From: Huang, Wen
To: Ronald Murphy; Ma, Michael; Komes, Linda; Lai, Judie; Tsai, Andrew; Turay, Mohammed; Anderson, Casey; hans.riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: RE: SSI Park concerns
Date: Friday, July 27, 2018 4:38:00 PM

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Dunn and Mrs. Rausch

Thank you for contacting me about your concerns. The on-line result does show difference from the community meeting. The on-line forum is a relatively new tool for Parks to efficently receive more feedback from the park users. It actually provides map that shows the general location of the voters. Among 116 voters, only 4 are from outside of the region. The rest 112 voters are all from Silver Spring or Takoma Park area (about 3 miles radius). We cannot identify though if these 112 voters from these two areas live within ½-mile radius of the park. We will include the question in our future survey related with project.

All four concepts were developed based on the public comments to preserve the openness of the lawn area and mature trees, but Option 4 provides more new amenities than other three options do. People chose Option 4 for different reasons, some for the natural play opportunities and some for the loop trail or shade structure. Many people voted it for the multi-purpose courts (44 among 59 voters who selected option 4).

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In more urbanized areas such as this neighborhood, it is our intent to convert single-purpose courts to multi-purpose courts in order to accommodate increased demands from various user groups. Our Park Planning staff will conduct a study to see how the public tennis and basketball courts in the surrounding area are being used. The result of the study will help inform the design of the courts in terms of potential uses.

And please see my response below to your requests:

- We request assurances that:
    1. The green spaces will be maintained and not divided.

       Yes, the green space will be maintained and the proposed walkways will be at the perimeter of the open space.
    2. Every effort will be made to keep as many trees as possible

       It's our intent to minimize the impact of the proposed improvements on the existing trees.
    3. If any open green space is regraded or leveled, the two hills will be kept intact, so young children can continue to use these hills for sledding

       The concept plan proposes some regrading to solve the drainage issue and enlarge the playable space. But sliding hill opportunities will still be provided.
    4. No use will be added to the tennis court that will dominate that space and the rest of the park.

       This will be determined based on our courts study mentioned above.

I hope my response addressed your concerns. We will post the final concept plan on our website

before we present the plan to the Planning Board. Thanks again for taking the time to send us your thoughts on this project.

Sincerely,

Wen Huang
T: (301) 495-2466 | **F**: (301) 585-1921
www.montgomeryparks.org

From: Ronald Murphy <murphy_ronald@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 6:56 PM
To: Huang, Wen <Wen.Huang@montgomeryparks.org>; Ma, Michael <Michael.Ma@montgomeryparks.org>; Komes, Linda <Linda.Komes@montgomeryparks.org>; Lai, Judie <judie.lai@montgomeryparks.org>; Tsai, Andrew <Andrew.Tsai@montgomeryparks.org>; Turay, Mohammed <Mohammed.Turay@montgomeryparks.org>; Anderson, Casey <Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org>; hans.riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: SSI Park concerns

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

We are writing with regard to the proposed plans for Silver Spring Intermediate (SSI) Park. Below are the concerns we have. We want to stress that those of us who live right on the park's edge feel that our concerns are not being given sufficient consideration. We are, after all, the ones who will directly experience the effects of any modifications.

Respondents

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

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 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, we would support other compatible uses, such as pickle ball and a larger backboard. However, we 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.

Requests

- 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 will 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.

Sincerely,

Ron and Stephanie Murphy

701 Boston Ave

Takoma Park, MD 20912

Patrick Dunn and Collette Rausch

703 Boston Ave

Takoma Park, MD 20912