From: Andrew Malone
To: Huang, Wen
Subject: Silver Spring Intermediate Park renovations
Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:52:52 PM

Hello,

I am sorry I was unable to attend the first public meeting regarding proposed changes to Silver Spring Intermediate Park. I hope to be able to attend the second. My wife and I often take our toddler to play in the park, and we live about a half-mile away.

Of the two options presented, I am more in favor of Option 2.

Here are some narrative comments, some in response to other comments I have seen made.

1. I would like the playground to have a fence around it. Dog owners routinely let their dogs play off-leash in the park. Some owners let their off-leash dogs come onto the playground. I don't think this should be allowed to happen. (I don't think dogs should be off-leash in the park, either, but everyone knows that and they do it anyway. The Park Police could make a lot of money issuing citations early on Saturday mornings.) Dogs out of their owners' control and on the playground with children present a safety hazard. The dogs also may urinate or defecate on the playground, creating a health concern for children.

2. I agree that there is too much parking. I have never seen it even close to fully utilized. We need to be doing a better job with stormwater management and drainage in that park and in general. The parking lot is hurting those efforts.

3. I would very much like there to be fitness equipment in the park. It would allow for some level of multitasking on my part while my son plays on the playground.

4. I support the addition of a gazebo or picnic shelter to allow people to have fun gatherings in the park.

5. I support the addition of a trail to improve the ability to navigate within the park. The addition of more soccer fields will present a need for paths for people to travel to those soccer fields. They don't need to all be destroying the grass.

6. As few trees as possible should be disturbed. In particular, the mature trees around the playground that provide valuable shade during the summers must be preserved. That said, the sidewalk along Philadelphia desperately needs to be widened.

From the summaries I have seen of the public meeting, it appears I do not agree with many of my neighbors. In general, I believe parks should provide features of use to as many people as possible, and also act as oases of nature in our built environment. Most of the improvements suggested are getting SSI closer to that ideal.

Best,
Andrew Malone
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