food for area restaurants and using their compost for garden (4)
- Bike parking – racks / lock area, bike share station (2)
- Winter purpose draw (1)
- Connect to other parks (1)
- Easy way for neighbors to know about park activities and issues (1)
- Solar charging station - Can be used for music, charge cell phones (2)
- Water fountain (1)
- Park for locals (1)
- Active Volunteer crew to monitor, add joy to the park (1)
- A small library (1)
- Lighting of a variety of colors (1)
- Open, warm, welcoming space (1)
- Safety/monitoring - Provide monitor to keep bad folks out, programmed eyes on park, regularly patrolled, enforce camping ban, increased monitoring in summer, increased trash and needle cleanup in summer (6)
- activity generator/park use that has user group allegiance/ frequent use (1)
- Attraction for the vibrancy of the hood (and eyes on the park) that still provides comfort and pastoral feel for neighbors (1)

## **FINDINGS**

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The meeting attendees represented a mixture of immediately adjacent neighbors and people from other parts of the neighborhood. The information gathered from this meeting will help guide the direction of the next meeting and begin the process of developing a neighborhood consensus on desires for the park improvements.

## **MEETING ATTENDEES**

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Sue Barnhart, Diane DePaolis, Jain Elliot, Kent Fleming, Ken Fletcher, Robin Fletcher, Katie Guskie, Shelly Hoose, Millie Illin, Dave Lemmon, Shelby Meyers, Steen Mitchel, Warren Walsh

**End of Report**