

PARC

Park Ave Residents' Committee

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The Park Avenue Residents Committee (PARC), has noted the Planning Commission's appreciation of Lennar's proposed park improvements on the Sherwin Williams site. Lennar, with input from PARC, has presented a park design that will be an asset to the the Park Avenue District and to Emeryville as a whole.

There were a couple of items that were discussed at your October 26 meeting, to which we have comments.

First, with regard to the park in general, through a series of meeting with us, the general public, and Park and Recreation Committee that Lennar has held over the past couple of years, a clear vision of the park as a flexible open urban space has evolved. It is envisioned as a place for gathering, impromptu activities for all ages, and an oasis from the density of our area. At many these meetings, suggestions of formalized sports activity spaces were raised and then later set aside in favor of an unstructured park. PARC feels that the design submitted by Lennar reflects that community input. In that regard, we support keeping the basketball area as an informal hardscape with a basketball hoop, rather than a formal full size basketball court.

Again, the community input has been, and continues to be, strongly in favor of a recreational area rather than a recreational center. We hope that the City of Emeryville will find another space and build a true recreational center that includes basketball, tennis, and any other sports needs the citizens desire.

Second, we are pleased that the Portland Loo will be placed by the children's play area. We do want to ensure that the loo is a feature of the park and not a feature of the sidewalk. The Portland Loo solution seems to be a great way to meet the community's needs without becoming a safety issue. We have asked Lennar to place the structure as far into the park as possible, without jeopardizing public safety or the design of the park. As of now, it is placed 10 feet into the property. This would be acceptable to us, but we would much prefer another 5' to 10' and have asked Lennar to consider this change.

Finally, the art within the project and the City park is important to PARC. As Sharon Wilchar stated at the Planning Commission meeting,

we are in favor of the sculpture garden. With respect to the site that falls within the City owned land, we suggest that Lennar not plan a piece of art for that space; rather that that site be reserved for a City-owned piece to be recommended by the Public Art Committee and approved by the City Council. We want to preserve that as an art-space, but think the public is best served by the commission/selection process mandated by the City's public art program. Lennar could meet its public art requirement by increasing its budget for the pieces on their property or by making a contribution to the City's public art fund.

Thank you for receiving our feedback. We are happy to have this new project in our community and continue to have a positive experience with both the City and Lennar. We hope that you will evaluate the items raised in this letter and consider making adjustments to the park plan as appropriate.

Donna Briskin, Paul Germain, **PARC** Co-chairs

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