

# BORA

## MEETING MINUTES

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<b>Date</b> 10/21/2019	<b>By</b> Laura Krueger
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<b>Subject</b> Focus Group Meeting 1	<b>Project Name</b> Grant Bowl Master Plan	<b>Project Number</b> 19008
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<b>Present</b>		
Jamie Hurd, PPS	Diallo Lewis, PIL	John Beck, Grant HS
Carol Campbell, Grant HS	Kirsten Cowden, PPS	Matt Koehler, Cameron McCarthy
Kent Siebold, Grant HS	Stetson James, PPS	Jason Gillies, Cameron McCarthy
Stephen Weeks, Bora Architects	Erin McNulty, Grant HS	Brian Oylear, PPS
Andre Ashley, PPR	Deb Engelstad, Grant HS	Laura Krueger, Bora Architects
Shawn Lindsey, PPR	Erik Miller, Grant HS	
Lisa Tyler, PPR	Manolis Tjuanikis, Grant HS	

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<b>Distribution</b> Those Present
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<b>Minutes</b>
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### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Team members introduced themselves representing PPS, PPR, PIL, Bora Architects and Cameron McCarthy.
- B. Handouts were shared to inform and provide background for the focus group. These included:
  - 1. Master Planning Advisory Group (MPAG) highlighting the purpose and role of this group.
    - a. Community members are not currently included; however, additions can be made at the request of the MPAG to provide representation.
  - 2. Memorandum of Understanding between PPS, City of Portland, PPR and Ndamukong Suh.
    - a. This document is different than the use agreement which is in process but not finalized.
    - b. The memorandum highlights the strong desire to bring lights and seating to the Grant Bowl to support extended use times for all high school athletics and in particular, to provide concurrent use for track and softball in the spring seasons.
  - 3. Grant Bowl Softball Field Options.
    - a. Of the options identified, Option 1 illustrates the District recommended layout.
  - 4. Letter describing direction from the superintendent.
  - 5. Copy of email responses and comments from the previous neighborhood meetings.

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- C. PPS Office of School Modernization has been directed to deliver the Grant Bowl Master Plan by the end of the 2019 calendar year.
  - 1. At this time, PPS has provided funding to facilitate the Master Planning process. There is currently no funding source identified for design and construction. Additional funding strategies are expected to be driven by the outcomes of the Master Planning process.
- D. The group reviewed the schedule for the Master Plan phase and discussed an overview of the process.
  - 1. Community Engagement sessions will be hosted to listen for neighborhood, parent, alumni and student feedback.
  - 2. A team of consultants will propose multiple design options at a high level for the Master Planning Advisory Group to review at the second meeting.

## Action Items

>> Jamie Hurd will send a digital copy of the Master Planning Advisory Group handout for focus group reference.

## 2. WHAT DOES OVERALL PROJECT SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- A. Creating equitable facilities for sports fields in the Bowl for community and school use.  
Providing opportunity for on-site practice for high school teams.
  - 1. The upper field received improvements in the 2012 bond as part of the Grant modernization.
    - a. The question was proposed: *How do we provide facilities to train properly and serve all high school athletes?*
    - b. The turf in the bowl is nearing the end of its life span and will need to be replaced as part of this improvement.
  - 2. Master Plan study should help make the best use of what Grant HS has available on and adjacent to the school.
- B. Providing inclusiveness and fan support as a result of proximity to the school.
  - 1. The question was proposed: *How do we build a community through athletics?*
  - 2. Homecoming games do not happen at the home field of Grant HS.
  - 3. Athletes can feel isolated when competitive game play happens off-site.
    - a. Grant HS is often not able to host home games. Home games are often held at alternate fields such as Delta Park.
    - b. Faculty and student attendance right outside the doors of the school could increase an athlete's feeling of support.
      - 1. There is evidence how engaged the community is from the Grant HS experience at temporary Marshall HS.
      - 2. Marshall HS stadium feels more enclosed, it has central seating and a higher energy experience.
  - 4. Many sports from Grant HS and activities in the community utilize the Bowl for events.
- C. Increasing safety of athletes and spectators by implementing crowd management strategies.
  - 1. Currently anyone can walk into the Bowl during an event. This is considered a safety issue for crowd management during games.
    - a. Vandalism at the Bowl is common, especially on nights and weekends.
  - 2. There is a desire for specific points of access to increase safety and provide the opportunity for event ticketing when needed. There is no expectation to have the bowl fenced at all times, just for crowd management.
  - 3. There is only one ADA accessible path down to the track and four other entries which are not ADA accessible. Without additional access points, spectators slip on the adjacent hillside slopes.
  - 4. CPTED principles could be considered in design to maintain clear lines of vision for law enforcement.

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- D. Expanding the use of the Bowl into later evening hours with the implementation of field lighting.
  - 1. The ability to play under the lights adds an experience to sports that the athletes currently do not have. Equity is provided by the ability to host home games and extending practice time for all teams and the community.
    - a. If the Bowl receives field lighting, it is suggested that lights also be considered for the upper field.
  - 2. Early games tend to be less convenient for families to attend. Parents can be required to take time off work.
  - 3. There is potential to cut down on vandalism if the Bowl is well lit and sits empty less hours of the day.

## **3. WHAT CRITERIA GOVERNS THESE IMPROVEMENTS?**

- A. Seating capacity and type
  - 1. The PPS Ed Specs suggest 1500 seats be provided. The Grant HS gymnasium can seat the student body at 1700. Seating capacity will also be informed by site constraints and community engagement.
  - 2. The seating has potential to be constructed in phases depending on budget available.
    - a. If larger capacity is needed, temporary seating could be provided for short term use.
  - 3. Capacity may be limited by the hillside topography and materiality of seating type.
    - a. The lawn on the slope is difficult to maintain and mow.
    - b. Lower rows of seating at the bottom of the hillside could have challenged sight lines.
- B. Built environment considerations
  - 1. A clear accessible path should be provided to the track and spectator seating.
  - 2. Stormwater drainage needs to be accommodated in the design.
  - 3. The storage, concessions and restrooms building(s) should be durable and suggested to be built of non-combustible construction.
  - 4. Previously the press box has been a trailer, elevated two or three steps from the top of the slope.

## **4. DO THESE IMPROVEMENTS SERVE THE UPPER FIELD AS WELL?**

- A. If situated on the east side of the field, the press box could be double sided to serve the baseball and soccer upper field.
  - 1. The press box can be located opposite the grandstand for the home team.
- B. It was suggested that restrooms be single stall, all-gender style.
- C. The facilities should be open only during a supervised event, either hosted by PPS or PPR.

## **5. SOFTBALL FIELD SPECIFICS**

- A. Title IX can be interpreted both ways and Grant HS has one baseball field on site.
  - 1. One softball field can be provided if designed the right way.
    - a. The field should include dugouts and a distinguishable infield turf color.
  - 2. The question was proposed: *Will Grant HS still have use of Wilshire Park for practice?*
- B. The design of the Bowl will need to facilitate both softball game play as well as track and field.
  - 1. Currently a portable fence is set up to denote the softball field boundary.
  - 2. The softball field out of bounds area conflicts with the long jump sand pit and pole vault.
  - 3. The distance between home plate and the back stop does not meet softball standards.
  - 4. Striping of the football field can be distracting for softball game play.
    - a. Coloration of the turf can be modified for less contrast.
    - b. Striping can be permanent or temporary, painted for each season of sport.
  - 5. There is concern for the speed of softballs coming off the turf.

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- C. More sporting events use the Bowl in the spring; however, baseball is the only sport identified for the upper field in that season.
  - 1. Moving a sport to the upper field would require continuous relocation of the baseball pitching mound.
  - 2. The question was proposed: *How does moving an event out of the Bowl affect the community?*
- 6. TOPICS TO DISCUSS DURING THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING**
  - A. Site lighting
    - 1. An understanding of sports seasonal schedules and use durations should be provided to the community.
    - 2. Examples which can be used for good site lighting technology are Walker Stadium and the field at Franklin HS.
    - 3. Site lighting in Grant Park has been replaced and there are no known complaints from the neighborhood.
  - B. Parking and traffic
    - 1. There are currently simultaneous events on campus that draw crowds as big if not larger than a game in the Bowl.
    - 2. Youth events generate less parking need as the tendency is for drop-off and pick-up.
  - C. Trash and disposal
  - D. Noise
    - 1. Amplified music may be a neighborhood concern, especially at night.
    - 2. The material of seating should be considered as aluminum will resonate sound when hit.
    - 3. Students from the Grant HS audio engineering class have studied the sound focused in the Bowl due to its topography.
  - E. The question was proposed: *How will PPR and PPS resources be divided in times and use?*

## **Next Planned Meeting**

11/06/2019, Community Engagement Meeting 1, Grant High School Library

\*11/18/2019, Focus Group Meeting 2, Grant High School Library

\*The originally scheduled meeting on 11/14 was a conflict for Grant High School schedule. This meeting has since been rescheduled for 11/18 from 5:00-7:00pm.

The foregoing is the writer's interpretation of the issues discussed. Please report any discrepancies or omissions to Bora within three business days of receipt of this document.

## **END OF MEETING MINUTES**