

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Steve Street Property Master Plan Public Meeting

Tuesday February 3, 2015

Japanese International Baptist Church – 8500 SW Spruce Street, Tigard

7:00 - 8:10 pm

Attendees:

There were 6 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 second public meeting for the master planning process for the park was an open house.

At the meeting, welcoming remarks were followed by a brief discussion of the proposed alternatives and an informal discussion/Q&A session. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about the alternatives developed using feedback from the first public meeting (12/11/14) and comments received via email and to solicit public feedback on the preferred alternative or alternative elements. Both alternatives include accessible trails that connect the SW 84th Avenue and SW Steve Street entrances.

Alternative 1 includes a 15-bed community garden and play grounds for ages 2 - 5 and 5 -12 with a picnic table as well as nature play spots. The required fire turnaround is located at the southern end of the park using an existing water quality facility which is moved to the north. Two parking spots are added on the turnaround.

Alternative 2 includes play grounds for ages 2 - 5 and 5 -12 with a covered picnic area and a sport court. The required fire turnaround is located farther north avoiding the existing water quality facility.

Most attendees preferred combining elements from both alternatives. The notes below capture the highpoints of the discussion.

Questions:

Can the access at SW 84th Avenue get opened so neighborhood residents can get a feel for the property?

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

Can the community garden be installed early in the phasing process as it is low-cost?

The City has installed community gardens with little to no funding previously, so that is an option for Steve Street Park.

Is the City interested in purchasing the available property northwest of the park to provide access from SW Hall Boulevard/SW Lucille Court?

The City was approached by the property owner, but the owner considered the property developable and had the property priced accordingly. There have been no new recent developments.

Is there access to the park north from SW Spruce Street?

No.

How does the community garden work?

The city tries to give local residents the first chance to sign up for plots then they are opened up to a waiting list.

Interests:

Walking Path - Strongly Supported

As in Public Meeting No. 1, the group expressed interest in an accessible path, both for walking and dog-walking as recreation and as a route to connect SW 84th Avenue and SW Steve Street creating a neighborhood loop.

Play Areas - Strongly Supported

As in Public Meeting No. 1, the group expressed support for play areas for varying ages. Nature play was supported as a possible way to accelerate the development of play opportunities but no specific nature play ideas were championed.

Concern was expressed for placing the play areas close to the apartments on the southwest side of the property due to potential for the noise from the play area to affect numerous apartment dwellers.

Community Garden - Strongly Supported

There was support for a community garden, particularly for the opportunity to install a community garden early in the phasing process.

Picnic Area/Shelter - Strongly Supported

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

Sport Court - Mixed Support

Some attendees expressed interest in a sport court to serve neighborhood children as they age but there was also opposition due to noise concerns and the potential for the court to attract youth from outside of the neighborhood or draw people to the park after hours. Alternative 'quiet' surfacing was discussed but it has not been used by the City. It was suggested that the sport court could be a "last phase" addition. Location near the apartment building was a concern.

Parking - Need Questioned

There was a question about the need for additional parking. The group expressed interest in keeping the turnaround closer to SW 84th Avenue to preserve as much park space as possible. Accessible parking was supported.

Other

There was interest expressed in retaining as many of the existing trees as possible, as well as adding native enhancement plantings for wildlife that could also provide screening along the western side of the park for apartment residents.

Providing two disc golf baskets on opposite sides of the rough lawn was suggested as an additional park amenity.

END