

Improvements to Garvey Playground, Community Meeting 01, Minutes

Date & Time: May 3, 2017 at 6:30pm
Location: Leahy Holloran Community Center, 1st floor.
1 Worrell St, Dorchester, MA 02122
Prepared by: Mia Feng & Eden Dutcher, GroundView

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Lauren Bryant	Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD)
Jinru Xie	Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD)
David Cotter	Boston Neighborhood Services (BNS)
Frank Baker	Boston City Council
Eden Dutcher	GroundView (GV)
Wilson Martin	GroundView (GV)
Mia H Feng	GroundView (GV)
Approximately 50 Community Members	

Lauren Bryant began the community meeting by introducing the project team, giving a project overview and presenting the City of Boston's priorities and goals for parks and recreation.

Project Team

- Boston Parks & Recreation Department
 - Lauren Bryant, Project Manager
 - Marchelle Jacques-Yarde, Outreach Coordinator, External Affairs
 - Jinru Xie, Project Intern
- Landscape Architect: GroundView
 - Eden Dutcher, Project Manager
 - Wilson Martin, Design Principal
 - Mia Feng, Project Designer
- Mayor's Office
 - David Cotter, Office of Neighborhood Services

Project Schedule

- Community Meeting 01 – May 3, 2017
 - Listening & Sharing Ideas for Improvement
- Community Meeting 02 – June 14, 2017
 - Presentation of Design Alternatives
- Community Meeting 03 – September 2017
 - Presentation of Preferred Design
- Construction Documentation – October 2017
- Park Construction to begin – Fall/Winter 2017
- Anticipated Park Opening – Fall 2018

Estimated Construction Budget

- \$4,150,000

City of Boston Priorities

- Expanding walkable access to parks
- Addressing equity
- Climate resilience
- Health
- Housing and community building

Park and Recreation Goals

- Preserve And Protect Existing Trees
- Expand Usable Park Area
- Improve Universal Access
- Enhance Park Visibility
- Improve Access to Parks
- Design Flexible, Multi-functional Park Spaces

Eden Dutcher continued by presenting the guiding principles of the design process and an analysis of existing site conditions.

Five Elements of Play

- Social
- Physical
- Sensory
- Cognitive
- Communication

Analysis of Existing Conditions

- Context
 - Neighborhood
 - Landmarks
 - Pedestrian access
 - Open Space
 - Active Recreation Facilities
 - Stormwater Runoff
 - Low Areas
 - Air Pollution
 - Noise Pollution
- Site
 - Ownership
 - Name History
 - Construction History
 - Active Recreation Facilities
 - Field Usage Seasonally by Permit
 - Typical Field & Court Usage Daily by Permit
 - Known User Groups
 - Circulation
 - Hydrology
 - Vegetation
 - Furnishings
 - Lighting
 - Views

General Questions/Comments following the presentation:

- Other User Groups (not listed)
 - Neponset Men's Basketball
 - Street Hockey League
- It is really hot in the park in summer. Can we add shade? What else can add shade in addition to trees?
 - BPRD is exploring different kinds of elements for cooling. Project team will bring ideas to Community Meeting 2.
- City council Frank Baker asks about BPRD's response to safety concerns of artificial turf.
 - LB: only the safe materials are chosen for projects.
- Frank Baker comments that the project schedule is aggressive and asks whether a working group would be helpful?
 - LB: the project schedule is aligned with project funding. A working group is a possibility.
- What are examples of other parks GroundView has done in the area? Please visit other parks in the neighborhood of Garvey.
 - LB: GV is the designer of Chuckie Harris Park in Somerville.
 - GV: Next meeting's presentation will include project examples that will be both GV's work and other relevant precedent projects.

The larger group broke into three small groups. The small groups to discussed ideas for improvements around an existing site plan. A recording of the comments are as follows:

Small Group Discussion at Eden's table:

- (want) State of the art (athletic) facility
- (artificial) Turf
- Drainage (is a problem)
- (not a) level playing field (surface)
- Puddles at lip (of infield/outfield)
- (some people like) Dirt at base (with artificial turf)
- current baseball field orientation is ideal, foul balls
- (add) Softball/little league (field, opposite of babe ruth field)
- (want field sized for) 13-15 age group baseball field, Babe Ruth Sr.
- Extra time for soccer, not ahead of baseball (permit)
- Permitting parties? (Keep) Men's league
- The field is uneven and hilly, not good for sports
- Dips on south edge of field
- Artificial turf expands the season
- Grass vs. Turf?
- Cost of drainage infrastructure?
- High tide wet spots (on Morrissey BLVD)
- Low point (DCR property, no drain west side of building)
- There is NO SHADE (need more shade)
- Need seating in shaded area for south edge of fields
- Dug outs for shading? but homeless concern
- (concrete) Bleacher go? (make room for other program)
 - like Roberts bleachers
- (put) Seating in (existing) shaded area
- Move playlot? (closer to street)
- Tot lot is too shaded. Can't see child.

- Slight lines? (into the park are not good, especially tot lot)
- Ramp? (at the stair entrance)
- Fireman's Association (occupy the Neponset Veteran's Association property)? At the periphery of the park (stair entrance)
- Street hockey to have seating area in shade
- Street hockey: Breaking lights?
- Indoor/outdoor facility
- Move street hockey and basketball(to DCR land next to their parking lot)
- Dog lot on DCR's land? (north corner)
- Dog Park (on Southern DCR property)
 - Contact Dan Hunt
- At least pick up after dog sign?
- 3 Bubblers (field, tot lot, courts)
- Restroom (need facilities for events)
- (renovate) Field house (it is an extension of BCYF) community center
- Track?
- Circuit training (throughout park)
- (don't want) sprinkler (water play. Available at nearby park)
- New condo development on the north edge?
- Flooding on the northwest edge (in abutters property)
- Solid fence (for abutters)
- New edge treatment like the retaining wall (perimeter of park)
- Temporary lights in eyes of abutters
- Direction at lighting for abutters??
- Improve and lighting extend season
- Improve northwest edge
- Clean up trash at Tedeschi site
- Other Parks like:
 - Murphy school play ground
 - Hemenway Park
 - Elliot Street Park in Milton
 - Lending Library
 - Robert's Park (field)

Small Group Discussion at Will's table:

- Would DCR give up the woody land behind the street hockey rink?
- Basketball at night
- Teenagers drinking in the street hockey rink and the playlot
- Responders (police) are seen before kids drinking are seen
- Dog park for the canopy area outside the playlot
- No wood chips in play lot
- Cedar grove baseball representatives prefer synthetic turf
- Cedar grove baseball representatives prefer similar layout to existing
- Cedar grove baseball representatives don't want to light fields for night games due to courtesy for neighbors
- Flag football (they think) needs 80 yards
- Two softball leagues share one field (shortage). Softball league serves kids age 5-18
- Simpler the better
- Dan Hunt (State Representative) could be helpful in acquiring or getting permission to use DCR land
- Wonderful park!
- Field house needs full renovation

- One participant expressed concerns over the health risks of artificial turf; asks what data have you looked at?
- Bad entry on the north side coming down from parking lot
- Themes
 - More visibility (Neponset Ave., and Wooded area)
 - Maintain use for current permit holders at minimum
 - New walking loop/ track with exercise stations along it
 - Improve entries
 - Is budget enough? Cost of artificial turf vs. natural lawn; cost of stormwater improvements

Small Group Discussion at Lauren and Mia's table

- Baseball field is very important. Do not remove.
- Improve fields
- Can we utilizing space between baseball field and playlot?
- Can we add Bathroom? Currently sport teams using the field is responsible to clean and lock the bathroom in field house
- Community concern about light at night.
- Temporary lighting for 6pm to 8pm in fall for field.
- No light at night
- Well-lit path for safety
- Other uses of the field:
- To watch game
- To watch concert
- (all require seating)
- Playground location is too setback
- Needs seating
- Current bleacher
- Lockers on both ends
- Pope John Paul fields day fills the bleacher
- Future bleacher: two smaller ones. To have on each side of the baseball field
- Maybe add dugout to baseball field
- Maintenance for street hockey
- Dog park? People don't use it/ don't clean
- Need dog bag dispensers
- Concerns for people use pavilion structures but don't clean after themselves
- Concerns about homeless using a pavilion
- Field house needs full renovation
- Needs storage for sport team (flag football) facilities
- Maybe to have small water feature, not big ones
- Expand playlot. Maybe add areas for different age group?
- Safety concerns about climbing ropes for younger kids.
- Add walking path/ to have a circulation loop, improve pedestrian accessibility on the bleacher side of the baseball field
- Like natural grass

The small groups reconvened as a large group and shared comments discussed. The meeting concluded by encouraging attendees to fill out a Garvey Playground Improvement Survey: <http://sgiz.mobi/s3/Garvey-Playground>, tune into the project website for updates (including meeting minutes & presentations):

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/improvements-garvey-playground>, and spread the word & attend the Community Meeting 2 in June.



No structure
Park
Activities

Grass
vs.
Art
Drainage

Influence

High
Tide
Wet Spots

Can't
Have
DOG PARK
LAND GRASS?

SEATING AREA
IN SHEDS
BROKEN SUBJECTS?

TOT LOT
TOO SHADY
CAN'T SEE CHILDREN
INDOOR ACTIVITIES

STATE OF THE
ART FACILITY

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100 200 ft



- like natural grass
 - no lights @ night
 - well lit path for safety

- larger playground
 - walking path

- need dog bag dispensers
 - people dont use the dog parks

shade grass

pavillion - concerned about hares

* please keep my sons court
 US Forest Service

Small buachers?

move plan ground into space

too hot back

Billings Estate - daves
 Mass Falls - Hines - 2014

* inclusive

0 100 200 ft

Pop John Field
 fills buachers

generally about 1/2

Lackey

NEPONSET AVE

NEPONSET AVE

MORRISSEY BLVD

MORRISSEY BLVD

NEPONSET AVE



Softball ages
9 thru 18

80 yards
- 1st floor
- 2nd floor

Cutter Grove
Portables - Jack
- 1st floor
- 2nd floor

Simpson Gym
2 Softball Leagues
Nooks Fall
renovation
Field

Baseball
no wood
chips
- 1st floor
- 2nd floor
- 3rd floor
- 4th floor
- 5th floor
- 6th floor
- 7th floor
- 8th floor
- 9th floor
- 10th floor
- 11th floor
- 12th floor
- 13th floor
- 14th floor
- 15th floor
- 16th floor
- 17th floor
- 18th floor
- 19th floor
- 20th floor

0 100 200 ft
Scale bar

- ① Make visibility (Impervious Area) (Sporadic)
- ② Maintain use for current (Wooded Area)
- ③ New walking loop in form track renovation
- ④ Improve entrance
- ⑤ is budget enough cost of artificial vs. natural

