

To: Nathan Frazee, Boston Parks & Recreation Dept. **Date:** February 28, 2019
From: Tanya Pande, BSC Group **Proj. No.** 23263.30
Re: Orton Field, South Boston

Date of Meeting: February 26, 2019 **Time:** 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Place of Meeting: J F Condon School

Purpose: Orton Field improvements

Project Team Attendees: Boston Parks & Recreation: Nathan (Nate) Frazee, PM
 BSC Group: Monique Hall, Landscape Architect; Jesse A. Harris, Landscape Architect; Tanya Pande, Landscape Designer

Item	Discussion
Project Team Introduction	8 people attended the meeting outside of the project team including: four local community members, 1 parent whose child goes to J F Condon school, Principal of the JF Condon School, 2 school Staff members. Meeting started at 6:30 pm with Nate's introduction of the project team to the meeting attendees.
Project Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nate provided an overview of the location of the park, the scope of the project and project boundaries along with the project timeline: Design and construction documents in spring 2019, construction in summer 2019 and park opening in early fall 2019. • The parks design will encompass the City of Boston initiatives, safety guidelines and environmental regulations, Parks & Recreation goals and community input. • Boston Initiatives include: Inclusion, shade, access to the parks, drinking/water bottle filling stations, water play and climate resiliency. • Parks & Recreation goals include preserve and protect existing trees, expand usable park area, improve universal access, enhance park visibility, improve access to parks and design flexible, multi-functional park spaces.
Site Analysis & Existing Conditions	<p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to other open spaces and ballfields, existing site conditions, existing uses. Community members expressed discontent with proximity to neighboring ball fields. The closest ball field (Rotch Playground) is a 16 minute walk from this park. The closest baseball field is at Moakley which is a 20 minute walk. <p>Existing Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Design Team reviewed the existing site conditions and uses including access points, solar path, perimeter fenceline, existing trees, and existing lights.

ACCURACY NOTICE

We have sought to record accurately the minutes of this meeting. If any of the above items do not agree with your understanding, please contact us within seven (7) days from the date of this document.

Item	Discussion
	<p>Concerns with existing conditions: The field is often rented out limiting availability to kids from the surrounding neighborhood. Lack of shade trees makes it especially hot in the summer to play here for children. Lighting was a major concern as limited lighting surrounds the field.</p>
<p>Concepts</p>	<p>Preliminary Concept (Running Track and U-8 soccer field): A preliminary plan was shown, which portrayed a running track, dashed lines for a soccer field, removal of gates to facilitate and encourage access and removal of the softball back stop. One person pointed out that the softball back stop should not be removed as it is over 30 years old and has great historic significance. It was also suggested by a meeting attendee to keep the baseball field. Concerns about the fence were noted and a need to keep the gates were also expressed.</p> <p>Suggestions: Higher fences were requested. Make the field as multi-use as possible to maximize use. Hard fences. Keep track field. Keep the back stop for its historical significance.</p> <p>Secondary Concept (Multi – Use Softball and Soccerfield Overlays): People liked the multi-use aspect and expressed desire to incorporate a perimeter running track as well as football field..</p>
<p>Listening and Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School and Park engagement: A parent of a school student asked how the school can be engaged in the activities of the park. Safety concerns were also raised. • Safety: Questions were raised on how the access points will be managed so that it limits the access as kids are 3+. Accessibility to the bathrooms was high priority. It was noted that the bathrooms are outside the scope of the project as they are the school/ community center property. School Play area gets dark, one attendee noted, creating a dark zone near access at Orton field. A person noted that trees / landscape areas attract undesirable litter. Put high safety nets, a person suggested. 2 residents constantly suggested the installation of security camera along the field for child safety. • Opinions on synthetic field: Attendees showed no major concern with a synthetic field and infill options of crumb rubber and Envirofill were discussed. • Opinions on Multi-use of the field: The principal of the J F Condon School, the field is used heavily by students during recess and summer programming. Different corners are dedicated to different uses and areas are marked off with cones. Space is never dedicated to a single use. One attendee suggested having some dedicated spaces for small activities like T-Ball and hopscotch. Suggestion of having exercise equipment that is age inclusive, including the elderly. • Drainage issues adjacent the basketball court were identified.

Item	Discussion	
Interactive Dot Activity	Each person received 4 dots to identify what are the most important priorities.	
	Priorities:	Quantity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backstop • Keep Backfield • Multi-use Field (Maximize Usability) • Fenced in Batting Cage • Bathrooms (requiring coordination with school) • More community use • Dedicated small spaces • Drainage along basketball court • Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lighting - Visibility - Access (open or manage) - Cameras - Trees require maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - 3 dots 4 dots 5 dots 2 dots 2 dots 5 dots 3 dots 1 dot 2 dots 1 dot 2 dots
	<p>Conceptual Plan Preference Each person received one dot to identify which scheme was preferable</p> <p>Concept(Track and U-8 Soccer Field)</p> <p>Concept (Multiuse field with Softball and Soccerfield)</p>	<p>0 dots</p> <p>9 dots</p>
Closing Remarks & Next Steps	Nate wrapped up the meeting with contact information to be found in the meeting agenda and construction schedule	

cc: