



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

May 28, 2022

Mr. David Wooden
Project Manager
Department of Parks and Recreation
1275 First Street NE, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
david.wooden1@dc.gov

Mr. Michael Etherton
Project Manager
Department of General Services
2000 14th Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
michael.etherton@dc.gov

RE: Latest Plans for the Stead Park Recreation Center Project

Dear Mr. Wooden and Mr. Etherton,

At its regular meeting on May 11, 2022, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0):

WHEREAS, the Stead Park Recreation Center is a community treasure, hub, and resource for Dupont Circle and the surrounding area,

WHEREAS, the recreation center requires substantial renovation and upgrades to enhance and expand its usefulness to the community, and ANC 2B is actively engaged with and supports the renovation effort,

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2022, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of General Services (DGS) held a community meeting via WebEx to present the most recent updates to the design of the Stead Park Recreation Center,

WHEREAS, substantial and unacceptable design and configuration changes had been made without prior consultation with community stakeholders, including:

- redesigned the existing building, new addition, and solar canopy,
- reconfigured the play areas and relocated the splash pad under the solar canopy, creating potential dampness and mold issues,
- reduced the size of the playing field by more than seven feet,
- replaced the “entry court” with an “entry plaza”, eliminating the “sensory garden”, and
- eliminated the programmable space at the P Street NW entrance.

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2022, DPR and DGS held another community meeting via WebEx that presented satisfactory corrections to some of the community stakeholder issues, including:

- the main building and addition were adjusted to reduce the footprint and the corresponding buffer space to the minimum necessary for safety requirements,
- the revised building footprint removes only one foot from the playing field, and
- the splash pad was relocated out from under the solar canopy and into the open air.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B thanks DPR and DGS for listening to community input, reducing the impact on the playing field, and relocating the splash pad, and supports these changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B cannot support any reduction to the size of the playing field greater than that presented on April 27, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DPR and DGS continue working with the community stakeholders to address the following suggestions:

- reconfiguring the P Street NW entry plaza to provide flexibility for a wide range of programming options and an optimized viewshed,
- replacing the playing field turf with BrockFill, and
- replacing or relocating the benches on the playing field and converting to turf to improve safety and maximize usable space.

Commissioners William Herbig (2B05@anc.dc.gov) and Matthew Holden (2B08@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Holden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Holden
Chair