

Meeting Minutes
Kate Furbish Elementary School Playground Committee
Thursday, June 28, 2018

Present: Paul Perzanoski, Jeanie Doughty, Tracey Peck-Moad, Jeanne Baker Stinson (chair), Guest and advisor Matt Pitzer from PDT

- 1) Jeanne shared her most recent conversations with Laura Newman from Portland Trails (the School Yard Greening Coalition) including that she charges \$70 for a planning meeting and between \$315-\$350 for planning, a charrette or presentation, and a follow-up meeting. Tracey Peck-Moad and Jeanne Stinson laughed together that they would pay for her out of pocket!
- 2) Jeanne shared brief reviews of the two books about “green” playground purchased by the school department – *Asphalt to Ecosystems* and *The Science of Play*. Neither represent completely our vision or circumstances but both have useful ideas, ideological frameworks, pretty pictures and are well worth reading. *The Science...* is about public play spaces rather than school based ones but has an interesting focus on play itself and the different types of play one could provide for. *Asphalt...* is about school yards but combines an emphasis on ecological goals with the play elements which is not the direction we are taking in our play space. They are to share with the committee. Contact Jeanne if you would like to borrow one to read as well.
- 3) Matt agreed with the committee’s desire to hire a designer for the play spaces for many reasons. It will be necessary for someone to oversee the whole process – earth moving, installing equipment, etc. Also, a designer can help with phasing should we need to put off part of the project for after securing grants or community fund raising, and can create images to build excitement or to help with needed fundraising.
- 4) Matt also explained that an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) is a document that shows that an individual or company is qualified to do the work needed. Laura Newman had explained to Jeanne earlier that in an RFQ there is no need for a business to determine fees up front. They provide fee estimates after they are selected as the top applicant. It is often used in cases where the service is a specialty rather than something that many companies could provide at different costs. The process is less arduous for the applicants and thus sometimes more attractive.
- 5) Matt apologized for not getting back to Jeanne with answers to a series of questions she had asked by e-mail in the past month as preparation for the meeting.
 - a. There is no possibility of having drinking fountains on the playground. They would need to be drained and turned off in the winter and can become a maintenance issue if that is not done properly or in time. In addition, they would be most heavily used (presumably) in summer when responsibility for maintaining them would then fall on school department staff.
 - b. PDT is aware that water spigots needed for watering should be available and will be needed for any gardening.
 - c. The size and shape of the paths that will be used on the playground has been determined and is depicted on the site drawing that we saw at an earlier meeting. Those cannot be changed.
 - d. There is no possibility for incorporating changes in grade that might be desirable on the play grounds (hills for sliding for example) as a “while you are here” element of the site work because the site is already so flat that there is a concern that the builders will need to bring in fill just to achieve appropriate slopes for drainage.
- 6) It was agreed that Jeanne will try to meet with Laura Newman over the summer. Matt explained that the committee has plenty of time.

- 7) We will likely not have our next playground committee meeting until the September or October meeting of the larger committee.

NEXT MEETING -- November 8th, 2018 at 5:00.