From: Ann Lafferty
To: Huang, Wen
Subject: final comments
Date: Monday, May 21, 2018 9:19:03 PM

Hello again Ms. Huang-
Thanks again to you and your team for the ample time and methods by which we can respond to the 2 design options you presented. IN my experience, MNCPPC has been very responsive and open to the community's opinions and has followed a good process. This includes the community garden effort (not widely supported but soil testing proved it a bad idea), closing the parking lot, and upgrading the playground equipment. As the SSI Park tree steward, I've worked with several of the park managers: Russ Arrington, Moe Turay, Mike Slebodnick, and they have generally been helpful though focus has differed. IN addition I've worked with the arborists - Holly Thomas, Thomas Berry, Herb White, Jeanne Kavinski, Carl Sears, Andy Driscoll.

You can see I"m passionate about the trees, in particular, and about the park, over all. I nagged about getting the bus stop upgraded (formerly was 1 decaying bench), etc etc. to keep the park in good shape. Including the rotten wooden beams along the side of the basketball courts.

In general I hope you are aware that the very tall trees in this neighborhood - largely oaks - are dying or being removed. This loss mean higher temps in the summer and less shade. It takes a long time for a tree to grow, and their success is not always guaranteed. I've been lucky to have contacts with the arborists to beg them to water the trees at SSI Park. Most have survived. A few did not - also due to the fact that children climb the trees - where else can they do that but the park?

Ive paid closer attention to the park lately, and want to share with you that I saw a neighbor - young man - and his father at the park one afternoon. The son lives with his mother less than a block from the park, and it was a contentious divorce and settlement. We don't see the father that much anymore. But the day I saw them, they were very discreetly praying together, in one of the "ugly" areas, shielded by trees. A bit later I saw them climbing the trees!

I'm looking forward to your presentation, and hope it will dispel some of the animosity I'm hearing from several neighbors. The rumor that Hans Reimer "is behind" the push for improvement, and/or leveling fields for soccer, has been repeated to me variously. In addition, some neighbors feel that the Parks Dept "improvements" will disregard the community's existing uses for the park.

I've attached 3 photos - one showing how comfortable 2 groups of people are, seated on the retaining wall around the play ground (1 group of 5 teens, the other of 2 women), one photo showing the father & son climbing a tree, and a final photo of some "unprogrammed" artistic collage created at the park.

I also have some photos of ponding water in several areas, after a gentle 2 day rain, if that is of use.

thank you,
Ann Lafferty

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On Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 1:26:57 PM EDT, Huang, Wen <wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Lafferty,

The goal of the improvements is to refresh the park to meet accessibility and environmental requirements and better address the community's needs now and in the future. Existing recreational facilities and mature trees within the park will remain.

In the 2nd community meeting, we will present more options based on the community input we received prior to the 2nd meeting. So you have the chance to comment on those options. Depending on the response and reaction of the 2nd meeting, we will determine whether we can move forward with the design, or if we need to meet with the community again.

Thank you.

Wen Huang

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From: Ann Lafferty [mailto:lafferty_ann@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2018 10:42 AM
To: Huang, Wen <wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: SSI park

Hello Ms. Wen -

I have a few questions regarding the process for the park renovation:

1) what is the goal of the renovation?

2) I understand you will have a 2nd presentation later this year, what will the process be after that? Will we be able to comment and amend that 2nd design?

thank you,

Ann Lafferty