

VII. Community Comments – Open Issues

1) Liability/Insurance

Positive:

- Given the huge risk we already have by having a lake, having a playground seems like a minimal liability in comparison.
- Playground is a minimal liability compared to the “attractive nuisance” of the lake.
- Lake is more dangerous – insurance wise – than a playground. If we can insure a lake we can a playground.
- The lake in itself is a “risk”. And a playground does not make the area riskier. Happy to have a portion of my INCREDIBLY LOW dues go to maintenance. Even though I do not have kids who will use playground.

Neutral:

- Would like to understand Insurance liability of current older playground equipment vs. new playground. Is there a big difference?

Negative:

- If insurance was main reason to LBA saying “No” to STL, then what does board think having a playground will do to draw in “transient” visitors?

2) Safety

Positive:

Neutral:

- Gil Brown recommends proactively fenced in with child-proof latch.

Negative:

- I am worried about the safety implications of splitting parents’ attention potentially, between a child at the playground and at the beach. Children can drown very quickly. I lifeguarded at a lake for 2 summers and it is much more difficult than at a pool, therefore a parent should be watching their children in the water as well as the lifeguard who has to watch multiple children at once. I also think a playground visible from the street will draw outside children and teens when lifeguards aren’t there. Again, this will probably lead to more kids in the water.

3) Noise/Parking/Vandalism

Positive:

- **Noise:** Why would noise be an issue for neighbors?? They already live by a beach. A playground will not increase noise level.
- **Noise:** Already a lively family beach so noise would not be any greater than what is currently experience.

- **Parking:** Parking is a non-issue. It would be a rare day when so many families are there at once that the lot would fill. Also the point of a playground in LB is that families will walk, bike, stroll, or scooter!!
- **Vandalism:** A neighborhood playground brings families together and creates stronger communities. I understand that graffiti is a concern, but the neighbors driving this will take ownership and pride in this. There is already a playground at Beach 3 – this will just be a better replacement.

Negative:

- **Grffiti:** We've had plenty of graffiti and damage to picnic tables, etc. with only 2 months where lifeguards are onsite, how does Board think the new and more playground equipment will escape their damage?
- **Parking:** The shoulder of the road and the trees overgrown at Beach 3 will limit parking (are only 7 or 8 paved spots in parking lot. Present equipment was suppose to last 25 years and here we are at 13-15 years and everyone says it is in terrible condition. Why should we expect more this time around.

4) General Comments Pro and Con

Positive:

- What better to make the most of our shared spaces?
- More fun! Yes Playground.
- New and reasonably sized playground equipment is a betterment for the overall community.
- Start from a place of "Yes!". Unfair to start the discussion 'here's why not' Instead let's go about working through each concern and understanding if the concern is a risk or not a fear issue. Overall, a playground will build connectedness and community! A great thing!
- Yes to Playground! All of the critiques/anti-playground arguments are undermined by one simple premise: There is already a playground at Beach 3, and none of the parade of horrors raised have actually occurred. This is merely a refresh/reboot of an already proven, existing, and positive concept. Please approve this without reservations! Thank you.

Neutral:

- Board should do more sessions when more families with young children can attend and weigh in.

Negative:

- Why not just replace the arm-breaker on Beach 3 and call it done? Other implications –
 - Garbage –already a problem
 - Noise – already a problem
 - Trespassing - need to hire more security
- Lake Barcroft does not need/want a playground. There are playgrounds all over Fairfax and Arlington, maintained by our tax dollars. The attraction of Lake Barcroft is the LAKE. Children and families have Ample opportunity to socialize in a natural environment. A playground would ruin the nature for all residents.