

ARTHUR D. HEALEY SCHOOL

SCHOOLYARD RENOVATION COMMUNITY MEETING #2

JULY 9TH, 2019



Project Healey Schoolyard Renovation
Date 07/09/2019
Location Arthur D. Healey School - Healey School Cafeteria
Purpose Community Meeting #2

Next Meeting: September, 2019
Date TBD

Notes:

Warner Larson Landscape Architects presented a site analysis of the existing Healey Schoolyard, along with three site programming diagrams. Community members placed sticky notes (blue for “liked” and pink for “disliked” on each plan). All options presented a ramp connection along the slope from Healey to the Mystic River Housing, a U-12 soccer field, preservation of the existing school garden, and a service area near the existing utilities to remain. **Alternative C** received the most post-it note likes during the community input and will be used as the preferred scheme for the basis of design. Alternative A received the fewest votes.

Alternative A: Sports courts in the north corner (near Mt Vernon Ave), 5-12 play near the soccer field and outdoor classroom and shaded seating near the school building

Alternative B: Sports courts near school building, 5-12 play in north corner (near Mt Vernon Ave), outdoor classroom and shaded seating near soccer field

Alternative C: Sports courts near soccer field, 5-12 play in north corner (near Mt Vernon Ave), outdoor classroom and shaded seating near school building.

After the community input, Warner Larson presented images of play elements, outdoor classrooms and slope opportunities.

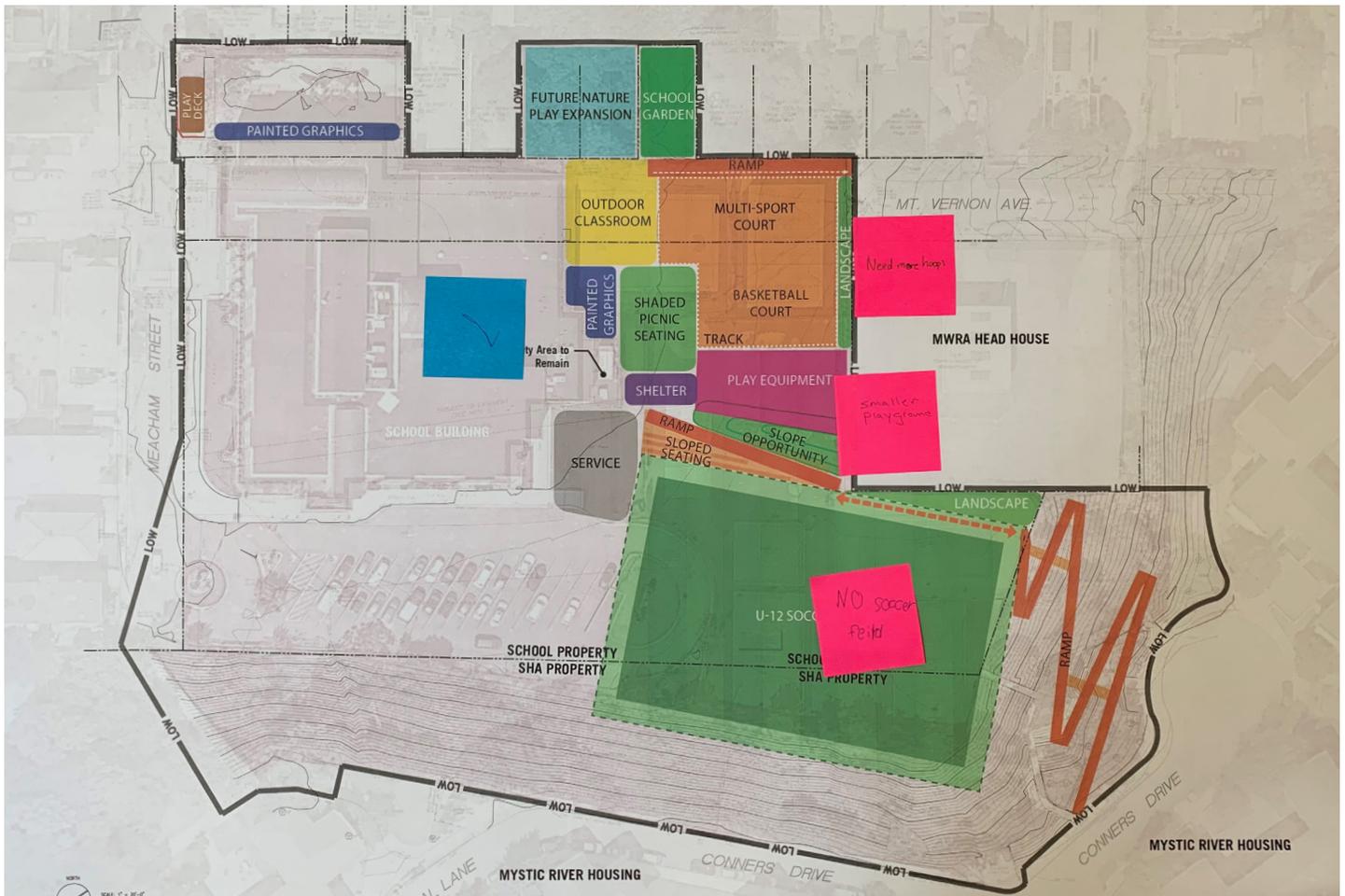
What did we miss?

- Principal Dr. Mary Ellen Cobb - mentioned shade, safety and protection as significant issues to address
- Tot-lot and back connection - narrow space where kids go to hide
- Play: make sure to consider accessibility for all play elements (both for kids and caretakers)
- Shade/shelter: consider weather proof - possibly tilt roof towards garden for rainwater harvesting; make sure it holds up to rain and snow
- Consider design in relationship to climate change - make sure to look ahead 20-30 years and include resiliency and flexibility
- Preserve as many trees as possible
- Consider using solar panels to provide shade
- Visibility for teachers - supervision in a wide space

Community members asked questions during the presentation, which are recorded on page 5.



Alternative A:



Blue "Likes"

- [Check Mark]

Pink "Dislikes"

- Smaller Playground
- Need More Hoops

Items that apply to all schemes

- No Soccer Field

Alternative B:



Blue "Likes"

- Slope, Big Playground (listed twice)
- I like the big playground and picnic area
- Like bigger area for 5-12, like outdoor classroom further out from entry
- Build butterfly house here! (listed twice)
- Keep outdoor classroom here with easy access from picnic seating, give opportunities for connections to NW corner with tree corridor
- Shade, picnic, seating
- Have the corridor between courts and 5-12 play equipment - connecting NW nature/garden area to SE outdoor classroom

- Too busy/cramped feeling
- Clear connection to cafeteria door
- Need more Hoops
- [Blank]

Items that apply to all schemes

- Yes ramp
- Soccer Field [liked]
- Engage community and Urban Forestry Committee on creative way to preserve as many trees as possible
- Create shade structure that also could support solar panels in them

Pink "Dislikes"

- Basketball and multi court too close to garden, outdoor classroom, etc.
- Courts against school. Not just loud but presents a barrier
- Adjacency of courts to gym/school
- Bad use of space

Alternative C:



Blue "Likes"

- Like scope separation and grouping of athletic surfaces/areas
- Like the quiet spaces next to school/residents
- Shaded picnic area is great!
- Flow of garden, garden expansion and outdoor classroom makes perfect sense. Also it's good to keep basketball and multi-sport courts further away in design C
- No access to Mt Vernon. As much as I would love for the community to have greater access to Healey schoolyard, could be a safety concern and tricky for teachers to monitor
- I like the layout
- Shelter overlook to field
- Slope opportunity allows visibility to the students in design C
- Better use of space vs other options, Slope opportunity allows better visibility and safety
- Adjacency of outdoor classroom to school

- Please expand the play equipment but love the flow
- Labyrinth; Maybe have multi-use seating both classroom and stadium seating; Possibly using roofs of covered spaces for other uses - Garden, Views, seating

Pink "Dislikes"

- Need more hoops
- Need to make sure clear view for teachers/parents to soccer field
- Clear connect to caf door

Items that apply to all schemes

- Yes Basketball
- Basketball, Field [liked]
- Soccer Field [liked]
- Is there room on the multi-sport court for neighborhood kids to ride bikes/scooters
- Adjacent outdoor parcels
- Please don't lower the fence. Many balls and garbage find their way over the existing 10' fence



Presentation Q&A:

Note - questions and answers may have been edited for clarity

Q: Time-frame for construction

A: 2 Years

Q: Possible to shift fence into MWRA property?

A: Must stay within property line at MWRA due to state ownership.

Q: What will happen with garden and adjacent parcels?

A: Garden works and will remain, adjacent parcels do not have a clear time-frame yet for acquisition.

Q: Clarification on hockey court label - kids only use it for soccer.

A: Noted

Q: Winter snow - will there be access to play spaces?

A: City operation/maintenance will need to be determined

Q: Is the outdoor classroom targeted for recess or teaching?

A: Primarily classroom as it will include teaching elements like rocks, logs, water, etc. that are not usually for recess play

Q: Will outdoor classroom be fenced?

A: Depends on adjacency to other program elements but will have some physical separation

Q: Power outlets - none available at lower part of site

A: Will make adaptable spaces that can be used for many purposes, such as an outdoor school classroom that can host summer camps

Q: Soccer field and visibility - will it be lowered and how much will it be lowered?

A: Yes, it will be lowered and will drop by 8' max due to site limitations. More along the lines of 3-5' drop.

Q: Why connection to Mt. Vernon Ave?

A: The retaining wall is currently failing and will need to be rebuilt - design allows for an opportunity to allow access if rebuilt. It was also mentioned in Healey Mystic Master Plan to create a connection with neighbors.

Q: Alternative B shows outdoor classroom separated from existing school garden - could it go in adjacent parcels to be acquired?

A: The city is still working on the time frame of parcel acquisition and that space will allow for an expansion of the school garden and nature play.

Q: Mt. Vernon access may allow for kids to walk away or random community members to enter during school hours.

A: Noted

Q: Do not lower fence along MWRA due to balls going over.

A: Noted

Q: Will the presentation be posted online?

A: Yes

Q: Will the presentation be passed to Mystic Housing residents and can the survey be offered in multiple languages?

A: City looking into engaging MRH residents.

Q: How will survey reach parents who did not attend?

A: Survey link will be emailed on the city's listserv and will be posted online.