From:	Huang, Wen
To:	Richard P. Cember
Cc:	PeterK@takomaparkmd.gov; CindyD@takomaparkmd.gov; KateS@takomaparkmd.gov; Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject:	RE: Silver Spring Intermediate park plan comments
Date:	Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:59:00 AM

Dear Mr. Cember,

Thank you for your thoughtful comments. We really appreciate you taking the time to provide us with important feedback on the proposed improvements to the park. As a "refresher" project, the scope of the improvements is limited primarily to addressing code compliance issues with some minor enhancements. As you probably are aware, this park was developed well before the enactment of laws requiring accessibility and the treatment of stormwater. As a result the park is not accessible to people with physical limitations and there are areas with ponding, and untreated runoff from the park is impacting the nearby storm drainage system.

We've observed that this park is well used by the community and we fully intend to preserve the park's existing character including its mature trees. Last summer we removed the non-native invasive lower level vegetation, including poison ivy which was encroaching onto the very narrow sidewalk alongside MD Route 410, while preserving the trees. This minor improvement made the space safer for pedestrians.

The goal of tonight's meeting is to listen to the community's concerns and present our initial thoughts on how we can refresh the park to meet accessibility and environmental requirements and better address the community's needs. We hope to see you tonight but if you are unable to attend please be assured that your concerns and comments will be considered along with the rest of the comments from the community.

Thanks again for taking the time to send us your thoughts on this refresher project.

Wen Huang
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From: Richard P. Cember [mailto:rcember@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:54 AM
To: Huang, Wen <wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: PeterK@takomaparkmd.gov; CindyD@takomaparkmd.gov; KateS@takomaparkmd.gov; Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: Silver Spring Intermediate park plan comments

Dear Mr. Huang:

I will try to make it to the public meeting but I may not be able to do so, so here are some written comments based on what is in the web page in terms of proposed changes. Please add this email to the comments for the record from the public. I copy city and county council members who may be interested. I believe the park is not within the Takoma Park city limits, but it is a very important park for the city's Ward 1, where I live.

Please consider that the trees and brush which "limit visibility" also screen the park from the noise and general unpleasantness of Route 410. The county has been removing roadside trees and brush all over the place with often horrible results. I refer you, for a spectacular example, to the church on the east side of Georgia Avenue just immediately north of the Beltway interchange. The church parking lot was formerly screened by trees and brush from the Beltway and the ramp. They kept out noise, ugliness and commotion and provided some screening against fumes. Then the county took it all away. It is now ugly, noisy and full of commotion. I walk through there all the time. Don't do that to the park, please! I know the police like visibility, but that can't be the reason for everything.

"Potential new amenities may include a shade structure, viewing area for the fields, exercise stations and additional walkway connections."

This is overkill. Right now the park is open and flexible. Don't clutter it. It is all used; people use the spaces in an open and free manner. Many parks are underutilized. Not this one. Don't fix what ain't broke!

Exercise stations are universally very little used, except when they are adjacent to running trails, and even then not much. There is no running trail here. You will have a net reduction in the recreational utility of the park in terms of what people will really use. You will add clutter without significant use. This is not a park where people work out - it is a park where people play.

Walkways will cut up the grass areas that are used flexibly.

No "viewing structures" are needed. People set up volleyball nets of their own. People play tennis. None of this is official. An exception is that Takoma Park soccer plays there. Maybe the parents would appreciate a small area to sit. If so, put it somewhere where it will not block open space! Other than that, you don't need viewing structures!

Trees provide shade for the playground. No shade structures are needed.

This is a charming, very well used little park. Please, please, do not overdo it with "improvements"! Fix what is broken in terms of wear and age, paint what is peeling, drain what is chronically wet, plant what is bare. There is plenty of that. And oh, by the way, how about removing the tipped-over tree trunk that has been there for something like a year now? In other words, maintenance - not "improvement". Otherwise, leave it alone. It is not a park that you can improve on. It is a park that you can easily ruin.

Sincerely,

Richard Cember

412 Boston Avenue
Takoma Park, Md. 20912