Development Activities Meeting Report (Version: 06/24/2020)

This report created by the Neighborhood Planner and included with staff reports to City Boards and/or Commissions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logistics</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Name/Address:</strong> Highland Park Super Playground Renovation</td>
<td><strong>Groups Represented (e.g., specific organizations, residents, employees, etc. where this is evident):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parcel Number(s):</strong></td>
<td>Hosted by the Highland Park Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ZDR Application Number:</strong></td>
<td>Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Location:</strong></td>
<td>City Staff including Public Works, Zone 5 Police Department, and City Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong> 5/20/2021</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Start Time:</strong> 7 PM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Applicant:</strong> Department of Public Works</td>
<td><strong>Approx. Number of Attendees:</strong> 25</td>
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**Boards and/or Commissions Request(s):** Requests & actions the applicant is requesting from various boards
The Department of Public Works in partnership with the Highland Park Community Council are seeking approval from the Public Arts Commission for various art installations in the Highland Park Super Playground

How did the meeting inform the community about the development project?

*Ex: Community engagement to-date, location and history of the site, demolition needs, building footprint and overall square footage, uses and activities (particularly on the ground floor), transportation needs and parking proposed, building materials, design, and other aesthetic elements of the project, community uses, amenities and programs.*

Highland Park Super Playground Renovation presentation informed the group about the following:

- Project background (Partnership with HPCC. Renovation to be made to improve entry and access. Refresh structure. Remove and Replace Tree, Drinking Fountain, Swings, facilities and bike parking)
- Engagement (Site Visits, Online Survey Youth Design Activity, Public Workshops)
- [https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/highland-park-super-playground](https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/highland-park-super-playground)
- Design (the new design improves circulation, zoning of age specific equipment/Play Zones, Site Furniture, Public Art Integration)

Input and Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions and Comments from Attendees</th>
<th>Responses from Applicants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is going to happen to the pedestrian tunnel?</td>
<td>It is a separate project from the renovation to the park and the reopening of the tunnel may go out to bid in the fall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions and Comments from Attendees</td>
<td>Responses from Applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will there be any fencing?</td>
<td>Fencing will be on/near Reservoir Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thumbs up! The mosaics are great and thank you Andrea and Mark for all your hard work on this.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Super Playground was built by volunteers. Will this be the case with renovations?</td>
<td>No. DPW wasn’t really sure about where we were going to be with COVID and we are seeking a construction group to build</td>
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<tr>
<td>How long do you anticipate construction to take?</td>
<td>Late winter early spring 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the schedule for the playground?</td>
<td>Contingent upon the Arts Commissions date, we are hoping to have a bid go out this July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Looking forward to partner with PGH + PGH Glass Center and volunteers to build large scale mosaics and scavenger hunt.</td>
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**Other Notes**

Attached is the PDF presented.

**Planner completing report:** Christopher Corbett
HIGHLAND PARK SUPER PLAYGROUND RENOVATION

City of Pittsburgh Development Activities Meeting
May 20, 2021
AGENDA

• Project background
• Engagement
• Design
PROJECT BACKGROUND
RESERVOIR DRIVE

IMPROVE ACCESS

REFRESH STRUCTURE

REPLACE EDGING

REPLACE AND RELOCATE SWINGS

REPLACE AND RELOCATE SWINGS

REPLACE EDGING

REPLACE AND RELOCATE SWINGS

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REPLACE AND REDUCE WOODEN PL
SCOPE + SCHEDULE
3 PHASE APPROACH

Phase 1: Look + Listen
- Existing materials review
- Field research (site visits, survey, tree inventory)

Phase 2: Design + Engage
- Design development
- Design refinement
- Community survey

Phase 3: Document + Construct
- Schematic Design Documentation
- Permitting
- Contractor bidding + selection

July - August
- Project kick-off
- Public workshop #1

September - January
- Community engagement
- Public workshop #2

February - August/September
- Construction
- Public workshop #3
- Playground opening!
ENGAGEMENT

Site Visits
Online Survey
Youth Design Activity
Public Workshops
Highland Park Super Playground

A community engagement process to inform the design and renovation of the new playground.

https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/highland-park-super-playground
What do you love about the playground today?

- all ages and very popular, so many kids!
- complexity, looks interesting, so many kids
- meeting new friends, interacting
- nooks and crannies, social gathering
- giant slide, giant thing, hiding and surprising parents
- a lot to do! obstacle course, towers, slides, many options, fits together nicely

What would you like to see in the future?

- adults can play
- tunnel for hiding
- tire swing
- jumping things before swings, bridge with black rubber
- behind swings, with tree, building tree fort
- throwback, unique,

- tetter totter swing
- sculptural, tells a story behind it
- zoo theme, close to zoo, big part of neighborhood, kids love animals
Spread out playground with multiple levels

~90% preferred a spread out playground
~95% preferred a playground with multiple levels
Relocated entrance

~50% preferred a relocated entrance
Desire for better connections and access to the Maple Grove Pavilion
Wooden castle structures reminiscent of existing Super Playground

~65% preferred an architectural/castle structure
Strong preference for wood play structures
EXISTING SUPER PLAYGROUND
Robinia Castle - Traditional

Robinia Castle - Customized
Would you like all natural wood or color accents on the structures?
STYLIZE THE SURFACING!

Do you prefer an earth tone gradient or a colorful gradient?

Earth tone gradient
Gradient is created with different percentage blends of two earth tones

Colorful gradient
Green
Light Green
Light Blue
Teal
Blue
CUSTOMIZE THE CASTLES!

Pick your top 5 accessories.

- Double slide
- Banister
- Single slide
- Curly climber
- Climbing net 1
- Climbing net 2
- Climbing net 3
- Ladder
- Rock wall
- Window wall
- Rope wall

*shown as examples
Custom small castle
Ropes course
Custom large castle
Ropes course
Large ship
3 Bay Swings
Small ship
1-Bay Swings
Dolphin springers
Village
Swings
Maple Grove Shelter
Reservoir Drive
Memorial trail
Reclaimed wood fences
Reclaimed wood benches
Reclaimed wood tables
Drinking fountain + litter receptacles
Bike racks
Litter receptacles
Litter receptacles
Reclaimed wood benches
Reclaimed wood tables
Reservoir Drive
Memorial trail
Maple Grove Shelter
Bike racks
HIGHLAND PARK SUPER PLAYGROUND
FINAL DESIGN | PUBLIC ART INTEGRATION

"Hidden" Mosaics

Inspired by similar mosaics at the Pittsburgh Zoo, and the idea of hidden elements like the tiny figures throughout The Playground at Riverfront Park in Aspinwall, these 10 hidden mosaics will be small pieces, assembled by local glass artists that will be embedded into the actual playground. These pieces will be tucked onto the reclaimed wood and natural stone pieces that are being incorporated as nature-play and seating areas within the new playground footprint.

The goal is for the pieces to feel like a surprise scavenger hunt for children to discover as they play and explore the area.

Reference Images:

Example small mosaics made by Pittsburgh Glass Center artists

Mosaics embedded at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium
THANK YOU!

Any additional questions?
Don’t hesitate to reach out.

Andrea Ketzel - andrea.ketzel@pittsburghpa.gov