From:	Heidi Coleman
To:	Huang, Wen
Cc:	Ma, Michael; Komes, Linda; Lai, Judie; Tsai, Andrew; Turay, Mohammed; Riemer, Hans; councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov; Roger Coleman
Subject:	Comments Regarding SSI Park
Date:	Thursday, July 19, 2018 6:52:31 PM

Dear Wen Huang and Other Members of the Montgomery County Planning Department,

I am writing with regard to the proposed plans for Silver Spring Intermediate (SSI) Park. Now that the Open Town Hall Forum has closed, I feel compelled to express some serious concerns about the outcome of this survey and the process.

Option #4

- The final tally shows that Option #4 received the most votes (50.9%).
- However, this option is inconsistent with the responses to the other questions regarding amenities that respondents favored. For example, the votes did NOT favor exercise stations (static or dynamic) and opinion was very divided about a shade structure.
- Option #4 is also inconsistent with the weight of opinion at BOTH community meetings, when community members supported necessary modifications to address drainage issues and ADA compliance, but strongly favored minimal changes that do not change the character of the park.

Multi-Use Courts

- The survey results strongly favor multi-use courts.
- However, the question did not give respondents the opportunity to specify WHICH uses they favored. Currently, the space is used primarily for tennis, and when no one is playing tennis, neighbors can allow their young children (or dogs) to run around or even learn to ride a bicycle in a safe, enclosed space.
- For example, I would support other compatible uses, such as pickle ball and a larger backboard. However, I have serious concerns about whether a "small sided soccer" space would be compatible. Would this space be scheduled for regular soccer games throughout the year? How many people would be using it at a time? What impact would that have on other uses of this space or on parking in the lot and in the neighborhood? There has not been sufficient information shared about this option and the ramifications on the park and neighborhood.

Respondents

- The previous survey asked respondents whether they lived near the park and how often they use the park. Such questions were omitted from this latest survey. SSI Park is very small (only 3 acres). It has always been intended as a local, neighborhood park. The outcome of its future should not be decided by people who don't use the park and don't live nearby.

Requests

- Before a final decision is made, we request another community meeting to hear the proposed decision BEFORE it is adopted, with another opportunity for community input.
- We request assurances that:
    - The green spaces will be maintained and not divided
    - Every effort will be made to keep as many trees as possible
    - If any open green space is regraded or leveled, the two hills (the one between Philadelphia Avenue and the tennis courts; and the other one, from the parking area toward the green space between the tennis court and the playground) be kept

intact, so young children can continue to use these hills for sledding
- No use will be added to the tennis court that will dominate that space and the rest of the park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very sincerely,

Heidi and Roger Coleman
801 Philadelphia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD
(corner of Philadelphia and Chicago Avenues; across from the basketball courts; since 1982)

cc: Hans Reimer, County Council At Large
Tom Hucker, County Council District 5