From: Huang, Wen
To: Edith Holleman
Subject: RE: Disappointment
Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 4:07:00 PM

Dear Ms. Holleman,

I don't recall I mentioned three levels of park in the presentation, but I guess you are referring to the general policy that neighborhood parks generally don't have a parking lot. And you want to know how the parks are divided into different categories.

So in general, we have two categories for all the parks we have in Montgomery Parks.

Countywide parks are larger parks. They serve regional recreation or conservation needs. Such as Wheaton Regional Park, South Germantown Recreational Park, Sligo Creek Stream Valley, and some historical parks.

The other category is Community Use Parks. These are smaller parks that are primarily used by local residents. There are four types of parks within this category: Urban Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Local Parks, and Neighborhood Conservation Areas. The two most confusing categories are neighborhood parks and local parks.

Neighborhood Parks: Approximately 2-3 acres, these parks are small, generally walk-to parks providing informal leisure opportunity and recreation in heavily populated areas. They often provide a sitting area, playground, informal play field, and tennis and/or basketball courts. There are 74 developed NP in the County, mostly found in the Wheaton, Silver Spring and Bethesda area, serving for single-family neighborhoods.

Local Parks: Approximately 15 acres, these parks provide both programmed and informal recreation opportunities within reach of all area residents. These parks contain athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, picnic and playground areas, and sometimes recreation buildings and other facilities

The major difference between neighborhood and local parks is that the local parks provide regulation size athletic fields that can be reserved for game play. Over 40% of the people visiting local parks in 1996 were either league players or league game spectators. Ballplayers attend games on fields near their homes, or travel to other parts of the County to challenge opposing teams. Therefore, local parks often have large service areas. Many people drive to local parks, while many neighborhood parks are within walking distance.

I hope the above information answers your question and help you understand the County's park system a little better. As you can tell, Silver Spring Intermediate Park is a typical Neighborhood Park. Please be assure, there is not enough space for a full-size field and we will not provide large, permitted field in this park. We will re-observe the parking lot usage to determine the size of the parking lot. And we will respect the natural open green that is in the park.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns. Thank you.

Wen Huang
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From: Edith Holleman [mailto:hollemanea@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 7:06 PM
To: Huang, Wen <wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Re: Disappointment

Please provide me with the definitions of the three levels of parks you mentioned at the meeting, and the citations in your regulations or guidelines for each of these definitions.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2018, at 10:55 AM, Huang, Wen <wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

> Dear Ms. Holleman,
>
> Firstly, thank you for attending the meeting and gave us valuable feedback. I personally think we had a very good community meeting yesterday with a good turnout. After yesterday's face to face meeting, we have a much better understanding of the community's needs. We will adjust our initial design and schedule accordingly.
>
> Secondly, I believe there were some misunderstandings between us when we had the phone conversation. Your perspective of a full-size athletic field could be very different from what a designer thinks. To me, the fields are already there, what we tries to do is to make them graded more evenly and slightly larger to meet the youth soccer size (for age group 6 and 8) so whoever use the fields will have a better play experience. I agree one of the options has a bigger field, but it is not our preferred option anyway, and it is still much smaller than a full-size athletic field. Same thing to "spectator viewing areas". But after yesterday's meeting, your concerns are received and we will respect the natural characters of the existing park that many residents cherish.
>
> We usually do not put plans up prior to the first community meeting, because people will have different interpretation without hearing our explanation.
>
> I will coordinate with our outreaching staff and see which boundary they use for the postcard distribution. We will adjust the boundary for the second community meeting. Do you mind sending me your address so we can see which area is missing from last distribution list? Or you can give me the street block that you live if you don't want to give the exact address.
>
> Thank you again for taking the time and sharing your thoughts with us. I appreciate your continue attention to this project.

Wen Huang
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From: Edith Holleman [mailto:hollemanea@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 6:56 AM
To: Huang, Wen <wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Disappointment

On Tuesday at noon, I talked to you about the "improvement" plan for Silver Spring Park. I stated that the park was too small for athletic fields, spectator viewing areas and exercise stations. You appeared to express surprise that those items were mentioned in the preliminary design statement and indicated that they were not in the design.

Imagine my surprise at last night's meeting to see two over-designed options with a full-size soccer field and 1-2 other athletic fields and exercise stations and to hear about possible viewing areas in a tiny neighborhood park -- as you define it.

I will file my formal comments later, but I would suggest the following for your future interactions with citizens:

1. Be honest about your plans and why you are doing them. Don't tell callers what you think they want to hear. It was clear at the meeting -- although unstated -- that someone who was using this neighborhood park for soccer for young children (mostly from outside the neighborhood) wants a full-size soccer field. Their use of the park was allowed because that is the kind of park it is. Everyone can use it for a variety of purposes. You took off from there to try to permanently change the entire use and design of the park.

2. If you want serious public input -- which is doubtful -- put up your design plans prior to the meeting so people can be prepared. Don't hit them cold.

3. I live one-half block from the park. I did not receive a post card about this meeting. Why?

Edith Holleman