



Meeting Notes

To: Lauren Bryant, Project Manager Date of Meeting: 01/05/2021

Company:	Boston Parks and Recreation Department	Meeting Number:	1
Project Name:	Jeep Jones Park Improvements	Project No:	12634
RE:	Community Meeting #1 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

- Background: This project was inspired by local community members who advocated for safety and play improvements to Jeep Jones Park.
- 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 first of three community meetings. Meeting dates for the second and third meetings 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 users of the park are encouraged to take the survey on the project website.

Summary of Park History

Legacy of Clarence “Jeep” Jones

Site Analysis

- Neighborhood Site Context: Jeep Jones Park is centrally located between several schools, cultural and religious organizations and other playgrounds and recreational facilities in the Roxbury neighborhood.
- Site Context: The priority of this project is to make improvements to the Lower Terrace of Jeep Jones Park including the addition of play areas and play equipment.
 - Community members vocalized their preference to see lighting and play improvements at the Upper Terrace as well. Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) will explore whether this can be achieved as part of this project or as part of a future parks improvement project.

- Site Plan: The project site area for improvements includes the perimeter fence, Lower Terrace park landscape up to, but not including the stairs, and the overlook terrace that is adjacent to the basketball courts.
- Site Analysis Circulation Plan:
 - The existing Lower Terrace circulation is comprised of a paved loop walkway and an informal unpaved connection to a gated entrance. There are 3 entrances to the Lower Terrace from King St; only one of those entrances has a gate. The main entrance from the corner of Malcolm X. Blvd. and King St. does not have a gate.
 - The stairs leading to the Upper Terrace will remain in place.
- Circulation Goals:
 - Accessible Walkways: Community member voiced concerns about potholes and uneven pavement surfaces. These paved walkways will be improved to provide accessible surfaces as part of this project. The design team will also explore the addition of softer pavement materials such as resilient play surfacing.
 - Improved Park Entrances: Community members voiced their desire for additional gates at the park entrances along King St. for increased perimeter security, especially with the addition of children's play equipment. Vehicles travel down King St. at high speeds so gates would deter children from running into the street.
 - Perimeter Fence and Gate Improvements: Segments of fences and gates that are in disrepair will be fixed as part of this project.
 - Deter Access to Steep Hillside: Community members reported seeing regular incidents of bad behavior and broken glass on the steep hillside behind the amphitheater seating area. This area will be designed with planting to deter access to the hillside and provide a more pleasant experience for people using the seating area.
- Existing Program:
 - Community members vocalize their concern that there are currently not enough programmed park activities in the lower terrace.
 - The lawn area, while valuable as an open lawn space, is not flat enough to sit and have a picnic.
 - The limited seating options on site are under shade trees so the park always feels dark.
 - The overlook terrace is often a host for drinking and gambling. The view from the overlook terrace is spectacular but park users tend to avoid it due to the bad behavior that occurs there.
- Program Goals:
 - New Play Areas and Play Equipment:
 - Meeting attendees were asked the following survey question:
Considering the current play options available at The Upper Terrace of Jeep Jones Park, what age group should be the focus for new play equipment in the Lower Terrace? *The response percentages are listed in italics next to each age group.*
 - 0-2 years old
 - 2-5 years old
 - 5-12 years old (100%)
 - Community members voiced their concern that the Upper Terrace does not include enough play equipment and that play equipment for a variety of ages would be desirable in the Lower Terrace.

- There was a general consensus on the desirability of a water play feature in the Lower Terrace. The Upper Terrace does have a water play feature but it is frequently not turned on or out of service.
 - Seating Areas and Seating Diversity:
 - The existing benches and seat walls in the Lower Terrace will be cleaned to remove graffiti and dirt, but otherwise are in good shape and will remain in the park.
 - This project will include additional seating of various types.
 - Meeting attendees were asked the following survey question:
What types of seating would you most like to see added to the Lower Terrace of Jeep Jones Park? *The response percentages are listed in italics next to each seating option.*
 - Individual Benches (50%)
 - Long Continuous Benches (75%)
 - Picnic Tables (75%)
 - Boulders/Informal Seating (25%)
 - Community members voiced a collective desire for picnic areas that could accommodate several families at a time, particularly during the Eid al-Fitr celebration which marks the end of the Ramadan fast. These picnic areas would be regularly used by community members.
 - There is also a desire for table and chair seating for children and the elderly that can accommodate a range of activities including reading, board games and small group gatherings.
 - A variety of seating types and sizes is desirable to the community.
 - Potential Activity Nodes:
 - The community voiced their concern that the paved circular area in the lower terrace is currently not used very often. This area would be better served as a play area.
 - The community expressed their desire for a variety of activity nodes located across the Lower Terrace; not concentrated in a single location.
 - The community expressed their desire for the paved loop to accommodate a scooter/tricycle track as the Upper Terrace does not have any such space.
 - Activate the Overlook Space:
 - When asked if the addition of play equipment and/or seating would improve the behavior and use in the overlook terrace, the community members voiced their concern about the potential for children to fall over the guardrail of the terrace if they are encouraged to look through a telescope on the edge of the terrace. The location of any proposed furniture or play elements will be sensitive of this fall hazard.
 - Other Discussion Topics
 - Park Security:
 - The community is very concerned about the lack of light in both the Upper and Lower Terraces which facilitates bad behavior after the sun sets.
 - BPRD has been and will continue to communicate with police to provide extra patrolling of the park throughout the construction process and when the park is reopened. The police will evaluate if there is a need to install security cameras in the park.
 - Existing Tree Pruning and Removal
 - BPRD notes that several existing trees in the Lower Terrace have a significant amount of dead wood and are considered a hazard to public safety. These

- trees will be pruned or removed as needed during this project to ensure the safety of all park users.
- Improvements to the Upper Terrace
 - The community members voiced their concern and confusion about the lack of intended improvements to the Upper Terrace. They were under the impression that this project would focus on Upper Terrace Improvements and feel that providing a new play area in the Lower Terrace while neglecting the Upper Terrace could displace/provide new areas for bad behavior at night.
 - The general consensus of the community is that the Upper Terrace simply needs to be polished to improve security and an expanded play area would also be beneficial, but this area does not require a full redesign.
 - The proximity of the Upper Terrace play area to the adjacent street is a concern.
 - The neighboring Timilty Middle School students use the Upper Terrace play area so even if play areas are added to the Lower Terrace, the Upper Terrace would still be used.
 - The recently renovated Roxbury Heritage Park creates a nice link to the Upper Terrace. If the Upper Terrace were renovated, that would make the connection even better.
 - The history and legacy of Jeep Jones is important and should be celebrated.
 - BPRD will explore whether improvements to the Upper Terrace can be achieved as part of this project or as part of a future parks improvement project. This will depend on available funding.
 - Next Steps:
 - All community members and park users are encouraged to take the survey posted on the project website.
 - The next community meeting date will be announced on the project website and is tentatively planned to occur in February.
 - Any additional updates or announcements will be posted to the project website.

END OF MEETING NOTES

