

Alta Plaza Park (North) Water Conservation Project

Community Meeting #1 on 2/4/14

MINUTES

Comments pertaining to general park condition:

1. Could water capture fall within water conservation scope with infrastructure like cisterns for re-use of water?
2. Site may have been a quarry. Engineer should investigate geotechnical issues related to a quarry and soil depth.
3. The Clay Street seepage has been an issue since the 80's
4. Water is running off the surface of the no-mow grass and causing excess runoff.
5. Concerns over expense of the south side project at Alta Plaza.
6. Consult with a soils engineer to determine if there is a perched-water condition.
7. Make engineering drawings for French drain available to the public for 'peer review'.
8. The paths parallel to Clay Street are not engineered properly with sub base material causing failure and need replacement.
9. Sprinklers are running during the day on the north side causing impact to daytime use of the park, as well as wasting water due to evapotranspiration
10. Gardening staff are operating the irrigation system manually. They need to learn to use the automatic irrigation system.

Comments pertaining to the Water Conservation Project:

1. Why weren't the entry way plants not planted on the south side of the park?
2. The pathways/erosion on the south slope of the park summit are due to irrigation and mud runoff. Formalize these as pathway.
3. Staff needs to maintain any new planting areas. The pathways are dangerous in the current condition and should be considered as part of the project.
4. Please assure that materials that are used won't travel to other parts of the park with heavy use by dogs, kids and wind.
5. Hebe should be considered as a primary shrub in the park due to the success at the Presidio.
6. Address all the drainage and low infiltration issues causing mud with an engineer as to not repeat prior issues with the drainage at the park.
7. Reevaluate use areas to ensure the design is not taking away or negatively impacting current uses, from kids especially.
8. Shade in the playground is a dire need. Protected tree replacement is a priority to achieve shade. The originally planted trees and turf grass ground cover did not survive.
9. Mown lawn replacement should maintain the texture and feel of the existing turf grass.
10. There is a concern that the south side drainage issues at the sidewalk will not be addressed by the department. This has been an ongoing issue for over 30 years.
11. Tree assessment is needed as part of the project to address dangerous trees. Some of the trees have not been maintained and are past their lifespan.

12. There is existing irrigation for trees at the playground. Trees are needed and were originally specified.
13. Synthetic turf might be toxic and was not recommended in the original playground design.
14. Ensure that drainage is proper by using the correct base materials.
15. It is emphasized that the slick sidewalk needs to be addressed with the french drains.
16. People bring dogs to Alta Plaza Park. The perimeter planting must endure both dog and human traffic as dogs jump the wall to enter the park.
17. Request is made to keep the open and flexible passive lawn areas to a great extent. (Comment is supported by another meeting participant.)
18. A request that the entire park have a unified design even though two separate projects.
19. Request to keep the park open and unstructured; do not chop up the spaces with plant materials.
20. In comparison the Lafayette Park, the use by kids at Alta Plaza is higher due to proximity to schools. Perhaps the schools can contribute money and input on the design?
21. Request to ensure the overall look is visually appealing and well maintained. Private funding may come more willingly if concerns like maintenance are assured.

Comments submitted on Comment Cards

1. Please make all comments written/taken during meeting & PowerPoint presentation is made available online.
2. Funding seems to be a major reason it's not maintained. Why not see if some of the schools (private ones) would contribute so we could improve our park? Stop watering the park grass during the day! Wasteful!
3. The drawings and pathway issues are not just maintenance issues but serious safety issues. It may be a rhetorical question, but how many people have to slip/trip and fall and how seriously must they be hurt before these issues are addressed? Funding and commencement of work should begin immediately. It will likely be cheaper, consume fewer resources, and will certainly attract less negative publicity than litigation.