

## **PARKMAN PLAYGROUND - Meeting # 1 – Notes**

March 16, 2017

West Roxbury Prep High School

### **Attendees:**

Boston Residents: 10 neighbors present

Boston Parks & Recreation Department (BPRD): Nathan Frazee (NF), Michelle Jacques-Yarde (MJY)

CSS: Joshua Burgel (JB), Samuel Basta (SB)

***Design Summary:** Residents support the upgrading of the playground and are open to exploring a variety of play equipment, a splash pad and various picnic shelters.*

### **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 Presentation of Site Analysis
- o Design inspiration and precedents
- o Community Discussion & Input – Recording of Issues and Opportunities
- o Closing Remarks

### **PRESENTATION**

BPRD (NF) – Introductory comments including introducing team members, BPRD development goals, and project schedule and funding.

CSS (SB) – Presented site analysis, including other nearby parks, access, state of repair of play equipment and surfacing, and picnic shelter.

CSS (JB) – Presented inspirational precedent, options for types of play equipment (traditional platform, nature play, non-platform style, and parkour style), options for water play and options for picnic shelter replacement.

### **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS**

Resident 1: commented during presentation that a fabric shade structure would not be good due to windiness of the site (to bolster a comment by JB that a fabric shade structure would need to be taken down during the winter months). It was also commented that musical instruments may be too loud. It was noted that imaginative play is very important in a small space

Resident 2: voiced support for musical instruments as well as a desire to see “big things” to climb on. Commenter was against installing new swings. The resident liked one of the components in the precedent section (Supernova by Kompan). It was also stated that water play would be OK, but should be integrated like in the precedent. As for nature play, the Boston Nature Center (BNC) has lots of that and is close by. Finally, something “huge” to climb on would be “cool”, though not as big as that at Fallon Field, maybe more the height of Franklin Field (Harambee Park)

Resident 3: Works from home, would second that loud music would be unwelcome. Also voiced concern that if the park were to become a destination, that traffic and parking would be of concern. It was stated that if higher use is to be expected, than more traffic control would be needed, to which NF responded that reaching out to the Office of Neighborhood Services for traffic concerns. Finally, the commenter noted that there are space and continuity issues with the existing condition.

Resident 4: Stated that the baseball field gets a lot of use and there are no restroom facilities in the park. Players often use adjacent property to relieve themselves. A porta-potty or bathroom is needed. MJY responded that typically this is not in the BPRD scope and that in many other instances, the leagues pay to maintain portable facilities.

JB suggests a friends' group which NF and MJY second

Resident 5: Neighbors the park and works from home part time, believes that noise is part of the city and instruments would be ok, that they add to the fabric of the neighborhood. It was asked how lighting would be addressed in the park as there has been some unwanted activity after closing. MJY relied that lighting can cut both ways, sometimes additional lighting after hours can attract unwanted visitors and that these sorts of visitors shall be reported to the police. The resident responded with clarification that the basketball courts are lit until 11 PM during the summer, but the playground is dark and that maintaining current light levels would be desirable, to which multiple other residents agreed.

Resident 6: Asked if the existing drinking fountain shall remain to which NF responded that the water fountain will be replaced with an updated fountain with a bottle filler. Another resident then commented that refuse (such as plastic bottles) is an issue that the fountain may help alleviate, but that there is still too much trash as the receptacles are not emptied in a timely manner. NF replied that BPRD was working of a trashcan that alerts maintenance when it needs to be emptied. Though this is not ready yet, it is possible to plan for it by including a base and a regular trash receptacle and replacing it with the trashcan that communicates to maintenance when it becomes available.

Resident 7: Another yes to the idea of instruments. Suggested that it may be nice to have a space for kids to play and teens/adults to exercise (with equipment). Seconded concern about increased volume (traffic, refuse) should the park become a destination. MJY replied that while a small uptick in people may come to the park, that it would likely be a small one and generated by the community.

Resident 1 complimented the maintenance from the park and likes the idea of a friends' group. It was also noted that there is an existing bottle cap and pet refuse issue on the ball fields. Voiced that water play would be a great idea. Clarified and earlier point made by same commenter that softer musical instruments would be great to which JB relied that CSS would try to bring sound clips to a future meeting. Finally, bathroom facilities of some sort need to be addressed. MJY responded by saying that writing to the City Counselor would be a good way to address the issue.

NF addressed the idea of a friends group said that a good way to gauge interest in a friends group is to hold a park cleanup. Another piece of responsibility that the neighborhood could take on is keeping a dog bag dispenser stocked (BPRD would provide bags).

Resident 8: commented on some fences shown in the presentation that fences should make sure to keep balls/kids inside the park so as to avoid an accident.

Resident 9: It might be a good idea to contact leagues for input on the picnic shelter.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

NF reminded attendees to sign in if they hadn't already, as the next meeting has not been set. Signing in would be the best way to get that information as soon as it is available. He also informed those attending that the "F" column on the sign-up sheet referred to a friends' group and is a quick way to gauge interest.