



Raleigh Park Public Art Meeting Notes

Project: *Nature Revealed: Discovering Nature through Art*
Location: Garden Home Recreation Center
Date and Time: January 29, 2014, 6:30-8:30pm

Staff Present: Kristin Atman, Interpretive Programs Supervisor
Bruce Barbarasch, Superintendent of Natural Resources
Peggy Kendellen, Regional Arts & Culture Council
Adam Kuby, Artist

1. Welcome & Introductions

Bruce Barbarasch welcomed the audience of approximately 15 neighbors. He gave a brief overview of the July 25, 2013 meeting, noting that staff had incorporated public input and were here tonight to show the design changes. He noted that public input was important in person, in writing, or on the phone.

Kristin gave a brief background of the *Nature Revealed: Discovering Nature through Art* Interpretive Sign Network Project and the 2008 bond measure that has provided funds for natural resource interpretation. These funds cannot be spent on paths, playground equipment, or regular maintenance. She reiterated that public input was important and outlined the goals for this project, which are as follows:

1. Encourage, and allow for, repeat visitation and engagement in natural processes and our natural areas.
2. Increase patron's observation skills of the natural environment.
3. Increase patron's knowledge/understanding of ecology and interconnectedness between people and natural resources.

The purpose of this meeting is to present the revised art project designs for Raleigh Park, answer questions, and collect feedback from the public. The public comment period is open until February 7, 2014. People were encouraged to submit comments at the meeting, through phone, e-mail, via mail to THPRD, or through the THPRD website.

2. Project Overview and Design Concept

Project Overview

The artist, Adam Kuby, gave introductory remarks:

- He is excited about engaging people in the environment.
- Previous work in Washington, California, Oregon, and British Columbia
- Experienced in landscape architecture, forestry.
- Likes using natural forces in his work – especially growing trees and stone. He feels nature is always growing, changing. Humans make things square and flat. His work explores what happens when the two ideas meet.

Design Concept

Adam explained each of the five art pieces (see the *Raleigh Design Proposal* pdf at www.thprd.org/art for specific illustrations). He felt the art would draw people into the park, but won't require much maintenance. They are designed to be classy, simple, and natural. He placed them so they would not impede regular park activities. They can be experienced separately, but add up to one collective piece. He specifically noted the following:

- Cross hairs piece: Will be placed near a bald cypress tree; a poem or related, evocative words will be etched into the stone. Theme of text will be time, growth, decay, or seasons.
- Parallel stones: Will be placed near a cedar tree and are designed to move and shift. Each stone will also have words etched into the stone.
- Geology slabs: These will show how things beneath us move slowly and powerfully. The geology stones will have maps of the Tualatin Valley etched onto the stones.
- Poetry/100' line: This line of carved stone will be eight to nine inches above the ground with trees and some shrubs planted along either side. The pieces will move, shift, and heave as the trees grow.

3. Questions (Q), Answers (A), and Comments (C)

Q: Why granite not basalt stone?

A: Basalt gets very dark and is harder to work with. Sculpturally it feels "heavy." The darker color makes text harder to read. There is some granite in Eastern Oregon, so it is not a foreign material to the state.

Q: Are you worried that the pieces will look like rubble in 30 years?

A: Moss, cracking, and movement of the stone is part of the aesthetic and is completely acceptable/expected. If big branches or other disturbances happen to the pieces, repairs/clean-up will be done.

Q: Ash trees have a short life span – will they live long enough?

A: A THPRD arborist feels the trees are healthy and will live long enough to be a part of the art project.

Q: Will trees grow around instead of pushing on rocks?

A: Trees will grow around some, but will push others depending on the size and location. Consider visiting an old cemetery such as Riverview to see what trees do at the base of their trunks.

Many questions were raised about the 100 foot poetry line and are summarized here: Is this made of one long stone? Concerns were expressed that it would be in the way of activities including sledding and other activities. At dusk people might trip on it. This is an obstacle. Could it be high enough to double as a bench? Could it be twice as high and half as long? Could it be going up slope instead of across the slope? This object goes against the flow of the landscape. Could it be placed along the stream or the wet area? What about placing it closer to SW Ridgewood Lane?

A: This installation is made of multiple long stones that will move over time. Staff chose this location because they thought it would be out of the way and also easy to get to for maintenance access. Staff will reconsider other locations. Because the stones are light colored, will have trees around them and are eight inches off the ground, it seems unlikely that someone would trip on it. Putting it up slope could lead to it sliding downhill. The artist prefers a flatter grade so that changes due to tree activity will be more obvious. Staff will review other locations and make additional observations of park usage to find the best place for this piece.

C: A patron asked the following in one statement: Could we spend the money on trees instead? We have an obesity issue. Can this money be spent on transportation issues? People who have been hit by cars could be listed on the stones. This project is a waste of money.

A: The funds for the project can only be used for natural resources interpretation.

C: I would like to see more rounded edges. The square cut stone in the illustrations looks out of place.

A: Not all pieces will be flat, but using a computer for the mock ups gives that impression. Some edges will have texture, some will be flat. [Note: Photos of the artist's previous projects were shared showing rounded or rough edges.]

C: I'm worried someone will get hurt due to the hard edges.

A: The artwork will be reviewed by staff and THPRD's risk manager to check for likelihood of injury. Given all the other items in the landscape currently, these appear to be low-risk.

Q: Will there be interpretive signs to go along with the art? (Some patrons worried they wouldn't be around long enough to see the changes, but hoped that it would provide a level of understanding to others about what was going on.)

A: Originally it was hoped that people would form their own observations without signs. Based on comments, staff are considering some signage discreetly placed to avoid interfering with the art or providing additional information on our website.

Q: Will teenagers move or vandalize the art?

A: Neither the artist nor the representative from the Regional Arts & Culture Council has experienced issues with similar pieces. The stones are heavy and could be dislodged, but it would take a prolonged effort.

Q: What types of trees will be planted?

A: Mostly native species of leafy, deciduous and evergreen trees.

Q: Will the poetry be ground into the stone and/or painted?

A: It will be sandblasted into the stones. The artist is hoping to gather words and/or poetry from members of the local community and is excited about this part of the project.

Q: Where will the stone come from?

A: Probably from a quarry near Vancouver, British Columbia due to quality, price, and past experience with the artist.

Other questions or comments:

- I liked the art more than I thought I would, especially the smaller ones. Not so much the 100 foot line. Could it be pierced or made more obvious that there is movement/a process going on?
- There was interest in community involvement in writing poetry or words.
- Nobody uses the horseshoe pits. Can they be removed?
- It would be nice if there were more places to sit in the park. Especially chairs that could be moved around.
- Dogs are often off-leash in the tennis courts.

4. Next Steps

Recommendations for next steps will be presented to the THPRD Management Team. If modifications to the designs are minor, the project will move forward as planned with considered refinements. If modifications to the designs are significant, a third public meeting will likely be conducted. Final design proposals, meeting minutes, and additional information about this project can be found on www.thprd.org/art. Construction is tentatively planned to begin in the spring of 2014 and will conclude with the installations of artwork by June 2014.