

## Community Meeting

Improvements to Cutillo Park

Date/Time: March 4, 2021 / 6:00 PM

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Next Meeting: April 13, 2021

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The following meeting notes document the March 4, 2021 meeting held between Boston Parks, the Project Team and the North End Community. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Project Team's initial impressions of the park and to understand the future improvements that would best serve the community.

### General Welcome and Introductions

- Brief summary of the project team, funding and schedule.

### Project Overview

- Brief summary of the basketball court, playground, swings, trees, accessibility, and connections around and within the park. It was noted at the start of the meeting that the Cutillo Park project is a City of Boston project and separate from the adjacent proposed hotel project which is going through a separate BPDA process.

### Community Comments/Feedback

#### Existing Uses:

- Dog walkers go through the park.
- Older generation sits along Stillman Street.

#### Existing Concerns:

- The existing placement of benches and fencing tends to limit the movement of children through the park.
- Basketball court has some drainage issues, tree litter droppings, damage to the backboards and poles.
- Drug use and discarded needles in the park has been a big concern as well as safety at night due to a lack of lighting and foot traffic.
- Rats are seen in the park.
- Concern that trees will be removed from the Park due to comments from developer in past hotel meetings. Trees should remain. Stantec spoke about the probability of removing a female ginkgo tree.

#### Possible Improvements:

- An adult workout zone would be a good addition to the park.
- Adding a small area for dog walkers/dog play would be beneficial to neighborhood.
- An interactive water park feature is a great idea to bring more people into the park. But there is a water feature not far away at the greenway, so may not work here.
- Would like to see a better playground for children.

- It's important to maintain seating for the elderly population who like to sit in the park.
- Keep park visually open to make sure people are seen and to discourage illicit activities.
- The park needs to be rethought, not just a redesign.

**Morton Street:**

- Would like to see the trash storage removed from Morton Street.
- Could Morton Street be absorbed into the park?
- Could Morton Street have future spaces for restaurant seating (with future adjacent business coordination) to increase activity around the park?

**Proposed Adjacent Hotel:**

- The proposed hotel height is a concern, as it would reduce direct sunlight into the park as well as block city skyline and clocktower views. The team needs to take this into consideration when choosing a plant palette.
- The proposed hotel cut-through may bring a lot of "tourists/strangers" through the park and could change the character of this neighborhood park.
- The proposed hotel project will add rat holes, trash and traffic to the park and surrounding area.

The meeting adjourned around 7:00 PM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

**Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.**