

## **PARKMAN PLAYGROUND - Meeting # 3 – Notes**

June 1, 2017

Parkman Playground – Picnic Shelter

### **Attendees:**

Boston Residents: 10 (approx.) neighbors present

Boston Parks & Recreation Department (BPRD): Nathan Frazee (NF), CSS: Joshua Burgel (JB), Samuel Basta (SB)

***Design Summary:** Residents excited by concepts, the “meander” concept and the “Tools of Imagination and Movement” enjoyed the idea to locate the shelter at the boundary between field and play area, expressed interest in maintaining existing wall/entry and controlling dogs out of the play area with fencing.*

### **ORDER OF EVENTS/AGENDA:**

- o Sign-in with email or contact information for project updates
- o Introductions
- o Meeting overview
- o Project funding and schedule
- o Summary of previous meetings
- o Presentation of preferred design alternative
- o Community Discussion & Input – Recording of Issues and Opportunities
- o Closing Remarks

### **PRESENTATION**

BPRD (NF) – Introductory comments including (re-)introducing team members, BPRD development goals, and project schedule and funding. Stated that the designs being shown are the culmination of the first two meetings’ input and that they are subject to changes from comments and budgetary constraints.

CSS (JB) – Summarized previous meeting and indicated that the design team heard that the neighbors preferred to allocate more funds toward play “Tools of Imagination and Movement” and the “Meander” concept. He described the various levels of the park and how the pathway threads between them. The entry location will be maintained, with some changes to make it more welcoming. A fence will be included along the front of the park but a flower garden will separate the sidewalk from the fence. At the stair/ramp, the opening will be wider and include a bench in order to try to create a front porch on the street. At the top of the stair/ramp a “mud room” will allow dog walkers to turn left and climb a set of lawn risers toward the baseball backstop.

Playground goers will enter a gate at the mudroom. Within the playground the various areas include:

- Slide Mound: between baseball and the playground, slight increase in elevation allows for a more effective embankment slide.
- Swing area: Basket or “rope” swing proposed, consolidating the two sets of swings into one.
- 5-12 Play area: Large structure (2 or 3 cubes) proposed for the area where the smaller kids structure exists now. Propose a bridge from the existing tree to the 2<sup>nd</sup> story of the cubes
- 2-5 Play area: Large structure (1 or 2 “space craft pods”) proposed for the area where the picnic structure exists now.
- Spray pad: small area with ground sprays meant for bringing relief for the playground during the hottest months of the year. Runoff can be diverted to stream along the pathways.

- Picnic Structure: approximately half the size of existing picnic structure with a peaked roof, located at the corner between baseball, basketball, and spray area.
- Exercise structure – with 20+ exercises and ability to log-in to an app to explain the exercises and to track training.
- Small Basketball / Trike Track included at the existing back lawn area.
- Vegetation will be limited to several signature trees, maintaining existing trees and exterior shrubs (along the parking lot) and improving the existing buffer to the parking. Interior shrubs will be removed.
- Edges of the play areas will be sloped to transition from the sloped pathway and the flat play areas.

## **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS**

A resident asked if lighting would be included: Yes

Where would the fence be located?

- Similar to existing location, but towards the back of the baseball backstop it would follow the dog walker path up the hill and then connect to the basketball fence.

What is the pavement within the play area?

- Mostly asphalt – that could be coated with lines/games similar to what is shown on the Trike Track.

Will a drinking fountain be included?

- Yes, existing will be replaced with a Bottle Filler/fountain.

NF describes the large play structure and compares height to Fallon Slide structure (about 7-8' shorter) and how it is less intimidating yet still offers significant play value and graduated challenge.

- Comment 1: It looks a little prison-like with the bars and the fencing
- Response: The “fence” is a stainless steel mesh, which is actually quite transparent. The “bars” are composed of wood or plastic and can be any color.
- Comment 2: Are there climbing features inside the cubes?
- Response 2: Yes, and they are all customizable – with the goal being fun for the kids, but also maneuverability for the adults should assistance need to be provided.
- Comment 3: Can the 2-5 spheres be stacked?
- Response 3: We will check on that, but do not think so. Though they may be able to be raised up on stilts.

Can fun features be included in the splash area, given that it will be closed most of the year?

- Yes, we will be working on that going forward.

Prefer the basket swing to the rope swing (general agreement) and can it have a solid bottom as opposed to webbing?

- There are several manufacturers, and we will look into including the one with solid bottom.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

NF reminded attendees to sign in if they hadn't already, and that the notes and designs will be posted on line.