

## **DRAFT Meeting Notes**

Steve Street Property Master Plan Public Meeting

Thursday December 11, 2014

Japanese International Baptist Church – 8500 SW Spruce Street, Tigard

7:00 - 8:30 pm

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### **Attendees:**

There were 12 people in attendance.

### **Project Overview:**

In early 2014, the City of Tigard purchased an undeveloped lot to serve as a future neighborhood park. The 1.4-acre Steve Street property is located at 3400 SW Steve Street at the north end of SW 84th Avenue. The first public meeting for the master planning process for the park was an open house.

At the meeting introductions and welcoming remarks were followed by an informal discussion/Q&A session. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about the site's current condition and to share possible park elements with the neighbors. The range of potential park amenities discussed included: paths, benches, water fountain, play areas, skate spot, sport court, open turf area, community garden, picnic area, and a small shelter. The discussion elicited public feedback on park amenity interest and addressed specific questions. The notes below capture the highpoints of the discussion.

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### **Questions:**

*Will the access at SW Steve Street (from the road end) get opened?*

Yes. The City wanted to start the discussion with the neighbors about the design process first, and will consider opening that access soon.

*Who will maintain the property?*

The City will maintain the park.

*What are the potential funding sources for park development?*

Sources may include grants, City resources, neighborhood sweat-equity (also as matching funds for grants), or other fundraising. At this time, no development funds have been secured for the construction of this property.

*What have been common safety or vandalism problems in other parks?*

Graffiti is the most common. Upon discovery, City crews act to remove the graffiti promptly. If the problem persists, they have installed flash cameras to identify the individuals. In other cases, the City has installed low-level solar powered lights.

*What are the plans for the interim and for Phase 1?*

In the interim, blackberry bushes have been removed. The City will also remove some vegetation to improve visibility into the site and open the access points at SW 84th Avenue and SW Steve Street.

*Is there an option to add a dog park to the property?*

No. The site is too small and it would need parking.

*Will there be lighting?*

Generally, the City does not install lighting; however, it has installed low-level solar lights when warranted.

*Does the City have a policy about adjacent neighbors installing gates directly into the park?*

No.

### **Interests:**

#### *Walking Path*

The group was interested in providing an accessible path to serve parents with small children and older residents. The neighborhood is currently fractured due to the number of dead end streets and the lack of sidewalks. Providing a path from SW Steve Street to SW 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue would help connect the neighborhood and provide opportunities for loop walks through the neighborhood. Additional future connections to SW Hall Boulevard would be a big improvement. There are no sidewalks on the east side of SW Hall Boulevard. Consider buying the adjacent wooded wetland to the west to expand the property.

There are a number of people who use the church property and the park to shortcut between SW Lucille Court and the neighborhood north of SW Spruce Street to businesses, schools, and transportation on SW Pacific Highway. This use is not desired by the Church and a fence has been installed between the church and park properties.

#### *Play Area*

The inclusion of a play area was well supported. There was interest in a wide range of play equipment types including traditional favorites (swings and slides), innovative pieces, and nature play. There are a number of young children in the neighborhood so accommodating a range of ages will serve the neighborhood into the future. There was support for building less expensive play elements (nature play?) as soon as possible and a desire to include shady places for parents and older residents to sit and watch children play.

#### *Sport Court*

Some attendees were interested in including a small ½-court basketball court. The discussion included concern about noise and attracting folks from outside of the neighborhood. One neighbor suggested a soft play surface to reduce noise and that there were other high-quality court facilities that would be a greater draw to players than a neighborhood half court. It was also suggested that we reach out to Westside Christian High School to see if they will have any publicly available amenities once they have built out their new campus.

#### *Community Garden*

There was support for a community garden along the backs of the properties on 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Neighbors liked the idea that this could be built as an early park development phase to get more people using the property. If the neighbors found they didn't like the use it could be easily changed to another use.

### *Picnic Area/Shelter*

There was support for a small picnic shelter and picnic area.

### *Safety*

The group discussed vandalism (graffiti) that was a problem in the neighborhood a few years ago and existing homeless use of the wetland/wooded areas of the park and adjacent vacant properties. Getting more people in the park was discussed as a deterrent to these undesired uses. Constructing a roundabout at the end of SW 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue would make it easy for law enforcement to patrol the park.

### *Off-Leash Dogs*

There was concern voiced about the existing use of the park as an off-leash area. Providing an off-leash area was briefly discussed but the park is not large enough and this use is inconsistent with the goals of a neighborhood park because it would draw people from beyond the neighborhood (requiring parking) and would be noisy. Patrols have been effective at controlling unauthorized off leash use at other parks. Please add leash law signs and coordinate with the County animal control.

### *Parking*

There is very limited parking on SW 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue so neighbors were very concerned about folks driving to the park. Parking along 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue is problematic, and it is allowed only on the eastside of the road. The end of the street is a popular place for drivers (i.e., small truck or taxi) to take lunch.

### *Other*

The park should be opened to the public as soon as possible. So the rule-following public can use the area until it is developed. This will provide more eyes in the park and discourage mischief. This will also allow neighbors to get familiar with the property before going too far with the design. People might have different ideas about the property once they see neighbors using it.

Though there is no money available to construct the park a phased development approach was discussed. This would allow for a simple start and slow growth in to the site.

Can there be something for seniors, such as pathways, benches, horse shoes, raised garden beds?

Keep most of the trees.

**END**