



IBI GROUP
21 Custom House Street, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110 USA
tel +1 617 896 2500
IBIplacemaking.com

Meeting Notes

To: Lauren Bryant, Project Manager Date of Meeting: 02/23/2021

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|----------------|--|-----------------|-------|
| Company: | Boston Parks and Recreation Department | Meeting Number: | 2 |
| Project Name: | Jeep Jones Park Improvements | Project No: | 12634 |
| RE: | Community Meeting #2 Minutes | | |
| Recorded By: | Tyler Cromleigh, IBI | | |
| In Attendance: | Lauren Bryant, BPRD | | |
| | Christine Brandao, BPRD | | |
| | Catherine Offenber, IBI | | |
| | Tyler Cromleigh, IBI | | |
| | Community Members | | |

Note: Any errors or omissions to meeting note content should be reported to the writer within five working days from date of distribution to ensure reissue; failure to do so establishes the following as record copy.

Introduction

- **Project Overview:** Based on feedback received from the community at the first community meeting, BPRD has requested an additional \$400,000 in construction budget funding to include improvements to the Upper Terrace in addition to the original scope of improvements for the Lower Terrace. However, BPRD will only find out if the increased budget is approved in late Spring 2021.
- Community feedback is a valuable part of the design process. Any comments or questions are welcome and should be emailed to Lauren Bryant, Lauren.Bryant@boston.gov
- This is the second of three community meetings. The meeting date for the third community meeting will be announced on the official Jeep Jones Park Improvements Website: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/improvements-jeep-jones-park-lower-terrace>
- All community members and visitors of the park are encouraged to take the online survey on the project website.

Lower Terrace Improvements

Goals for Lower Terrace

- Enhance perimeter fencing and edges with gates at all entrances along King Street
- Upgrade park lighting
- Replace pavement with smooth surfaces
- Enhance park plantings
- Add seating and gathering spaces
- Add play areas for ages 0-2 and 2-5

Lower Terrace Concept 1

- Concept 1 includes two separated play areas for ages 0-2 and 2-5. A seating area is located in between both play areas. Because of the sloping nature of the park, three stairs are required between the age 2-5 play area and the seating area and four stairs are required between the age 0-2 play area and the seating area.
- Both play areas and the seating area have accessible entrances from the perimeter walkway.
- The seating area in Concept 1 includes tables with individual seats. The tables can be circular or square with the option to mount game boards on the table surface. The seating area located outside of the two play areas allows for a quieter seating experience.
- The two existing benches in the park will remain and be located along the park walkways.
- Both play areas have seatwalls along the outer edges to provide seating for playground visitors and to help define and contain the limits of the play area.
- Play equipment presented for age 0-2 includes a play structure such as the “Jetsetter” which includes a variety of physical and sensory play activities, colorful rubber half ball steppers, and musical play station for toddlers.
- Play equipment presented for age 2-5 includes a play structure such as the “Jumper”, which has a similar design to the “Jetsetter” but offers a variety of slightly more challenging physical and sensory play activities for the older age group, double rocker, sensory play walls, and musical drums.
- Concept 1 includes a tricycle track painted on the perimeter walkway, as was requested at the first community meeting.
- Concept 1 also includes repaving of the existing circular gathering space and a new seatwall that overlooks the flatter open lawn to adapt the use of the circular space for both inward and outward facing seating. This circular flexible gathering space could accommodate community celebrations and gatherings.
- Planting improvements are proposed on the steep hillside to discourage people from walking up the hillside where there have been reports of bad behavior and broken glass.
- At the first community meeting, there were reports of bad behavior in the overlook space. To encourage positive use of this space, the design team is proposing lighting improvements, stationary play equipment such as telescopes or sensory play, and outward facing furniture.

Lower Terrace Concept 2

- Concept 2 includes the same overall improvements as Concept 1 with the following differences:
 - The existing circular gathering area becomes a small play area with resilient safety surfacing.
 - One combined play area for ages 0-2 and 2-5.
 - The seating area is located inside the play area.
- The seating area in Concept 2 includes tables with bench seating for a more communal style seating experience. The seating area located inside the play area allows closer interaction between seating and play activities.
- The seatwalls on the outer edges of the play areas could be smooth concrete or natural style boulder seating which could also be used as natural play for kids to step/jump from one boulder to the next.
- Concept 2 also includes a series of stepping stone boulders through a planted area and a rocky scramble for additional natural play opportunities.

- Play equipment presented for age 0-2 includes a playhouse such as the “Home and Garden” which promotes imaginative and sensory play activities and a single rocker with sides and backrest for younger toddlers.
- Play equipment presented for age 2-5 includes a traditional post and platform style play structure, with a variety of physical and some sensory activities, and a “Cozy Dome” that can be used for climbing and hanging out inside the dome.

Upper Terrace Improvements

Goals for Upper Terrace

- Upgrade park lighting
- Repave and repaint the basketball courts
- Repair cracks and repaint the seatwalls at the basketball courts
- Replace the existing drinking fountain
- Repair the fence around the play area
- Repair or replace water play elements
- Improve play area for ages 5-12

Goals for Upper Terrace Play Area

- Focus on ages 5-12 play in the upper terrace since 0-2 and 2-5 play will be located in the lower terrace and due to the upper terrace play area’s close proximity to Timilty Middle School.
- Keep existing play equipment that is suitable for ages 5-12 play including the spinner, the dish swing and/or the traditional swings.
- Remove existing play equipment that is underutilized or not suitable for ages 5-12 play including the mound with small slide and climbing net, the bumble bee rockers, and the see-saw.
- Repair or replace the existing water play equipment.
- Add new play equipment for ages 5-12.

Upper Terrace Play Area Concept 1:

- Concepts 1A and 1B for the upper terrace propose that the existing water play area remains the same but the water play equipment is repaired or replaced.
- This allows more room for new age 5-12 play equipment.
- Concept 1A includes climbing focused play equipment such as the “Double Butterfly” structure, which has climbing nets, hangout pods and optical panels, and the “Bloqx” structure which offers climbing and a place for kids to hangout with their friends.
- Concept 1B includes diversified play equipment such as the “Beach Comber” structure, which has climbing nets, slides, bridges and steppers, and the “Bloqx” structure.

Upper Terrace Play Area Concept 2:

- Concepts 2A and 2B for the upper terrace propose that the water play area is expanded to include more water play equipment.
- This allows less room for new age 5-12 play equipment.
- Concept 2A includes a smaller climbing focused play structure such as the “Single Butterfly” structure and the “Bloqx” structure.
- Concept 2B includes diversified play equipment such as the “Sky Twister” structure, which has climbing nets, a slide and a colorful hangout area at the top of the structure. The “Bloqx” structure is also included in this option.

Prioritizing Design Choices

- BPRD has requested an additional \$400,000 in construction budget funding to include improvements to the Upper Terrace in addition to the original scope of improvements for the

Lower Terrace. However, BPRD will only find out if the increased budget is approved in late Spring 2021. If the increased budget is not approved, decisions will need to be made on which improvements to include in the original project budget.

- Since the original project scope is focused on lower terrace improvements, there may be limitations to improvements in the upper terrace if additional funding is not approved.
- The design team presented plans showing a preliminary determination of prioritized improvements in the lower and upper terraces, but feedback on preferences from the community is encouraged.

Open Discussion and Community Feedback

- Preference for bright colors in play equipment.
- Big attractive play structures will draw more people to Jeep Jones Park.
- More challenging play equipment for ages 5-12 is desired.
- Outward facing seating and a telescope would be welcomed in the overlook terrace.
- Preference for bubbler style water play in the upper terrace.
- BPRD will reach out to the family of Clarence “Jeep” Jones for a more detailed conversation about the proposed improvements.

Next Steps

- Community members are encouraged to take the online survey to voice their preferences for the various improvements presented for the upper and lower terraces.
- Community meeting #3 will be held in Spring 2021. Community members will receive an email invitation from BPRD when the date is set.
- Community feedback is a valuable part of the design process. Any comments or questions are welcome and should be emailed to Lauren Bryant, Lauren.Bryant@boston.gov

END OF MEETING NOTES