

Central City 2035 Testimony

Regarding the need for parks, community centers and schools in the West End
July 26, 2016

I am Christine Neilsen. I reside at 1221 SW 10th Avenue and have been a West End resident for 10 years. My professional work was in education and community engagement, having served recently as chair of the Portland Community College Foundation Board and member of the PCC President's Advisory Committee.

I endorse the policy changes noted in the draft 2035 Plan that now include the need in the West End for parks, schools and a community center. (*reference Vol 1, p. 93 (map), Vol 1, p. 69*).

I have testified twice on this need in the past, and I appreciate that this testimony was heard and acted upon.

The policy change I note will be nothing more than words and hopes, however, unless it is reflected throughout the planning document in the details.

Changes calling out parks should be reflected in the West End district policies as a new policy 5.WE-4 (Vol 1, p. 71) and in Vol 5's implementation action list with linkage to RC80.

Getting the park fully detailed is extremely important to the way the West End will develop.

Looking at Central City maps provided by Portland Parks - in addition to no park space in the West End - there is no community center, no community garden, no dog off-leash area, and no elementary school - in short, no places that build community and cohesiveness.

Making the West End a good place for people of all ages to live requires that the need for parks, schools and public gathering places be addressed. They all contribute to an engaged, resilient community.

I strongly request that whatever the ultimate solution, the plan reflect throughout it the need for neighborhood park space and community gathering space; and support the need for an additional school.

Add community center to vol 1, Policy 2.WE-1, pp44 to conform with vol 1, Policy 2.1, p 42.

To create linkage with Action RC80 and acknowledge the current need, further changes needed in the timeline are: change the timeline for the following action in Vol5, p 177 Action HN35 from 6-10 years to 2-5 years.

This timeline change will position the city to better partner with PPS as they develop the Lincoln HS site.