

**Paula Titus Park
Community Meeting #2
Meeting Held Over Zoom on March 9, 2021 at 6:00 pm**

Attendees:

Nathan Frazee, Project Manager, Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BRPD);
Liz Sullivan, Director of External Affairs and Marketing, BPRD;
Kaila Bachman, Principal, CBA Landscape Architects;
Jocelyn Wolff, Landscape Designer, CBA Landscape Architects;
Charles Titus, Paula Titus' Husband;
Various (Neighbors, Family Members of Paula Titus).

Presenters:

Nathan Frazee:

- Introduced the meeting and provided a brief overview of the project goals, schedule, current design funding provided by the Community Preservation Act (CPA) for the Paula Titus Park Master Plan.

Charles Titus:

- Commemorated his late wife, Paula Titus, who lived in the neighborhood for over 40 years. Discussed how the park could evolve to better suit the community needs by becoming a gathering space that promotes community interactions and socialization.

Kaila Bachman:

- Gave a brief summary of the Community Meeting #1 including site context, analysis, and key points from the first meeting. Then presented three park design options that were accompanied with precedent images.

Community Feedback:

Below is a summary of the questions and comments brought up for discussion during the meeting, organized by design option and topic:

Option A:

- Neighbors liked the planted edge along the northwestern side of the site.
- Option A proposed a walkway lined with musical instruments. Community members responded that traffic on Fort Avenue creates a lot of noise and that noise tends to travel up the hill. Some people did not feel strongly either way towards the introduction of musical instruments to the site, while others were supportive.

Option B:

- Concerns were raised by neighbors that there was not enough screening present. The sloped northwestern edge of the site once had mature trees that screened views between the two abutting properties. These plantings have since been cleared, but a there was strong interest in recreating a similar screen edge condition in the final design.
- One resident was concerned that the sloped walk entrance at the northeastern corner would not be an effective use of space, materials, or the project budget, and stated that the costs seemed to outweigh the benefits of flush access at that corner.

Option C:

- Community members liked the larger play space and lawn that option C offered.
- Lawn space that was set back from Fort Avenue was favorably received.

Fencing and Gates:

- Gates at every entrance were requested. The park is near a blind curve on Fort Avenue and cars tend to speed down the hill. Several residents stated that open access to the road is a safety issue since the park will be used by families with young children.
- There was consensus that fencing should surround usable park space to address these safety concerns.

Color Palette:

- Community members discouraged the use of bright colors and instead favored muted, more natural color schemes.

Gated Entrance between Park and Beech Glen Condominium's Private Yard:

- In recent years, residents of the Beech Glen Condominiums have maintained the site. Currently, there is an opening in the fence between the park and private yard space owned by the Beech Glen Condominium. All three options maintain this entrance, but propose to add a gate. BPRD representatives suggested a lockable gate to help delineate space between private and public. Residents of the condominiums agreed with this, stating that they prefer that access to the Beech Glen space be limited to residents only and that an open entrance may lead to assumptions that the Beech Glen space is part of the park. The Beech Glen parcel contains a steep dropoff and other characteristics that could be safety hazards for the general public.
- None of the design options propose a formal path to the gate. BPRD explained this was done to help discourage people from entering the private property. Community members agreed this was appropriate.

Easement:

- There is an easement between the park and one of the abutting condominiums. Detritus



has built up along this easement and retaining features have begun to rot. Future designs should help maintain current slope conditions. CBA suggested retaining features and plantings could help mitigate soil erosion.

General Project Questions/Concerns:

- Community members voiced concerns over funding and budget discrepancies between the three options. BPRD representative explained that all three park options had been designed for a similar construction budget. BPRD is aiming to secure funding for the construction of the park this fall.
- At Meeting 1, a community member voiced interest of starting a Friends Group to help maintain the park. At Meeting 2, several residents asked about general maintenance and whether a community group would need to be formed. BPRD explained that while BPRD can maintain lawns and trees, extensive perennial and/or shrub plantings are typically not specified for Boston parks unless there is a dedicated Friends Group that commits to maintaining the smaller plants. Christine Brandao, Outreach Coordinator with the BPRD, can help organize the Friends Group and can answer any questions on the process.
- At the next community meeting, CBA will present a Preferred Design which will reflect the feedback received in Meetings 1 and 2.

END OF NOTES

Prepared by Jocelyn Wolff, CBA Landscape Architects LLC, 03/10/2021.

