

MEMORANDUM

TO: Amy Linné, BPRD

FROM: Mary Ellen Welch Greenway Improvements Project Team

MEETING DATE: 06/06/2024

SUBJECT: Community Meeting #2 – Meeting Minutes

Meeting Topics:

- Mary Ellen Welch Greenway Improvements Project.

Panelists:

- *Amy Linné, Boston Parks & Recreation Department*
- *Cheri Ruane, Weston & Sampson*
- *Farah Dakkak, Weston & Sampson*

Greenway Meeting Goals:

This meeting was organized by BPRD and the design team to:

- *Discuss the design for the path, entry spaces, and greenway amenities.*
- *Discuss challenges and proposed strategies to make the Greenway usable during and after storm events.*
- *Gather input on the design and how the community would like to use the greenway in the future.*

Attendance:

24 total attendees.

Virtual Discussion (Including Zoom Chat Comments):

Intro by Amy Linné on behalf of the Boston Parks & Recreation Department

- Welcome + Intro from Boston Parks
- Interpretation services provided.
- City policy priorities
- Project Approach
- Project Schedule Update
- Meeting Goals and Objectives

Resiliency Overview Presentation by Cheri

- Summary of the online survey response heard from February to March 2024 representing the primary aspirations from the public
- Presentation of existing conditions, including flooding and groundwater issues. The groundwater elevation reported from local test locations ranges from 7-12.5 BCB
- Existing drainage and stormwater infrastructure overview

Project DD Progress Presentation by Farah

- Marginal Street to Sumner Street interventions
 - Furnishing, paving, planting materials ideas as well as suggestions for public events are presented.
 - Slight reduction in paving can help with alleviating the stormwater conditions
- Sumner Street to Maverick Street
 - Rain gardens and drainage improvements
 - Storage containers and opportunities for art
- Gove Street
 - Decking proposed due to chronic heavy flooding conditions
- Gove Street to Porter Street
 - Pavement markings, fence improvements, slope stabilization (cobble swale)
 - Example images of site materials precedent images are presented
 - Art
 - Signage

Questions and Discussions

- Comment: Would like to see better trash cans. Site users walking their dogs should be accommodated.
 - Response: Acknowledged.
- Comment: Camping situation with the existing benches. Can we have more stone blocks seating instead of benches to prevent camping?
 - Response: We've also heard that the granite blocks aren't welcoming as seating within the space. We're considering the length of the bench as well as the addition of a center armrest as strategies to prevent camping on the site.
- Comment: Runoff from the adjacent properties, is that a major contribution to the flooding?
 - Response: The City is open to having conversations with adjacent property owners. However, it's important to point out that although runoff from adjacent properties is a contributing factor, the high groundwater level, drainage system and pump capacity, and the site's low-lying topography are the also major contributing factors.
- Comment: Gove Street – Can we have pop up events near that area? What kind of placemaking approaches can be done around Gove Street in general? Some design ideas around the factory to engage a more welcoming experience.

- Comment: Single path at 12' seems narrow, can we do 16'. Adjacent parking lots carry contaminations such as grease oil and debris, which needs to be addressed for maintaining the landscape. Can we look at the entrances at Maverick and Orleans to make them more welcoming? Maybe by adding permeable paving?
 - Response: We will explore a wider path when it becomes a single path but it would mean adding more impervious surface.
 - Continued conversations with abutters.
 - Agreed, the entrance at the corner of Maverick and Orleans Street needs to be strengthened with pavers, signage, and placemaking strategies.
- Comment: Container storage for the deployable barrier is unsightly and not desired.
 - Response: The container storage is being considered by the environment department to ease the installation of the deployable barrier. We'll pass on the feedback from the community to that team.
- Comment: Lots of activities on the Greenway, it is successful. Signage can be helpful for wayfinding.
 - Response: Yes, placing strategic signage to direct people at entrances and through the park is a much-needed addition to the site.
- Comment: What's the progress on lighting? Will the next meeting be the final design? – yes, welcome input on timing.
 - Response: Lighting updated will be clarified in the next meeting, which will be the final meeting and after which we will progress the design into permitting, and bidding.
- Comment: I give my compliments to the program and placemaking strategies by Michelle Moon.
 - Response: Michelle Moon points out simple interventions such as picnic tables can be helpful.

Chat

- Spanish Interpreter: Buenas noches, mi nombre es Tracy Pichardo. Seré su intérprete (del Español) esta noche. Para escuchar esta reunión, haga clic en el globo en la parte inferior de su pantalla y seleccione (idioma)
- Comment: The proposed storage container is unsightly and can be more pleasing to the eye.
- Comment: Thought the carved granite blocks are amazing pieces of special done art, and link to piers park. might you put up some signage somewhere pointing out who carved them (the artist still lies in Boston).
- Amy Linne: amy.linne@boston.gov
www.boston.gov/welch-greenway
- Comment: Thank you!! This was great!
- Comment: Thanks everyone! Stellar presentation

For updates on the Greenway Project: www.boston.gov/welch-greenway

Greenway Project Manager Name and Email:

Amy Linne, BPRD, amy.linne@boston.gov