



COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers, 10722 SE Main Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Council Present: Councilors Adam Khosroabadi, Lisa Batey, Desi Nicodemus, Council President Kathy Hyzy, and Mayor Mark Gamba

Staff Present: Justin Gericke, City Attorney
Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder
Adam Moore, Parks Development Coordinator
Ann Ober, City Manager
Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director
Natalie Rogers, Climate & Natural Resources Manager
Scott Stauffer, City Recorder

Mayor Gamba called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. Neighborhood Park Projects Update – Report

Moore reported that the park project focus groups had found that members of Milwaukie's Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and disabled community did not always feel safe in Milwaukie parks due to unclean spaces, vandalism, and drug paraphernalia. Focus group participants suggested posting a welcome sign in many languages and **Moore** shared thoughts on hosting more cultural events and including more murals. Participants commented on feeling unwelcome in parks due to some parks feeling more like an extension of someone else's backyard.

Moore stated that the park plans should strive to be more universally inclusive and go beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code requirements by making paths wide enough for wheelchair users to be able to pass one another or companions to walk alongside wheelchair/walker users. **Moore** shared that focus group participants wanted to see parks be more accessible for people of all ages and to install well designed bathrooms that provide ample room and options for all needs. Participants also commented on equal amenities across the whole city and how unleashed dogs caused more feelings of unwelcomeness.

Moore and **Councilor Batey** shared experiences and thoughts of dogs off leash and why following leash rules were important. **Council President Hyzy** pointed out the value of the focus groups, was distressed by community members not feeling welcome, and commented on the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District's (NCPRD) parks signs. **Moore** acknowledged the discussion around signage and other visual avenues that could be used to promote inclusion and feelings of welcome.

Moore provided an engagement update that included data from completed surveys.

Moore presented the engagement summary for Bowman-Brae Park and **Councilor Nicodemus**, **Moore**, and **Council President Hyzy** commented on a ball pit feature used at the open houses. **Moore** provided feedback received for Bowman-Brae Park that included changes because of budget concerns. **Moore** presented the most recent design draft concept, advised that it would be changing, and shared what survey participants ranked as the most important features.

Moore mentioned conversations had with neighbors regarding the lack of sidewalks to the park and how disabled residents could not navigate the streets and would therefore need parking. **Moore** noted that the park's multiuse path would need to shrink, and

Councilor Batey asked if that was due to cost. **Moore** responded yes and continued to discuss other budgetary challenges. **Mayor Gamba** expressed concern regarding the lack of trees, especially around the playground. **Moore** replied that there was focused discussion and comments on the importance of trees in the park and their location.

Moore presented the engagement summary, concept feedback, and challenges for Balfour Park. A recurring design issue for Balfour Park was the community garden placement which had been difficult due to existing trees. The group discussed options for where the garden could go and what would have to move, including placing the garden outside of the park. **Moore** asked Council for direction on what should be done with community garden. The group discussed new community gardens in the new Clackamas County Hillside Manor design, the garden at Providence Milwaukie Hospital, the addition of fruit trees, and whether planting next to a train track is an acceptable location for a garden. **Ober** summarized that if the community garden needs are going to be met elsewhere, to keep the trees in Balfour Park and prioritize other amenities. The group discussed what the threshold would be for moving on without the community garden in Balfour Park and other features that were nonnegotiable to remove.

Moore described the features of the water table and mentioned that it was an affordable and cool amenity, but not a destination amenity like a splash pad. **Moore** advised Council that half street improvements such as the sidewalk and drop off area would be added later through the Safe Access for Everyone (SAFE) project on Balfour Street.

Moore presented the engagement summary and concept feedback on both concepts for Scott Park. **Moore** commented on conversations around the veteran's memorial within the park. The group discussed what renovations the veteran's group were interested in regarding the current memorial that is within the park. **Moore** added that Scott Park is a good location for an accessible playground, but the cost could be an issue, detailed the differences between the two draft design concepts, and pointed out challenges that are being evaluated.

Mayor Gamba expressed interest in playgrounds over a pergola in Scott Park and **Moore** believed that without the pergola and a few other amenities there could be hybrid playground features for both accessibility and nature-based play. **Council President Hyzy** and **Moore** discussed accessible playground surfacing and accessible playgrounds.

Moore advised there would be a special Park and Recreation Board (PARB) meeting on November 16 where the final plans would be shared and then brought to Council on December 6. **Ober** congratulated Moore on the work with the community and park planning and **Moore** commended the team and the community for all their engagement.

Moore and **Councilor Batey** discussed Ardenwald neighborhood's fundraising for Balfour Park.

2. Downtown Design Review – Discussion (removed from the agenda)

3. Adjourn

Mayor Gamba adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder