

**ANC 2B DUPONT CIRCLE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING, Thursday, January 25, 2006 Jewish Community Center**

The January Special Meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Darren Bowie at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners identified their Single Member Districts (SMDs). Present were: Rob Halligan (2B-01), Bob Meehan (2B-03), Darren Bowie (2B-04), Mark Bjorge (2B-05), Mike Silverstein (2B-06), Babak Movahedi (2B-07), Peter Klempay (2B-08) and Ramon Estrada (2B-09). Karyn-Siobhan Robinson, (2B-02) was not present.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Silverstein recognized the passing of Marcia Rosenthal, Executive Director of the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District. He commended her work with the homeless.

Commissioner Meehan requested constituents to contact him at bob.meehan@dupontcircleanc.net with any Comprehensive Plan map inconsistencies.

Commissioner Bjorge announced that the Board of Zoning and Adjustments (BZA) hearing regarding Morton Bender's application for 1743-1755 N Street NW would recommence in one month.

Lt. Christian, Metro Police Department (MPD), noted that MPD appreciates receiving constituents' emails regarding crimes and perpetrators. Commissioner Movahedi requested a greater MPD presence on 17th Street, NW around businesses at closing hours. Commissioner Silverstein thanked Lt. Christian and MPD for their recent work dealing with shootings and drugs in Dupont West.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Halligan announced that the Dupont Circle Public Safety Committee meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Metro Police Department station at 1620 V Street, NW.

GENERAL AGENDA

The Commission considered a request by Marchant Wentworth, Washington Sierra Club, that ANC 2B submit comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the DC Department of Health regarding water discharge from Budget Rental Car (1620 L Street, NW) into Rock Creek Park. Mr. Marchant made a presentation on Budget's draft permit to discharge the remainder of a leaking underground storage tank into the Potomac River.

Commissioners Bowie and Silverstein inquired about the justification for ANC 2B to take action on this matter. Commissioner Movahedi made a point of order. He noted that the Commission should not take a position on this matter without additional information.

Commissioner Bjorge noted that the Commission was very sympathetic to concerns about the proposed permit, but noted that no mechanism exists for ANC 2B to take action because it appears that Budget's permit is permissible under existing guidelines.

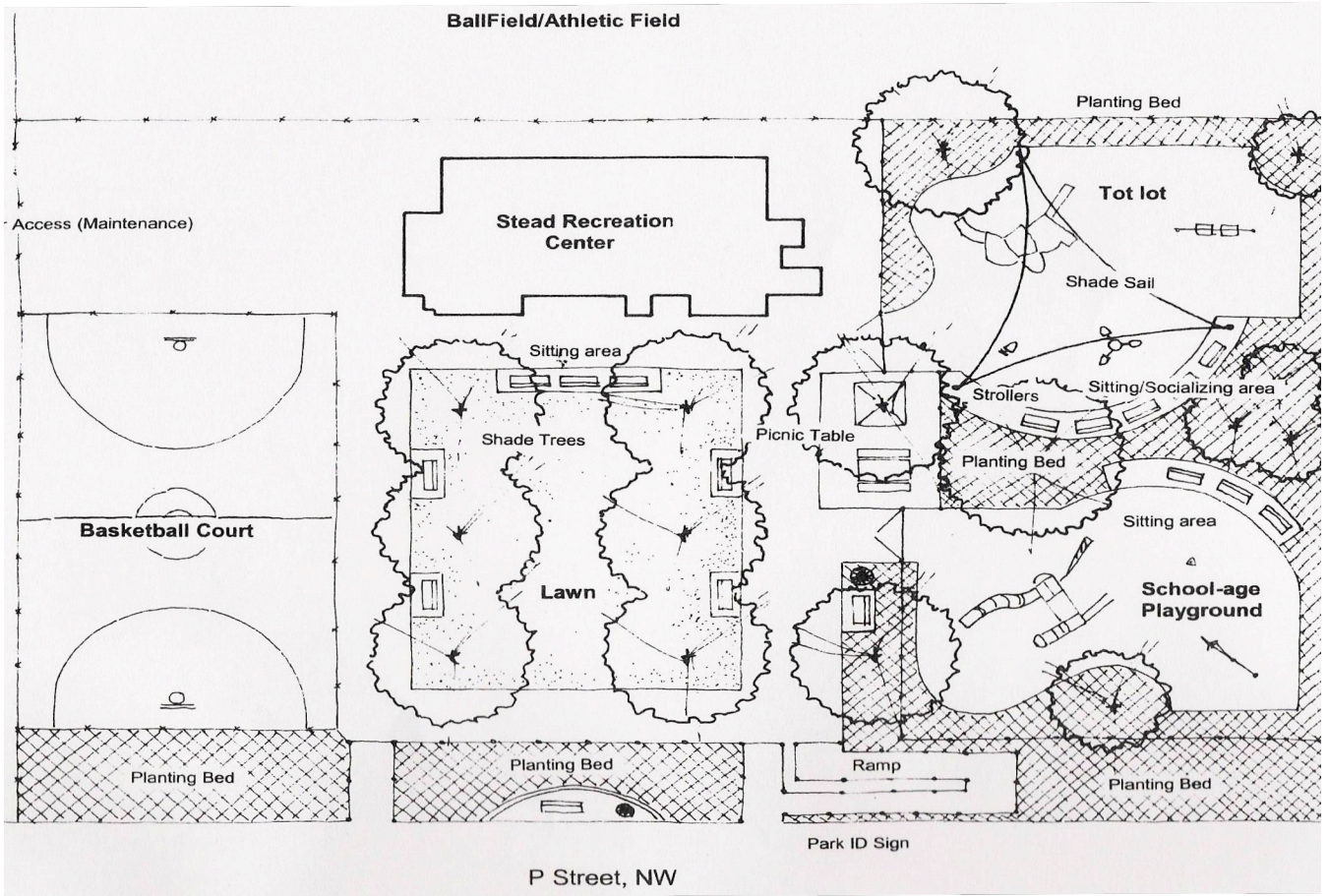
Commissioner Bowie recommended that ANC 2B take no action on this matter. He asked Mr. Marchant to communicate to the Sierra Club that some individual Commissioners expressed concerns about the proposed permit. Interested constituents may contact Mr. Marchant at 202-331-5448.

STEAD PARK RENOVATIONS

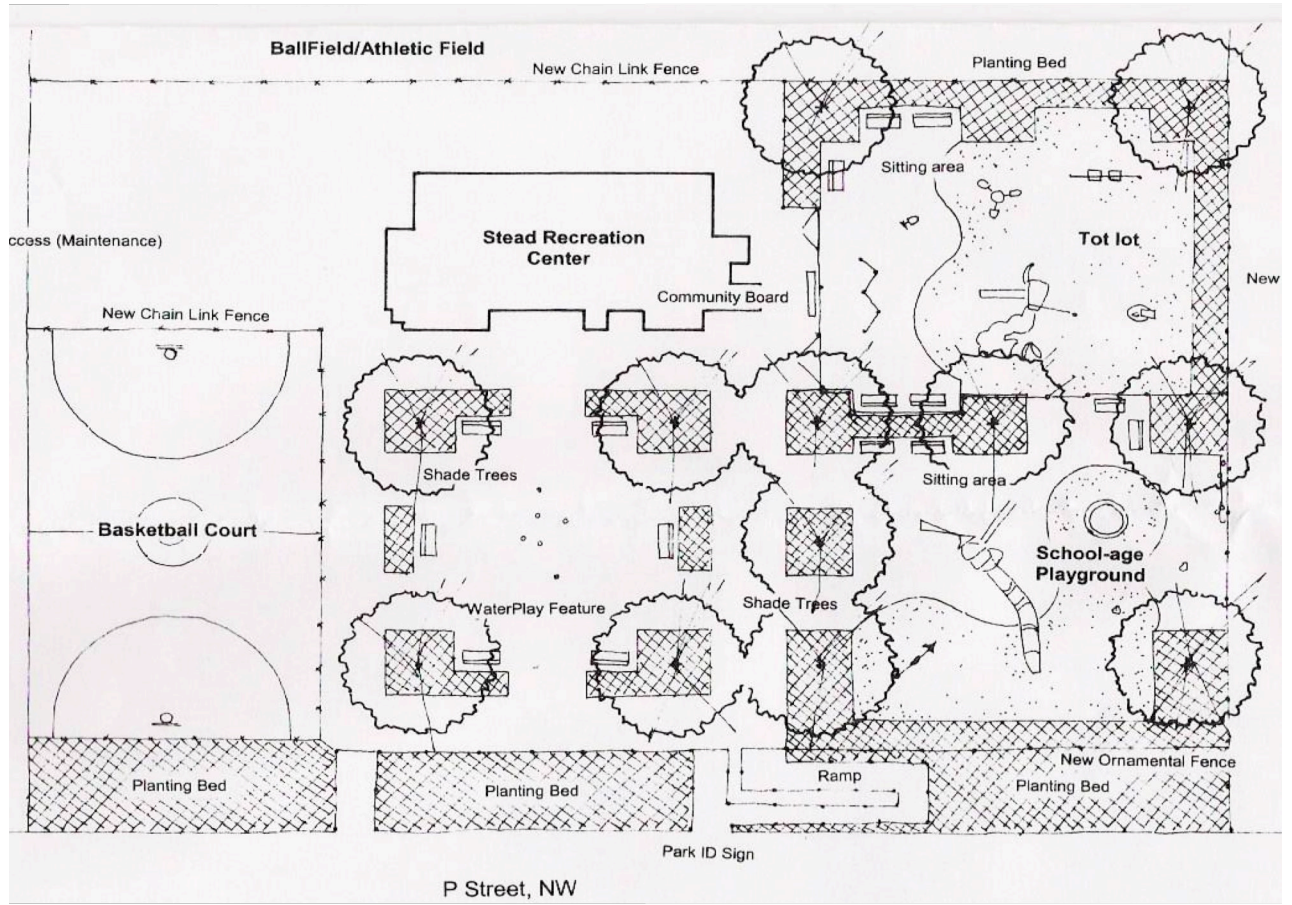
The Commission considered three conceptual designs for renovation of the children's play area.

Maryse Beliveau, Landscape Architect, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), appeared before the Commission to present three designs for STEAD Park. She thanked constituents for their comments. Interested constituents may contact Ms. Beliveau at maryse.beliveau@dc.gov or at 202-671-3246. She presented the following 3 conceptual designs:

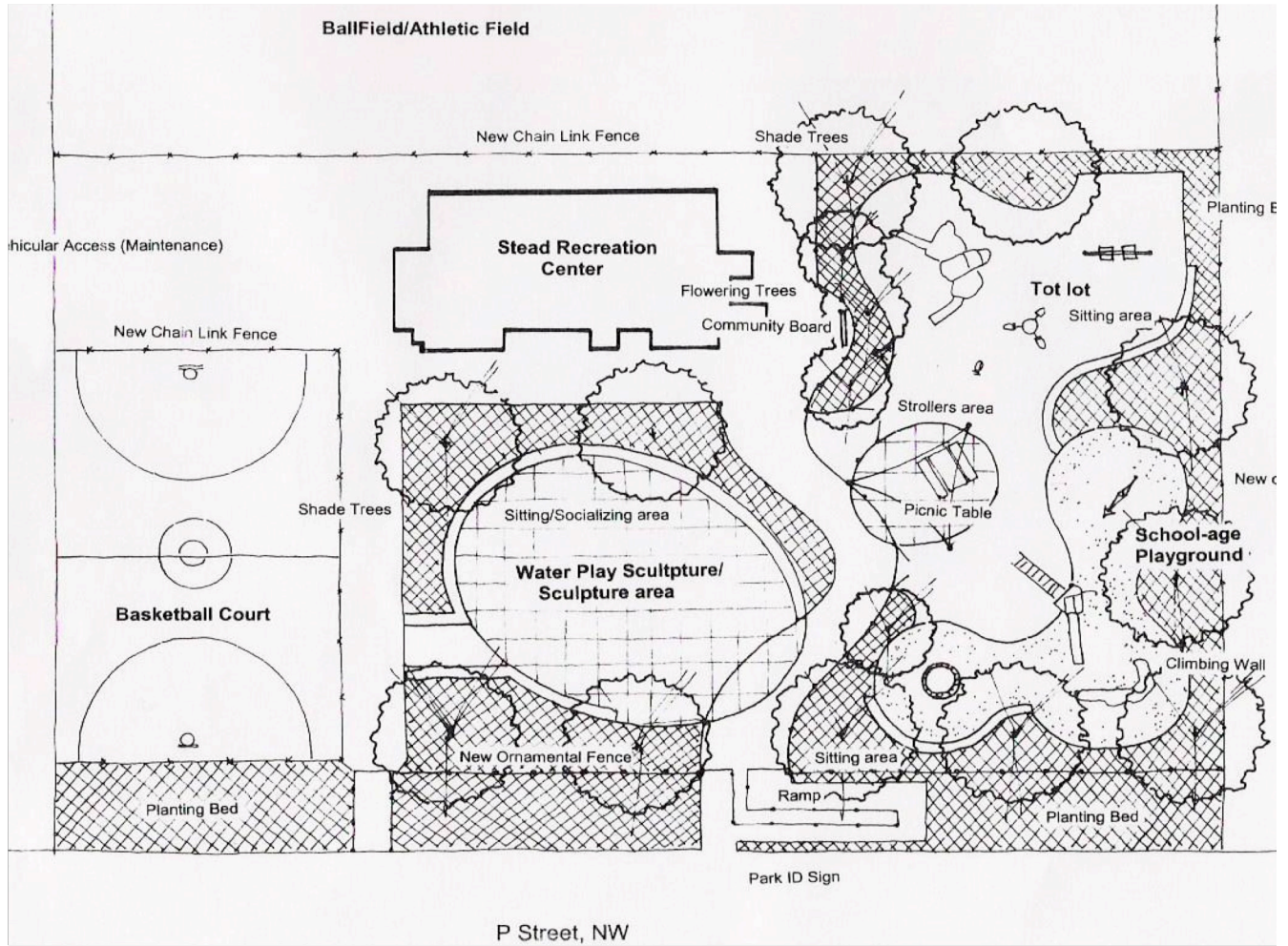
Design 1:



Design 2:



Design 3:



She noted that all three designs incorporate a signage system for the main entrance, basketball court, playground and community board. All three designs will incorporate new hard surfacing and the playground will include pervious surfacing.

Ms. Beliveau explained that DPR would send out a request for proposal to a consultant and architecture firm to develop the general parameters of the project. The consultant will have 10 weeks to develop the project. She stated she would present the design to the Commission when it is near completion. DPR anticipates beginning construction in July 2006. Construction is expected to take three months.

Commissioner Bjorge inquired about the storage of runoff water. Ms. Belliveau stated that runoff water would flow into a rain garden, which would not accumulate more than four inches. Commissioner Bjorge noted the sewer problem near Skewers and Luna (1633 P Street, NW).

Commissioner Silverstein noted that planting boxes would be a welcome addition to the park. Constituents voiced their concerns for maintenance and upkeep of the proposed renovations.

Commissioner Silverstein noted that DPR should make the park as low-maintenance as possible. He suggested checking surface materials at Montrose Park (R St Northwest, between 28th and 32nd Streets NW), for use in Stead Park.

Motion on STEAD Playground Concept Designs

Commissioner Bjorge made the following motion:

ANC 2B is greatly pleased that DPR potentially will be able to contract for improvements to the playground at Stead Park within the next few months and thanks DPR for its aggressive attention. ANC 2B believes that Concept Design #3 comes closest to the expressed needs and priorities of the Dupont Circle Community. ANC 2B supports DPR proceeding to final design based on the principles listed below and in cooperation with representatives from the Stead Family Trust, the ANC, and Friends of Stead Park.

1. The design should be based solely on the space available between P St and the existing ball field fence. DPR might consider designing flexibility at the North end of the playground next to the ball field fence so that if future park improvements called for extending the playground into the ball field, the new improvements funded this year would not be wasted.
2. All space in front of the rec building, except for the basketball court, should be designed to maximize year-around use by children. Seating space for parents and adults supervising the children should be designed to accommodate any other groups of people coming to the playground for relaxation and the enjoyment of just being there.

3. The water feature is wanted as a priority feature so long as it does not unduly restrict the general use of this space when the water feature is not in use.
4. ANC 2B accepts the elimination of a half-court for shooting baskets so long as the design accommodates at least two baskets outside the full basketball court.
5. Most of the playground surface should be child friendly and all weather.
6. The desire to add gardens on the playground is admirable but it should not detract from the basic purpose of meeting playground equipment needs and the space required around each piece of equipment.
7. The community should confer with an independent playground consultant to inform itself of the design.
8. As a contingency in case there is no redesign of the rec center, the design should incorporate the footprint of a potential future, ground-level fair-weather staff/volunteer work station next to the rec center to supervise the playground and bathrooms and to provide easy access to umbrellas and other equipment.

Commissioner Movahedi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (9-0), with Commissioner Robinson voting by proxy.

Commissioner Bowie noted that the Commission would like DPR to appear at its March meeting to provide an update on the Stead Park project.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

The next regular meeting of ANC 2B will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, 7:00 PM at the D.C. Jewish Community Center at 16th and Q Streets, NW.

At 10:00 PM, Commissioner Bowie moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed by acclimation.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred E. Blicher, Jr.
Executive Director
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

ADOPTED: February 8, 2006