From: Huang, Wen
To: Heidi Coleman
Cc: Ma, Michael; Komes, Linda; Lai, Judie; Tsai, Andrew; Turay, Mohammed; Anderson, Casey; Riemer, Hans; councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov; Roger Coleman
Subject: RE: Comments Regarding SSI Park
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 6:12:00 PM

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Coleman,

Thank you for your thoughtful comments and analysis to the on-line survey. 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).

-

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.

The Open Town Hall Forum provides a tool to map 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.

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 (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

       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: Heidi Coleman [mailto:heidi.l.coleman@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 6:58 PM
To: Huang, Wen <wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: 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>; Riemer, Hans <hans.riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>; councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov; Roger Coleman <musicguy55@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Comments Regarding SSI Park

My apologies ... Sending this again, and including Casey Anderson, too.

On Thu, Jul 19, 2018 at 6:52 PM, Heidi Coleman <heidi.l.coleman@gmail.com> wrote:

> 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