

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

4/4/19

Introduction

The Steering Committee was formed to provide an ongoing, community-based voice for the review and consideration of input and analysis during the plan update. In this process the Steering Committee is invited to the community open houses, helping to engage their fellow community members and will have two separate Steering Committee meetings. The first of these separate meetings was held on April 4th and is summarized below.

During the part of the meeting, Steering Committee members were asked to share what they heard at Community Open House #1. The consultant team then facilitated a discussion of ongoing and emerging needs that should be addressed in the plan update. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Steering Committee was asked about what would allow them to most effectively fulfill their role. The outcome of this discussion was a request to be notified when new content is added to the project website in order to allow them to track the progress of the plan update on their own.

Participants

- Julio Amador
- Mary Clymer
- Marjorie Cochran-Reep
- Al Dieckman
- Bob Elliot
- Alisa Louie
- Pete Maas
- Larry Reymann
- Don Sando
- Leslie Betlach, City of Renton Community Services
- Erica Schmitz, City of Renton Community Services
- Katie Buchl-Morales, City of Renton Community Economic Development
- Lauren Schmitt, MIG
- Ryan Mottau, MIG

Discussion Themes

Discussion themes from the Steering Committee meeting are summarized below and represent important take-aways from committee members. Detailed documentation of results follows these discussion themes.

- Opportunity to provide information about local culture and history in parks. The parks and trails are great settings to tell the evolving story of Renton.
- Accessibility is a necessity in parks and programs, provide access for all abilities.
- Family activities are important to Renton. This also includes space for parents in youth focused places like the skate park.
- Additional gardening opportunities and education are needed.
- Transportation and better information about getting to nearby parks, facilities and programs are important to increasing use.

Meeting Results

The Steering Committee agenda focused on two major topics, described below with details following. Committee members received the agenda a week in advance of the meeting.

Needs

After a reviewing needs from the 2011 Plan and the input from the first Community Open House, Steering Committee members discussed today's parks, recreation and natural areas needs.

Adapting the System

Steering Committee members discussed ideas for changes and additions that could address the identified needs.

Key points from the discussion were captured on a wall graphic that is shown on the next page and is transcribed on the following pages.

- Develop undeveloped park land
- Increase in cricket (playing at Ron Regis)
- Education on recycling and litter
- Walking opportunities for all abilities
- Need to acknowledge that Coulon Park is serving the entire region

Adapting the System

- Interpretation of history, culture and nature
 - Hiawatha trail example (history panels)
 - Reveal History that resonates with today's population (e.g. history of African Americans in mining, farms at Kennydale)
 - Native people are here (not just history)
- Increasing access to healthy food through community gardens
 - Could there be opportunities for selling at farmers market
 - Home gardening education
- Add gardens, flowers, horticulture to beautify the system
- Shuttle service for connecting to parks and facilities
- Hang out space for parents near skate park
- Information/public education to connect people with resources
- Improve access for low income people, look at where Renton is going to be most dense
- Need to link social services in parks and simplify access to services
- Potential to work with churches (to connect people with parks and services)
- Build more athletic parks
- Family activities and programmed urban camping
- Big plaza with interactive water to play in
- Off-leash parks: more dispersed and more of them
- Open the pool before school lets out (getting lifeguards is a challenge), more pool space or indoor pool
- Adjusting or expanding hours at parks to accommodate more users
 - No closing times for parks (sunset is too early)
- Provide indoor or covered play space for rainy months

Additional Committee Member Comments

The following comments and questions were outside of the main conversation about needs and adopting the system.

Successes

- Trail along the east side of Lake Washington is a huge success

Questions

- Do annexations help by adding to the tax base or just create more area to serve?
- How does King County and City funding work?
- Are there any untapped funding sources?
- What are the effects of demographic changes?