

**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCSC Meeting
Regarding Agenda Item A-3:
Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

Brief Summary of Public Comment

Number of individuals who sent emails on this topic = 21

- **Option #1 = 4 in favor**
- **Option #2 = 6 in favor**
- **Option 1 with the slide from Option 2 = 1 in favor**
- **No opinion stated for either Option (but comments on other topics related to this and/or other playgrounds were submitted) = 6**
- **Do not support either Option (but comments on what should be done at this and/or other playgrounds were submitted) = 4**

- **Expressed the need for shade and/or a shade structure at the Playground = 9**

###

From: Erin Ragland
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Reynolds, Patrick <patrick.reynolds@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vet's Park Equipment

Hi Patrick,

Regarding the Vet's Park equipment I like Option 1 better but would love to have a slide as well. Also, that park gets really hot so shade would be really helpful!

Thanks for your help with this!

Best,
Erin

###

From: Mariena
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 7:46 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vets playground

Hello,

I wanted to express my support for option 2. I have a 3 yr old and enjoy vets park as an option I can take my two boys after school. It will be nice to have more climbing options.

- Mariena

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From: G Bailey
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:08 AM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vet's Park Playground Option 1 please.

Option 1 is the better choice. Having played on the similar equipment at El Marino Park, it is kid tested and approved.

Will there still be swings in the other areas of Vet's? Will the rest of the equipment-swings, teeter totters, etc. be upgraded? We need more swings at that park, both baby swings and big swings-like El Marino Park has.

So glad the current Vet's structure is on it's way out!

Gretchen Bailey
###

From: g lee
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:49 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: veterans park renovation

hello!

i heard about the upcoming reno from a moms group. how exciting! i have no opinion on either playground design, but it would be great if SHADE could be incorporated into the new set-up!

thanks!

grace
###

From: Yoonjin Park Cipta
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:21 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: vets park playground

Hi,

I am a Culver City resident with two young children. I would LOVE for shade over the play structure to be considered. The lack of shade is the main reason I do not frequent Vets Park over the other parks.

Thank you!
Best,
Yoonjin Cipta
###

**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCSC Meeting
Regarding Agenda Item A-3:
Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

From: Megan TF
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:24 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vets park play equipment vote

Our family votes for option two for play equipment at vets park. Our kids LOVE slides and would be sad if vets no longer had a slide.

###

From: Ti NEilbeck
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:37 PM
To: Reynolds, Patrick <patrick.reynolds@culvercity.org>
Subject: vets park playground

Thanks for sharing the renderings.
Please add shade to all of the playgrounds as the hot summers limit playtime and items are too hot to touch.

Also, can we have a water park for the kids? Some mechanical button water sprays that doesnt waste water but can keep us cool.

Thank you
Ti

###

From: Vivan Tran
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:54 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Veteran's Park playground options

TTHello,

I live in the Vet's Park neighborhood and use the park frequently. I prefer option 2, because I would like a slide and various things, not all ropes. We are happy with either, but do prefer option 2 more because things to play with vary, and are not all the same.

Sincerely, Allison Liebl(I'm a kid) (with my mom's permission)
P.S. My brother and I would also like a rock wall, like the previous playground, if possible.

###

**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCSC Meeting
Regarding Agenda Item A-3:
Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

From: Frances Rosenau
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:32 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vet Park Option 2

Hello!

My name is Frances Rosenau, and I'm a mom of two boys here in Culver City. I'm also a faith leader and pastor of Culver City Presbyterian Church.

I've reviewed the two options for the playground in Veterans Memorial Park. I prefer option 2. I like that there's a slide and multiple options for climbing and spinning.

Thank you for taking comment on this issue. I look forward to my kids growing up at this playground.

Blessings,
Frances

Rev. Dr. Frances Wattman Rosenau, Pastor
Culver City Presbyterian Church

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From: Nichole Girard
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:34 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>; Reynolds, Patrick
<patrick.reynolds@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vet's Park Playground Equipment

Hello,

I'm writing to comment on equipment options for the playground. I was able to view the two options and I vote for **option 1**. This options seems to include more for the smaller kids to use. I didn't see any shades in the plans; will this be included? I know many people who just don't go to playgrounds that are under the beaming sun in the dead of summer. The shades really make all the difference in the world!

Best,
Nichole

###

**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCS Meeting
Regarding Agenda Item A-3:
Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

From: Suzanne Wood
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2017 7:04 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: playground choices

It would have been helpful if the skills to be developed by the various pieces of equipment were noted. Also, some pieces of equipment are very difficult to see. Colors are uninviting.

When at the park, I do not often see children swinging from ring to ring which I believe is a primary piece of equipment in option 2.

Option 1 - I like all the climbing opportunities. I would take out the three pronged thing on the left of the photo and put in the slide from option 2.

Kids like things to get dizzy on. I don't see any of that. They also need to develop balancing skills. That also does not seem to be addressed.

Interesting project. I would really like to know the thought process behind the selections. That would make it easier to comment.

Suzanne Wood
Retired first grade teacher

###

From: Lorelei Laird
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 8:59 AM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: About the proposed renovation of the Veterans Park playground

Hello,

I hear through the grapevine that the PRCS Commission is considering replacing the equipment at Veterans Park. I actually did not think the equipment there was especially old or shabby, but mainly I'm writing to ask that if the Commission does renovate a playground, it please consider the needs of the youngest children. The climbing equipment at parks like El Marino is awesome for older kids, but not really accessible for toddlers and preschoolers. My son is five and ready to join the big leagues, but when he was younger, we went out of our way for parks that do serve younger kids. I am particularly keen on the idea of a playground that's accessible for disabled/special needs kids, like the one at Playa Vista or Westchester or Westwood's Aiden's Place. This would serve younger kids AND special needs kids, plus older, more able kids can still use it. That seems like a win for everyone.

Thanks,
Lorelei Laird

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**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCSC Meeting
Regarding Agenda Item A-3:
Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

From: Yogita
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 1:50 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Re park update

Hi,

Just saw some information on plans to reconstruct Veteran's Memorial park and I think it's great. However, I am curious to understand how the parks get selected for updates.

Also, is Teffelson park, a park that is frequented by many but seems to not have had any changes made for over a decade, on the update list? I am sure the community around this park would love some changes to this park.

Please let me know.

Thank you.

###

From: Rolan
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 9:29 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vets park playground equipment

I'm just writing to endorse 'option 2' for the playground replacement. It just looks more stimulating for young monkey types, plenty of vertical climbing to explore. Thanks!

Rolan Hernandez

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-----Original Message-----

From: michelle katz
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 10:20 AM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: New Playground

Thank you for installing a new playground! We wanted to throw our support behind Option 2 with the slide. We have two daughters so based on our experience, a slide is essential! Children who are not as adventurous climbers gravitate towards the slide and it also allows options for parents to interact with their children by encouraging them to slide into their arms! We hope you opt for second choice.

Sincerely,
The Katz Family - Van Buren Place, Culver City
###

**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCSC Meeting
Regarding Agenda Item A-3:
Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

From: Olivia Kim
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 1:25 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Comment on Vets Park playground replacement

Hello,

My name is Olivia and I am a Culver City resident. I live two blocks away from Vets Park and take my 19 month old son to this playground approximately 5x/week. He loves the see saw, dinosaur and horse spring riders, tunnel and the clubhouse. He also loves the slide on this structure vs the slide on the younger children's playground partly because he enjoys climbing the steps.

After reviewing the proposed sketches for the new playground, I'm disappointed to see that these beloved equipment will no longer be present. I'm also disappointed to see that the swings will not be proposed for the new playground. As an educator, I've worked closely with many occupational therapists in elementary schools who recommend swings, swingers, and seesaws to parents as these have great sensory benefit in providing vestibular input as well as allowing opportunities to work out sequencing and coordination during play. Not only are these items enjoyable in play but they more importantly fulfill sensory needs that regulate these children to become happy and functional.

I'm sure that the new proposed equipment have been the results of much thought but I urge you to please reconsider including these previously mentioned items into the new playground for the benefit of the children of our community.

Also, I understand that my child is 19 mos old and should be playing in the younger children's playground. If you have visited the Vet Park's playgrounds at any time, I know that you will have noticed that hardly any children play on the smaller playground. I, as a parent, do not appreciate that there is NO shade on this side and this makes the equipment dangerously hot for the children to touch. I believe the children do not play on it because it is not challenging enough. Children go to what piques their interest and challenges them.

If you are considering removing the swings, spring riders, seesaws, and clubhouse from the bigger playground, I suggest you add them to the smaller playground or revamp this playground as well so that it is not dead space.

Thank you,

Olivia

###

**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCSC Meeting
Regarding Agenda Item A-3:
Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

From: Summer Bowen
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 4:06 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Veteran's Park Choices

Submitting my choice from the renderings on the website.

Option 1 is a better use of space and looks way more fun.

I would add color to make it more inviting for kids.

Also please keep the swings, get rid of or replace the bouncy teeter totter, replace the playhouse, and choose rubbery flooring instead of sand. This is a tall request, but I would also like a gate around the whole thing =)

Thanks!

Summer Bowen (mother of a 4 yo and 8 yo).
###

From: Sarah Ramirez
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 6:46 PM
To: Reynolds, Patrick <patrick.reynolds@culvercity.org>; PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Veterans Memorial (Vets) Park - Age 5-12 Playground Equipment Replacement Project

Dear Culver City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission,

I am writing about the proposed changes to the playground equipment at Veterans' Memorial Park.

I am a Culver City resident who takes my three children to Veterans' Memorial playground regularly, as well as to many activities at the Veterans' Memorial building and the Plunge. I am extremely concerned about the proposed changes. Neither of the two proposed options appears to be safe and appropriate for children at the lower end of the intended age range (5, 6, and 7 year olds). Furthermore, the proposed options are not accessible for special needs children. Both options are also so similar to each other, and to existing playgrounds in Culver City (such as Bill Botts) that they offer little choice and diversity.

I have outlined my concerns with each option in greater detail below.

Option 1:

- Unlike the current play structure at Veterans' Park, this proposed play structure does not have a balance beam. Research has shown that balance or "postural stability" is an integral part of all motor skills, and is especially important for children with disabilities. The playground should therefore provide some structure by which young children can develop balance.
- Unlike the current play structure, the proposed Option 1 also does not have a slide.
- Unlike the current play structure at Veterans' Park, the proposed Option 1 also does not have swings. Swings are crucial in developing vestibular sensory integration.

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Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

-Option 1 includes a ladder/climbing structure that does not lead anywhere, which forces children to climb down once they have climbed up (since they don't have the option of taking a slide or staircase to get back down). Climbing down is harder than climbing up because children cannot see footholds when they are climbing down; therefore, young children may need a parent's help to climb back down. A playground should foster independence and self-efficacy rather than forcing children to rely on parental help.
-There are no structures on this playground that are wheelchair-accessible. Please see Aidan's Place at 1350 Sepulveda Blvd as an example of an accessible playground.

Option 2:

-The monkey bars in Option 2 do not have a ladder to help shorter children reach them, which forces these children to rely on parental help instead of developing self-reliance and initiative.
-Unlike the current play structure at Veterans' Park, the proposed Option 2 also does not have swings. Swings are crucial in developing vestibular sensory integration.
-Option 2 includes several ladder/climbing structures that do not lead anywhere, which forces children to climb down once they have climbed up (since they don't have the option of taking a slide or staircase to get back down). Climbing down is harder than climbing up because children cannot see footholds when they are climbing down; therefore, young children may need a parent's help to climb back down. A playground should foster independence and self-efficacy rather than forcing children to rely on parental help.
-There are no structures on this playground that are wheelchair-accessible. Please see Aidan's Place at 1350 Sepulveda Blvd as an example of an accessible playground.

I have spoken with several other parents who share my concerns about the proposed changes. I hope you will take our input into consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ramirez
###

From: essentialchocolateculvercity@gmail.com
On Behalf Of Essential Chocolate Desserts
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 1:15 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vets Park Playground

I am actually disappointed with both options - they seem cold and not child friendly in colors. Modern is not always the best way to go.

There should be a slide in both options.

And, instead of sand, why isn't rubberized fake "wood chips" being used. It's so much more clean and easier for families. Doesn't scratch nor gets tracked away or into their shoes.

The climbing availability is great on the current playground. That seems to be gone in both options as well. If these are the choices, I say pass on both and wait. They look depressing which is the opposite of what we want for a children's playground.

Just some opinions from a mom who's kid continues to enjoy the Vet's Park playground frequently.

Melissa Sanders, Essential Chocolate Desserts

**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCSC Meeting
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Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

###

From: Marissa Krupat
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 3:17 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: Vets Park play structure

As a Culver City resident and parent to two young children, I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed play structure that does not have shade. I am thrilled that a new structure is coming in, but please consider a shade element.

Thank you,
Marissa Krupat

###

From: lauren krisch
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 3:48 PM
To: PR&CS Department <prcs.department@culvercity.org>
Subject: vets park redesign

hello,

i am writing, asking you to reconsider the plans you have chosen for the redesign at vets park playground. the current play structure gets a lot of use and is loved and used by children of all ages. the proposed designs offer great play opportunities for kids who have advanced climbing abilities. not all kids do. in fact, many don't- these designs are UNSAFE. we cannot use syd kroenthal park at all anymore, due to the structure being waaay too advanced for my six year old. my three year old has VERY few options for play in culver city parks. where are smaller children supposed to play in culver city?

another main deterrent for our family and many others is the absolute LACK of shade in all culver city parks. i was very glad to see that this problem was remedied in all cc schools last summer. why are our public parks not getting the same upgrade?

i wish i could be there in person to express my concern and disappointment over these new plans, but as a mom of children who play in parks, the timing conflicts with important things in our house like dinner, bath, and bedtime stories. please consider that many parents who might have similar feelings will also be busy with bedtime routines and unable to share their feelings.

thank you,
lauren krisch
mom to max, 6, and sadie, 3

###

**Public Comment Received Before the August 1, 2017 PRCSC Meeting
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Two Options for the Veterans Memorial Park Age 5 – 12 Playground Equipment Replacement**

COMMENTS ON NEXTDOOR

Number of individuals who made comments on this topic = 4

- **Option #1 = 1 in favor**
- **Option #2 = 0 in favor**
- **No opinion stated for either Option = 1**
- **Do not support either Option = 2**

Sarah R. from [3 Culver Parks West](#) · 3d ago

Why would they tear down the play structure at that park? It's nice and seems relatively new
Thank



Sarah R. from [3 Culver Parks West](#) · 3d ago

Also, I just followed the link and found the two proposed replacements. They are both awful. Option 1 doesn't have a slide: <https://culver-city.legistar.com/View.as...>
Thank



Sarah R. from [3 Culver Parks West](#) · 3d ago

And Option 2 has a bunch of random poles for kids to climb, but there's nothing at the top. So you climb up and then just jump down, I guess, because there's nothing to do up there: <https://culver-city.legistar.com/View.as...>
Thank



Candy E. from [3 Culver Parks West](#) · 1d ago

@Sarah Ramirez In Option 1, it appears that play structure is similar to what they have on the playground at Bill Botts / Jefferson Blvd park.
Thank