

MEETING MINUTES
GRIMMONS PARK RENOVATIONS
MYSTIC ACTIVITY CENTER, 530 MYSTIC AVENUE
OCTOBER 24, 2007, 7:00 PM

City of Somerville
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SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- I. Physical Assessment
- II. User Groups
- III. Parking
- IV. Security
- V. Ideas

Physical Assessment

- Fence repairs are needed: match color and height all around park edge
- Lighting needs to be addressed: park is too dark, encourages unwelcome night activity
- Tree management – cuts made poorly, stumps remain, no apparent follow up
- Broken bottles, other dangerous refuse found in morning
- Dog waste left in park; needs to be addressed
- Fix/upgrade the water bubbler

User Groups

- Eliminate basketball courts – very noisy at night
- Design to encourage use by small children
- Seniors currently use the park for quiet activities
- Some teenage activity negative: e.g., fireworks
- After school use is appropriate: 10-12 year olds playing sports, social gathering spot
- Headstart's use of park is supervised and appropriate
- Some teenage use is appropriate and welcome: basketball, stickball can be a positive athletic function

Parking

- Parking needs to be examined: Grimmons Park is in an all-residential neighborhood
- New signage by DCR Mystic River boathouse prohibiting overnight parking seems to be working

Security

- Regular police patrols needed in neighborhood: should eliminate much drinking, cursing, other unwelcome night behavior

- Do other parks have curfew signage?

Ideas

- Move benches to the middle – currently all are on edges of park
- Abutter concern: don't want to see into the park from home; increase tree border
- Fence needed on Governor Winthrop street edge for child safety
- Attractive gardens and flowers would be appreciated
- Swings, areas for children's play should remain
- Choose tree/shrub species to encourage year-round flowering
- Reduce sound out to street
- Variety of play structures are needed for multi-age use
- Street improvements needed to slow traffic on Governor Winthrop: speed tables, crosswalks, etc. Street is being used as commuter cut-through.
- Look at street improvements on Broadway: attractive materials include cobblestone, brick, mulch, seasonal flowers
- Used to be a water play feature for children in the current basketball court area - reintroduce