From: Ronald Murphy
To: Huang, Wen
Subject: Silver Spring Intermediate Park
Date: Thursday, April 26, 2018 11:40:53 AM

Ms. Huang:

Thank you for the recent opportunity to share the community's thoughts about your plans to change SSI Park. I live on Boston Avenue across from the park and have enjoyed using it and seeing others use it for more than 30 years. I taught my daughter to ride her bicycle in the tennis courts. I am familiar with its nature, its use, and how it integrates with the surrounding neighborhood.

I believe that most users of the park would agree that among its most valuable features are the open green area and the trees. I urge that you do nothing to alter either. The addition of walkways through the space would destroy the open area, limiting options for its use and changing the park's essential character. Significant construction would endanger the health of the trees.

The park is already well-used by many people in a variety of ways, and I believe that additional features such as exercise stations and dog amenities would add little to its enjoyment. I understand that changes related to ADA compliance are required, but I hope they can be accomplished with minimal impact on the park's character and visual appeal.

Finally, I prefer no changes to the parking lot. I do not believe the results of your study accurately represent its use. Eliminating it or reducing its size will significantly affect surrounding traffic. On a recent weekend, a large number of visitors were at the park, and the lot was full. Excess cars were parked along Boston Avenue, which is to be expected, but several were parked in the no-parking zone where the street narrows, making normal use of the street difficult. The increased traffic endangers park users crossing Boston Avenue to access the park. Eliminating or reducing the size of the parking lot will make the situation both worse and more frequent.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns about changes to SSI Park, and I look forward to the next meeting.

Sincerely,

Ron Murphy
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