

PALISADES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 3, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

Good afternoon Mayor Buck, City Councilors, City Manager Bennett and staff.

It is good to see you all again.

I've come to speak on the status of Rassekh Park development in my role as Chair of Palisades Neighborhood Association. You've each received a copy of our "Association Statement" and I hope you've had a chance to at least read the one-page narrative at the beginning where we emphasize that we have a mandate based on a recent survey open to all PNA residents.

First, a few general comments:

- We are NOT opposed to ALL development within the boundaries of Palisades
- There is general support for increasing athletic field capacity.
- The three largest developments in Lake Oswego, I believe, not counting schools nor the pending Waste-Water Treatment plant, are ALL within PNA boundaries and ALL along Stafford Road, within Palisades.

PNA's Association Statement was written as an alternative to the three options presented by the park designers, which are inconsistent with:

- The Hazelia Agri-cultural Heritage Trail (HACHT) working group "Option 4", a park design friendly to natural space, habitat and family activities, and supported by PNA, McVey/South Shore NA and the Stafford Hamlet
- The Luscher Area Master Plan (LAMP) from 2013
- The city survey indicating strong preference for natural spaces, habitat protection and oriented around family activities

The Statement supports:

1. Minimum %50 of park space to be allocated to a family neighborhood park setting
2. A multi-sports field
3. Preservation and protection of wildlife habitat and natural areas
4. Stewardship of physical and cultural aspects of Pecan Creek
5. Parking and entrance on the north side of the park
6. Prohibit large, tournament-style events
7. No light pollution
8. Preference for natural turf over artificial
9. Covered area with a fireplace such as is in Foothills Park

We sent the PNA statement, an official public document and part of the public record, to all councilors, city staff and

relevant Parks and Recreation personnel on July 7. We received one acknowledgement from a city councilor and no comments or acknowledgements from anyone else. We finally received a response from Mackenzie on July 30, over three weeks later after repeated requests. This is not what respectful responsiveness looks like. There is widespread feeling in the community that civic involvement guidelines are not fully respected and that our voices are not being heard sufficiently. I'm detecting about as much public mistrust on Rassekh as we saw for the Cook's Butte communication tower not long ago.

PNA emphasizes two other cart-before-horse strategic points:

- Current plans do not include funding for improvements to the Rosemont roundabout which is most certainly to be impacted by the three projects on Stafford Road. Without Aquatics and without Rassekh, the roundabout is already failing. It is rated as "F" (where the lowest acceptable city LOS is "E"). With one or both projects the rating for the PM commute remains "F"
- Rassekh property is not within the Urban Services Boundary so the City is proceeding without a solution on how and when services and infrastructure can be provided. This is like building a house and not considering how the plumbing will be incorporated or paid for until after the house is built.

PNA is urging City Council to:

1. Not move this project forward unless and until: the roundabout capacity issues have been solved and funded and the USB issues are resolved.
2. Reject the three existing park design options and embrace the neighborhood-friendly HACHT Option 4; direct the project team to go back to the drawing board and produce a creative solution to the traffic, ingress/egress question and parking as well as respectfully address the other points in the Association Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Calabria

Chair

Palisades neighborhood Association