

Peters Park – Improvements to Pathways and Lawns

April 2, 2018 Public Meeting

Attending: Cathy Baker-Eclipse, Project Manager, BPRD
Marchelle Jacques-Yarde, Outreach Coordinator, External Affairs, BPRD
Clara Batchelor, Principal, CBA Landscape Architects LLC
Megan Tomkins, Principal, CBA Landscape Architects LLC
Elder Service Representative
Members of the community, see attached list.

Cathy Baker-Eclipse made introductions, described the design process, and reviewed the BPRD's goals and objectives.

Clara Batchelor summarized the input collected from the participants of the previous (first) public meeting. She then presented Scheme 1 and Scheme 2a and 2b. These plans showed recommended site improvements based on the feedback from the first public meeting. After going through the options one time, Ms. Batchelor went through all the designs again and people gave their input. Below is a summary of what people said.

Option 1 – Washington Street

- Likes path against courts.
- Old path in park was redundant.
- Entries are cleaner.

Option 1 – Passive Area

- If a fence is added at Bradford, the desire line will change. Path should be changed to reflect this.
- Put shed for the gardeners in the passive area – suggested location is near Wilkes Street/the dog park
- BPRD does not maintain perennials or shrubs.
- Friends group will need to maintain perennials and shrubs in the passive area of the park.
- A member of the Peters Park Friends Group who does a lot of the perennial planting and maintenance wants to help with the new plant selection in this area.
- Friends will need to maintain and operate the expanded irrigation system for the passive area of the park. People at the meeting said that the Peters Park Friends Group could do that.
- There is no fence along upper Bradford Street. People do not cut through along this portion of the park but it would be nice to have a fence here to complete the park. It was suggested that the length of fence could be an add alternate.

Path Behind Baseball Field – General Comments

- Don't Fence off narrow area at Washington Street side.
- Fence along Shawmut is good.
- A bituminous concrete path will be more durable.
- Drainage should be fixed before a path is added.
- There is significant ponding in the lawn area between the baseball field and Shawmut Avenue.
- It was noted that there was also flooding at the entrance on Bradford Street and by the dog park entrance.
- The area between the baseball field and Shawmut is used for an informal dog park for those who don't want to take their dogs into the actual dog park and by the homeless.
- (It was also mentioned that the grading at the baseball field needs to be fixed.)

Option 1 – Shawmut Avenue Entrance

- There is an old shed in this area that was used by the gardeners. It is currently unusable. It should be replaced and the new shed should be located closer to Wilkes

Street/the dog park. The old should be removed.

- People like bollards along the proposed bollard at Shawmut Avenue. Like that people can walk onto the plaza at any point, not just at fence openings (if a fence was to be added).
- Like shape of plaza and added bench.
- It would be helpful for the elderly if the park has signs at each main entrance. BPRD can do this.
- People like a grander plaza.

Option 2 – Shawmut Avenue Entrance

- Like option 1 much better.

Option 2 – Washington Street

- Don't want benches facing street. Who would sit in them?
- Like more grass, therefore option 2a is not favored.
- Prefer the semi-circular entrance of Option 1 for Washington Street and Bradford Street.

General Comments:

- If colored concrete is used, do not use black. This can be very difficult for the elderly. For example, if someone is suffering from dementia, the black concrete can read as a hole in the ground.
- Provide a range of seats: benches, tables and chairs, etc.
- A boulder (or bollard?) surrounded by cobbles was suggested for path corners that get cut by city trash trucks.
- Existing drainage structures (especially in areas of flooding) need to be cleaned, and lines tested to the street.
- A double gate in the baseball outfield fence was not popular.
- Meeting attendee state that the shed replacement was promised by Chris Cook – Cathy at BPRD to follow up.

It was discussed that the meeting had provided enough feedback for CBA to prepare a final plan that would be posted on-line. A third meeting is not scheduled. The presentation from the second meeting and the final design plan will both be posted on the Peters Park project page on the BPRD website.

It was also discussed that the design will need to be reviewed and approved by the Landmarks Commission. They will not review it as an historic park because it was built in the 1970's.

End of Meeting

Notes prepared by Clara Batchelor and Megan Tomkins.

landscape architecture

urban design

master planning

