Meeting Notes

Open House #1 for Northeast Park Recreation Center

Date: October 20, 2014
Location: Eastside Neighborhood Services
Notes by: Dave Sheppard, Susie Nelson, Ana Nelson

Following are the notes collected on the three image boards at the first Open House, which depicted a range of images for Athletics, Classroom and Social places, and places for Youth activities.

I Places for Athletics

General comments on images:
Prefer angular rather than curved forms
The outdoor basketball court is important: the existing one is in terrible shape, with roots buckling the deteriorated surface
Make the building fit into the neighborhood - maybe it could look like a reimagined light industrial building - cites new Washburn Childrens Center on Glenwood as a negative example of neighborhood fitness.
Admiration of buildings that "look very natural," new Silverwood Park building cited as example
Fee based programs should be considered to ensure sustainability of programs
Classroom facilities for all ages
Large spaces divisible for rentals
Fitness facility with weights and cardio machines - for use while kids/spouses are at a meeting or game
Winter programming is essential
The masterplan identified walkability as a major park component - a winter walking destination (e.g., indoor track) is needed
Not nearly enough gym space in NE - and what we have is substandard
Preschool was/would be great
Seniors need aerobic activity, light resistance training, and daylight
Strong support for indoor track
II. Places for Classes and Community

General comments

Like workshop/combine with kitchen space
In F, concrete flooring could work
Cork flooring for dance areas
Prefer wood structure roofing versus painted exposed structure
F, B, & I: waiting is good - for kids in activities
Uses for H: walking track, play areas, meetings, athletic programs
A: already exists at high schools, etc. - partnership is developed.
Need teen kitchen for cooking and classes
Already have lots of classrooms in NE - need gym/meetings
Flexibility is key
A is too program-specific
F or G is what is needed: amplified sound, divideable, av/tech; works for birthday parties and neighborhood meetings
D: windows are good but light is controllable
F: Like openness to exterior / connection to outdoors
C: Like theatrical ability / interesting spatial quality
D: Looks like typical park building
H/I: not high priority / not used very often. Good for kids to wait for parents

Building should respond to climate: need winter programming
Consider lighting and relationship to outdoors in winter

Use the gym - rent it out / rented classrooms for birthday party - balls available/waiting or overlook room into gym is great idea / visual connections between spaces / focus exterior views onto interesting site elements

Athletics is primary use.
NE Booster Club meetings
Kid uses.
Hang-out space is good.

Want more arts & performances
Need dance performance space; need mirrors for dance
G: like class space
G: Dance Room
A: not a priority - can be gotten used (?)
F: too corporate
Gym is currently what is most needed
Would like more hang-out space
Would take classes if available
F: ability to close doors is important; would like carpet
G: like musical instruments
I: lots of people can see each other.
Pro daylight!
Coffee service is a great idea

Kids space in gym is desireable - #1 use
Need appropriate space for yoga classes
Neighborhood meetings
Preschool programming
Exercise classes

Words & phrases used to describe each image, by frequency:

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III. Places for Youth
Indoor play area: nice soft area

A: Pottery – definitely a wet area with sink space, meeting

C: closed space out of noise – contained space

D: Indoor play area with one entry point

Clerestory windows – high ceilings

Displaced when rec. space, Gym place has high priority, large

Masterplan – walking circuit / corridor that overlaps w/gym with nice lighting – Midtown Y – flexible interchangeable gym space

Still want meeting rooms / rental space but gym still a priority

School has double gym but it’s not open to public. Maybe a partnership can be developed? Tournament space with school space?
Teen activities have been dispersed – cooking classes, girl power, etc. was not instituted or don’t know if they were placed somewhere else? (Logan has a kitchen with cooking activities.)

Not enough gym places / ballet – wood floor or soft floor

Separate lounge space / sound proof

NE used to have a lot of teenagers

Cool space for the little kids / multiuse space. Prepare for family nights. Like D (indoor play space) and I.

When rec center closed they were looking for gym space and cooking space. Big attendance for teen night.

The previous layout wasn’t flexible.

Like the open areas such as H but also have something like the Eagle’s Nest.

Walking track. Is there a way to have a membership or a fee to use?

Bottineau has a walking path around the courts at the floor level of the gym, but people complain of balls flying around

Plan for something we can afford

Flexible space, used not just for small or big kids – overlap spaces

See something beyond typical rec centers. Use of glass – views to playground and water park. Flexible space for use of water park and transitional spaces.

H image is preferred – old/new combined – rafted roof look (?), and D, indoor play space. Beltrami has very young kids/community.

Like breaking use by age. Beltrami will utilize NE a lot.

Rolling activities easily to accommodate demographic shifts or whatever type of events.

Look at interpretive features / cultural or historic features. Bridge at NE has a lot of cultural & historic features.

Like C – big space for activities and relaxing. I is nice for little kids.

Athletic spaces for teens, ping pong but also reading spaces.

Natural lighting, windows, high spaces

NE was fine but not a great community space, looking for more interesting activites and rec use of space

Like ping pong and spaces for kids. Like I. But also athletic facilities.

Things for little kids but also geared for all ages overlapping.

Looking forward to indoor gym space, but D takes a lot of space & budget. It would be better to have flexible use space.
Used to do preschool and open gym & space programs (?), yoga
Like classroom spaces that are sound proof. Looking for supervised spaces and open spaces.
School being there has helped with more activities and supervision.
Neighborhood really liked having the preschool there.
Like the windows. Really like A & I but concerned about modern look, might look dated?
Space for little kids without worrying about big kids
Buffer space – age appropriate with some overlap
Movie at the park very popular
Would like an art room – best thing after school all day.
More younger kinds moving in so activities for youth will be very popular
Flexibility key – for kids & adults. B doesn’t feel welcoming for all activities versus A and H feel more open and flexible.
Rent spaces for birthday parties. Have spaces available and affordable for rental.
Open Gym very popular
Don’t want to feel that they would ruin art tables with food – potluck.
Winter programming is necessary. Nothing happening at NE in the winter.
Connection to the outdoors – connecting outdoor activities.
Doing things / having activities year-round.
Fitness room – not very big – if kids are doing some activity, adults would have choices as well.
Like the materials / feel of H. Honest expression of materials with (quirky?) use of colors would be very well received, as well as H; inviting.
I feels too structured.
Like the idea of indoor play area but not specifically set for that use. It could be more flexible setup that can rent the play space.
Space programmed overlooking the gym, for supervision
Sightlines are very important.

- End Of Notes -