From: Ann Lafferty
To: Huang, Wen
Subject: Re: RE: SSI park
Date: Sunday, July 29, 2018 8:58:24 PM

Hello Wen - your email has been a relief to me too, thank you! The new information you shared - no exercise stations, goal to save as many trees, consultant to help with grading for drainage - has brought some clarity that renewed my respect for your process. I'm continuing to encourage my neighbors to ask their questions to you directly. It is so helpful that you are open and willing to listen and explain.

thank you again,
Ann

On Friday, July 27, 2018, 5:18:57 PM EDT, Huang, Wen <wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Ann,

I understand you and your neighbors' concerns about the traffic. But honestly I don't quite get the second concern that "the park will no longer be a natural setting of trees and grass". The concepts were developed based on your first community meeting input to preserve the open lawn area. Protecting mature trees is always our intention and we are now trying to protect every tree in the park. There will be some regrading to the lawn area mainly to resolve the drainage issue. Option 4 provides more changes to the topography than Option 2. But these two options are actually very similar in my opinion. We will let the consultant help us come up with a grading solution that can solve the drainage issue, optimize the playable area while maintaining the natural character of the park. Based on the voting, exercise station will be out of the scope. Voting to shelter is split, so that will be depending on the budget. As for the multi-purpose courts, I think a lot of your neighbors' concerns are about the proposed function of soccer courts. The courts are existing hard surface, therefore, no matter what function it will be, it will not affect the "natural setting of trees and grass" of this park. It may have some impact to the parking, which is your first concern.

Here is my response to your neighbors' email regarding the multi-purpose courts:

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.

It is a public park after all, so it should serve for the public. There is this rising need for soccer games. Personally, I am hoping that there is a more appropriate site nearby to serve the soccer games. But we will let the data tell us what to do with the courts for this park and others in the surrounding areas.

As usual, I really appreciate communicating with you. And hope my response released some of your concerns. We will keep the public informed of the progress and the community will have chances to comment on the preferred plan on-line and at the Planning Board presentation session.

Have a good weekend.

Wen Huang

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From: Ann Lafferty <lafferty_ann@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 9:08 PM
To: Huang, Wen <Wen.Huang@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: SSI park

Hello Wen -

I am emailing once again about "The Park".

I believe you have gotten emails/letters from quite a few of my neighbors, most of them live right across the street from the park.

I've been trying to figure out exactly the simplest way to understand the conflict that is being felt. Here is what I have come up with: many, who live very close to the park, worry that because Option 4 got "the most votes", that the renovations will bring 2 consequences, in particular:

1) traffic will worsen on our streets (Chicago & Boston Avenues, and Violet Place)

2) the park will no longer be a natural setting of trees and grass, that is right in front of their homes, every day.

I assume your team will be evaluating the polling, comments, and budget. We have no idea what criteria might be used in the decision making. Though I believe you have listened carefully to previous comments - both in person and via email etc - there is a building anxiety that the renovations will change what is basically our front yards (the park is that close to our front doors). Some transparency in what happens next would be appreciated.

In any case, I look forward to hearing your thoughts, and thanks again for listening,

Ann