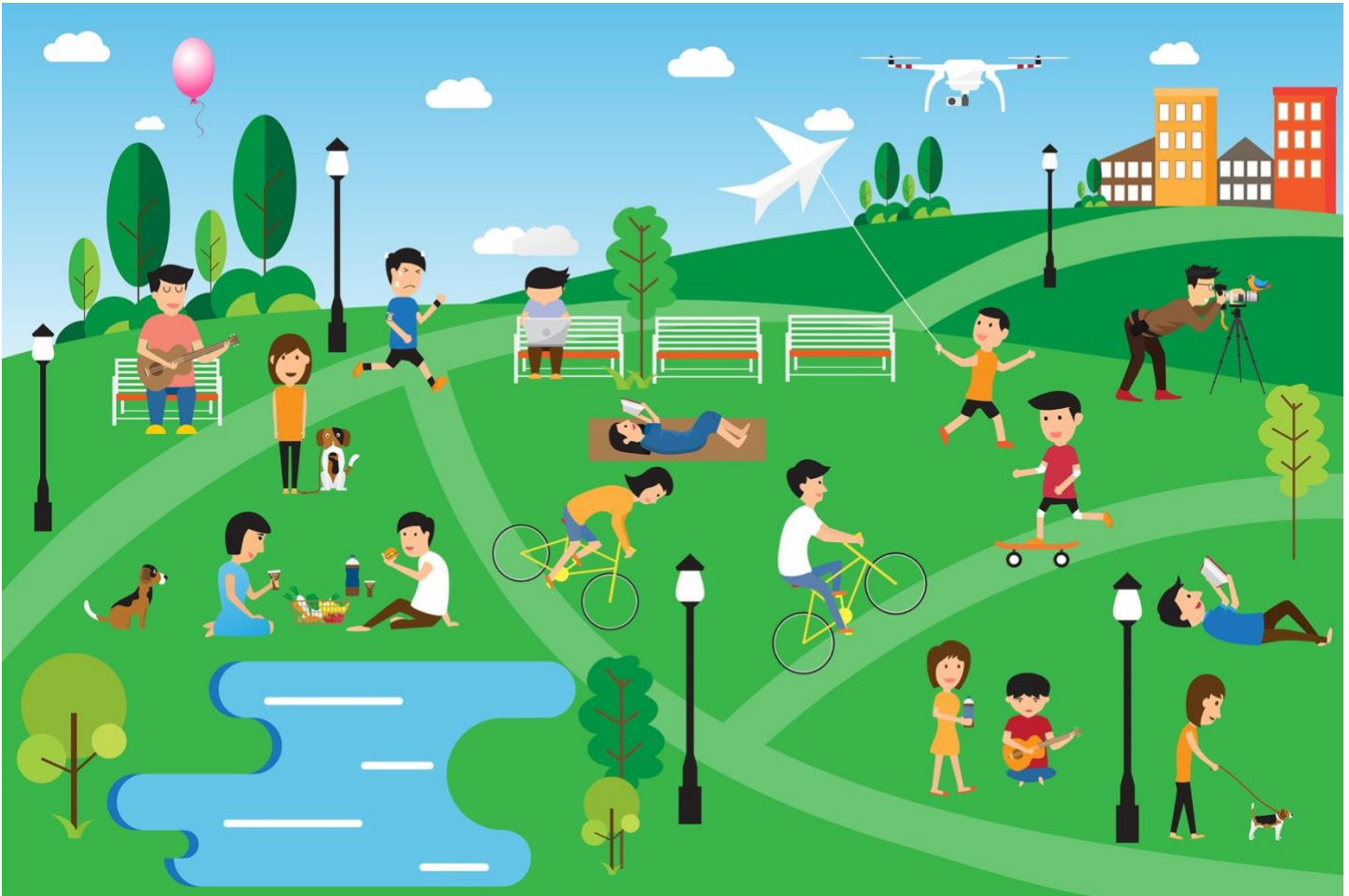


Post-Event Report

Downtown Park Opportunities - A Happy Hour Speaker Series



Following City Council's decision to move forward with designing three downtown park sites in late 2018, the Redwood City Parks & Arts Foundation (RWCPAF) set out to explore the best practices in today's modern park design. This process began with a field trip to a number of award-winning San Francisco parks accompanied by Redwood City staff members, community stakeholders, Council Members, and PRCS Commissioners.

In an effort to bring the best practices and lessons learned in the field of park design to the Redwood City community, the RWCPAF began 2019 by collaborating with seven community co-hosts to organize a 3-part park design speaker series. Each event was themed around the unique design challenges associated with each of the three Downtown Redwood City park sites selected by City Council. Each panel consisted of professionals from around the United States with backgrounds in placemaking, community engagement, park & plaza design, and architecture.

Park Design Experts Panel Speakers:

Ben Stone, Director of Arts & Culture at Smart Growth America

Douglas Burnham, Envelope Architecture + Design

Ilana Lipsett, Community Building/Placemaking

Luke Stewart, Parklab/Mission Bay Development Group

Anna Muessig, Gehl

Andrew Moddrell, Port Urbanism

Erika Uribe, Incommon

Joe Howard, Harvey Ecology

David Fletcher, Fletcher Studio

Press:

Expert panels discuss downtown Redwood City park projects, Climate Magazine

Reimagining parks in our downtown, San Mateo Daily Journal

Experts offer up park ideas in Redwood City, San Mateo Daily Journal

Taking a Peek, Walking Redwood City

Related, Along the creek, San Mateo Daily Journal

Pen TV Promo

Our Special Thanks to...**Panel Moderators:**

Barbara Pierce, former Mayor, Redwood City, CA

Dani Gasparini, Pen Voice & former Mayor, Redwood City, CA

Jim Keene, former City Manager, Palo Alto, CA

Co-Hosts:

Redwood City Improvement Association

Redwood City - San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce

Downtown Neighborhood Association

Downtown Business Group

Sequoia Hotel

Acclaim Companies

Friends of the Redwood City Public Library

The many volunteers who donated their time and effort to make this event series possible!

Audience Questions Directed at City Staff:

How are you going to handle the homeless that will sleep in the new park? What about human waste, needles and urine? Who is going to pick up the cost to keep it clean? And Redwood City Police don't have the manpower.

There is an 88-unit apartment building that is alongside city hall parking lot and looks out at the parking lot currently. Are there ways to mitigate major light, crowds, noise, day/night activities for the sake of those residents?

Please clarify the area that is being projected into the main street parking lot? 1/3, 1/2, all?

Provide data to support converting parking to public spaces that ultimately benefited businesses

Is there a specific order in which you would build the three sites?

Do you agree with keeping (incorporating) parking into the design of the park?

Can Redwood Creek be day-lighted?

Deck parking lot for more parking – put park on top

How does this “system of parks” relate to the Courthouse Square and the current programming at Courthouse Square ?

How about creating something like “The Grove” in LA? It has beer gardens, places to relax, benches. It can support things like music, Off-the-Grid, etc.

What “Edges” as being important in design, would we daylight the creek?

I would like to see a piano and xylophones in the Square. Cameras could help with security.

Audience Questions Directed at Guest Speakers:

“Spark” is a fenced park! How does that impact crime and homelessness? Is the fence closed at night? Does that work?

What is the basic threshold of community engagement you expect vs. what you get?

Thank you for considering accessibility for everyone as component for your design. To what degree are you going beyond “regular” accessibility?

What were some of your biggest fails? And were you able to turn it around? How?

How have you seen communities rally around sacrificing parking for the sake of parks? What grassroots efforts were needed to make that sacrifice appealing?