

## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Harambee Park, Phase 4 – Public Meeting #2 Notes

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**ATTENDEES:** Amanda Gaal (W&S), Lanie Cohen (W&S)  
Cathy Baker-Eclipse (CBE, BPRD), Amy Linné (AL, BPRD), Christine Brandao (BPRD)  
Approximately 9-10 community participants

### Presentation Overview

AL introduced the project team and gave an overview of the project schedule, project approach, city priorities, and BPRD goals.

AG summarized the master plan implementation to date, which included a look at phases 1-3, as well as the updated Phase 4 concept. LC introduced the possibility of including a dog park and/or a pump track on site and showed precedent images for both.

### Discussion Items

- 1.1 Fatima Ali-Salaam: Asked if we have done any outreach to teens, especially regarding the pump track.
- 1.2 Maridena Rojas: Asked if there would be obstacle courses in the dog park, as well as who will monitor the dog park for health and safety purposes. Who will be maintaining and cleaning the dog park.
  - 1.2.1 AL: Likely no monitoring, unless a neighborhood group is interested
  - 1.2.2 CBE: Many community dog parks are self-sustaining. The most successful dog parks have a dedicated group of neighbors. We're exploring different models for maintenance options at the dog park
- 1.3 Toni Wiley: Asked how much lighting will be provided in the seating areas, dog park, and potential pump track areas, as well as if these amenities would be open for 24 hours a day.
- 1.4 Ajay Rodrigues: Asked about the specifications for the manual cricket field. Expressed concerns about the location relative to the bleachers.
  - 1.4.1 AL: We haven't selected a model, but this is good to keep in mind.
- 1.5 Fatima Ali-Salaam: Asked what type of outreach has been done to access neighborhood groups (esp. the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council)
- 1.6 Toni Wiley: "We have had youth robbed and accosted by people sitting on the benches near the new playground. We ask about lighting, keeping the tree cover pruned, and have to ask the police to park a cruiser there after dusk during the summer."

- 1.7 Fatima Ali-Salaam: We have an issue of people not cleaning after themselves, even at dog runs. Additionally, BMX bikes need room, so they don't damage tree roots, etc. This project needs teen engagement—there isn't enough conversation with teens or minorities. We need to actively go to High Schools, rather than ask them to come to us. Recommended reaching out to the Mattapan Teen Center. Different sports teams are also good to reach out to see how we can get more teenagers to be physically active. Can we also add some swings? There aren't often amenities aimed at teenage girls.
- 1.7.1 CBE: We will be in contact to get in touch with the teen groups!
- 1.7.1.1 Contact info: Ali-Salaam, info.gmncouncil@gmail.com | 617-642-8778
- 1.7.1.2 Arkey Taylor: Bostonraiders02124@gmail.com is a source for teen input.
- 1.8 Ajay Rodrigues: "Any insights into the 22-yard cricket pitch? Will the cricket teams have to continue using jute matting or will there be artificial turf pitches?"
- 1.8.1 AG: We're looking at clay, but would accept community input as it comes in.
- 1.8.2 Ajay: The clay usually means a jute mat over a clay pitch. It requires 30-45 minutes of setup, and most fields outside of the Boston area have a concrete area with artificial turf or carpet, instead. Rain tends to wash out games, so this helps the pitch dry out quicker and ensure more game play. Could this be a consideration for one of the fields? It's not a dealbreaker, I just wanted to put it out there.
- 1.8.2.1 AL: We did some research, and this method is considered a bit less safe and this might not be the ideal material. Our conversations with other cricket players have expressed an interest in keeping the mat system in place.
- 1.9 Arkey Taylor: "Please do not forget the Boston Raiders who share occupancy at this field?"
- 1.10 Maridena Rojas: Peters Park has an irrigation system to deal with dog urine. Mentioned the size differential between dogs and how fundraising can be pointed to ensure that there are adequate maintenance funds to provide for all types of dogs. My concern is that this dog park won't have adequate maintenance to ensure that the dogs are vaccinated and that the park is safe for dogs and humans.
- 1.10.1 AL: A big dog / small dog park would help alleviate some of those issues. The maintenance and safety isn't something that BPRD can necessarily manage; this tends to be more of a grassroots effort.
- 1.10.2 CBE: We will have maintenance staff on a regular schedule, taking out trash and cleaning up feces, but this will be a few times a week, not necessarily checking vaccination at the gate.
- 1.11 Maridena Rojas: Who will help with parking issues? Double parking, blocking driveways, in the crosswalks?
- 1.11.1 AL: There is a parking lot planned in a later phase, but this park will be mostly reliant on street parking. We'd like the park's central purpose to be a park.
- 1.11.2 CBE: It won't be enough parking, but it will take some pressure off on-street parking and hopefully make this (and double parking) less of an issue for neighbors. The parking lot is intended for bus parking for visiting teams.
- 1.12 Toni Wiley: What is the timeline again for phase 6? And does the basketball court go away?
- 1.12.1 CBE: There isn't a timeline yet, but once phase 4 is complete, we'll move into phase 5 or 6. We're also looking to rebuild the net court and add two courts.
- 1.13 Yakeisha Gray: Before the renovations, I would use the Franklin Park Zoo. Now, with the renovations, we love walking the length of Harambee Park. There's tons of young folks

*using the park in summer and I think it's a wonderful addition. I look forward to seeing the coming additions. I'm looking forward to the updates.*

**Please notify our office if you have suggested changes  
or additions to the notes contained herein.**