

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

AGENDA

October 17, 2022

5:30 PM

Ms. Carolyn Chamorro – Chairperson

VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://nyccb.webex.com/nyccb/j.php?MTID=mb6df49f662001a11a217b85c76873a20>

By Phone – 1-408-418-9388

Meeting Number (access code) – 2345 975 4925

Meeting Password – tvJ3Gtmck83

1. Introductions

2. Presentation

- Ms. Denise Mattes, Design Director and Mr. Gustavo Frindt, Senior Landscape Architect
New York City Department of Parks
Re: Pontiac Playground

Questions and Answers

3. Adjournment

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Ms. Carolyn Chamorro, Chairperson said good evening and tonight we have a presentation from the New York City Department of Parks on the Pontiac Playground. Ms. Mattes you have the floor.

Ms. Denise Mattes, Design Director said that we are going to present our design for the Pontiac Playground.

We have \$7.6 million dollars, and the project size is about an acre. Our goals here are to upgrade active play opportunities for the neighborhood and school including a new spray shower, we're going to facilitate school use for functional and recreational uses which was part of the conversations that we had with the school, we also looked at community activities and along with the school events, to improve park security with new lighting and spatial organizing the spaces along with fencing, we're increasing the shade and planted areas adding some more trees and we're decreasing the amount of impervious area and we're going to be looking at capturing some of our stormwater.

As we all know the site, here's the site the school on the bottom, Jackson and Concord Avenue left and right. From the park within a five to ten-minute walk we have a number of different playgrounds and parks St. Mary's Park, Grove Hill Playground, Abigail Playground, Fountain of Youth Playground, Captain Rivera Playground, and Playground 52.

So, when we look at our site and the existing conditions we examine what's there now and look at what needs to be fixed based on the conversations that we've had with the community and school. Right now, there are a number of drainage issues that we know of, our safety surface and play equipment definitely need an upgrade including a beautiful spray shower area for the kids. Look at that multi-purpose area and how we can make it more inviting for everybody to use, look at the handball and reconstructing that area and then looking at basketball area as well.

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So, every time we do a park we do an inventory of the existing trees on the site, and we do have a number of trees that are being removed because of their condition. We look with our landscape unit, and we remove some of those trees the Xs are the trees being removed and the green circle are the trees that are remaining.

The area between the two schools actually our site ends at the fence line, but we will be looking at the connections from the school into the space as well. We had two input sessions one the community input session on 2/15 and then a subsequent one with the school. Many of the things we heard were the ability to have community events here, safe areas for children to play, colorful areas for play equipment, spray we also some of the things that were suggested were keeping the basketball and making all areas accessible so that everyone can use it and we heard from everyone including the kids. We took all those things into account, and this is the design we came up with.

Mr. Gustavo Frindt, Senior Landscape Architect said I'm going to start on the bottom left closest to the school we've located the basketball court there which is a high school size basketball court and that court has two traditional backboards, adjacent to that we have the synthetic turf which is sort of a free play area which can be used for informal soccer or playing ball and will also serve as a great space for movie nights so that's a great place to set up chairs, blankets and so on. There's a two-lane painted track space closest to the school and as we go a little west of that there is a seating area with benches and trees for shade we have a bottle filler with a drinking fountain. We created a new entrance at this location sort of mid-block. We've made everything so that it's accessible. There actually is this pathway that takes you from center space you can travel up to the 2-5 or down to the basketball and the synthetic turf below so it makes a kind of fun thing to travel through. So, this plaza is sort of the entrance to the park and it's the more public space. So, this area has the spray feature and has tables and chairs, box benches, drinking fountain with a bottle filler, lots of shade with the trees. To the right in the circle that middle space for games.

Ms. Denise Mattes, Design Director said that we really wanted to make sure that we're inclusive of everything that the school had emphasized which were different play spaces, color the light green and so they have an area for different activities. Not only for the school obviously but for the entire community I should really emphasize that. We really tried to squeeze as much play value as we could here we have a number of drinking fountains, we have some bike racks included here down at the bottom, we also have a spray mister here so that when it gets to hot in the summertime this spray mister will help cool everybody off and the regular tables are colorful. Gus will go through now and give you more detail.

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So, this is for the smaller kids. The one thing that we have to remember here we have new trees but obviously those trees won't mature fast, so we do have roots in the 2-5 and 5-12 to create some shaded area. You have a number of climbing pieces as you see in the playground for the younger kids within the 2-5 area, 5-12 a little more challenging I know that the kids have talked about having different levels and again having that color we did try to go with something that was colorful and also accessible there are a number of ramps here that have inclusive place a child in a wheelchair can get up to a certain level and be part of the action. We did with some very light color schemes with a gray safety surface with the black to give more focus to the play equipment so that was our intent there with the colors. As you can see we really did try to incorporate a lot of colors and the real beauty is we were able to almost match the play equipment colors here with the colors of the safety surface. Here we have a number of circles in different sizes, in different concentric circle as you move around you see here's the spray and you travel through here and there's some more color concrete as you come through here is the example of those colored circles and then within the colored circles you kind of meet hop scotch and walking along as you travel down actually a twister game I can't remember the number I want to say but I don't remember the number of the playground in the Bronx that has the twister game. We thought that this would be a fun element, so we've included here in the colors to match the play equipment colors. This is that little tot sitting area with painted games along with tot tables that will be painted yellow. We have four sprays two in ground sprays which are the directional sprays you see here and then these really cool bamboo trees that come up and they kind of spray down and that occurs within this circular concentric circle area.

So, we looked at the school needs during school hours, as well as the public's needs possibly during the school hours and we have little flexibility here so our intent here is the green area would be specifically for the school once school is in session, purple area could also be part of the school and used while school is in session and the blue area would be open during school hours to the public. Now we do have fencing that separates these areas I will show you that as we move along. The green will be for the school when schools in session, the green and purple could be combined together and the school could use that entire area and the blue would always be to the public but you could also have ability to have the blue and purple if the school is just using the green the blue and the purple could be used for the general public during the course of the day so you have some options here.

So, looking at the fencing we know that it was one thing that there were some concerns about, and we hope we've addressed your concerns still kind of keeping with our parks vocabulary, so we do have a 7 ft. fence which exists now, we're looking to keep that fence we're looking probably to put a new fence there if it's not new the fencing that is there will be painted and where needed will put in new sections so it will look like a brand new fence. But we may end up being able to replace the whole thing the intent there is to put new right off the bat if we can, will look at other alternatives but if we can it will be new. The fencing around the school

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that's a 12 ft. chain link and we have a small section of chain link behind the basketball court so that the balls don't go across all the time. To the right side we have an 8 ft. chain link that extends all the way to the 16 ft. chain link for the handball which is to keep that high for handball.

So, the interior we have a small little our typical kind of planting fence along this side of the planting, so we don't have people traipsing through the planting and then the area where we're kind of sectioning it off we have 4 ft. steel that travels along here there's a gate here, there's a gate here and the 4 ft. continues this way and closes off and then we also have a 4 ft. entrance here that also closes off and then it continues here and so we can kind of divide those spaces as necessary.

So, here is our vocabulary our furniture we're looking at the benches, the steel table with chairs, we're looking to go with this yellow which our table would also be in the yellow, here's our typical bike rack, trash receptacle's, our hi-low drinking fountain bottle filler and our lighting which will have throughout the park. Just some of our typical fencing, here is the misting pool that will use near the synthetic turf and track, this is the intended track color which also match the circles and the synthetic turf as well and our plantings we did speak to Bronx Borough yesterday and did make changes on some of the plantings so, we are using typical plant species for the space.

Ms. Carolyn Chamorro, Chairperson asked the members present if they had any questions.

Questions and Answers

MEETING ADJOURNED.