

Meeting Notes



Project
Byrne Playground

Client
Boston Parks and Recreation

Meeting Date
February 6, 2024

Issue Date
February 9, 2024

Attendees (Virtual)

Crowley Cottrell (Represented by Naomi Cottrell, Mark Warfel, and Ana Stolle)

Boston Parks and Recreation Department (Represented by Nelle Ward)

Community Members (roughly 25 people)

+ Synopsis of the Presentation

On February 6th Boston Parks and Recreation (BPRD) and Crowley Cottrell held a virtual community meeting to present survey findings and solicit feedback on the proposed ideas to the community members residing in the vicinity of Byrne Park. BPRD started the meeting with an introductory presentation of the team, the project schedule, and an explanation of the priorities for the city of Boston and BPRD.

Afterwards, Crowley Cottrell presented the survey findings. The findings included common themes found among the respondents about the current conditions and what they would like to see. This survey combined with feedback from last meeting informed the three proposed options that were then presented. Post-presentation, the floor opened up for community members to share their thoughts and pose questions. The session concluded with an invitation for neighbors to participate further by attending the next and final design community meeting.

+ Comments from Community Members

Several neighbors spoke. Their names, relationship to the park and thoughts are as follows:

Paul Doherty: He has lived in the neighborhood for 40 years and is the primary caretaker of the flower planter. He cautioned against trying to squeeze too much programming into a tight space. He thinks it is better to have two pickleball courts instead of three as he doesn't want it to be a destination. He mentioned that there are state owned areas that are off leash dog areas fairly close to the park. He would like to see a hose bib or some way a person in the neighborhood could have access to watering flowers. He wanted to know about trimming trees if they are on adjacent properties. (the answer was it depends how far they hang into the park).

Denise Doherty: A neighbor who really loved all the schemes. She is excited by adult fitness being added. Wants the Tricycle Track added. She prefers the placement of the water features in option three and wanted to be assured that the water features would receive an upgrade. She seconded that there should only be two pickle ball courts.

David Lewis: A neighbor for 10 years who abuts the park. He prefers two pickleball courts and using the third space for basketball. He really wants basketball to be it's own thing as he is concerned about having overlapping activities will cause too many people wanting to play at the same time. He is appreciative of the gathering space and wants it large enough to host a child's birthday party. He prefers option 2 in general, and just wants to make sure basketball isn't too squeezed.



Brendan Lawrence: Agrees two pickleball is enough. He wants option two with the third court as half basketball. He likes moving tennis so there is less wasted space. He would like to see a dog park, but doesn't think it's feasible in the space and would rather have other programming.

Lucas Oliveria: Would also prefer two pickleball courts. He doesn't think adult fitness is necessary. He is concerned that basketball would invite non-neighbors in. He is in favor of a dog park since people always have dogs around, but also doesn't want to give up other programming.

During these comments other neighbors were making comments in the chat. Here are the comments:

- "not talking full lighting but maybe decorative light post that do not disturb the neighbors but still light up the park at night"
- "The hoops provide for equity diversity and inclusion for teens from other parts of Dorchester we were told that want to come to our parks. May not get another Reno for long time. We love when new folks come to our park. We area having issues with rats coming from the bushes in the playground area."
- There were several requests in the chat for lighting that shuts off at a certain time. BPRD explained that there are two types of lighting options available: 1) Sports lighting - Musco TLC Sports Pole Lights that are on from dusk until 10:45 PM, or by permit holder request; 2) Boston Streets Lighting pedestrian lights that are tied to the same network as the street lights, which come on at dusk and turn off in the morning. There is no option for a pedestrian light that shuts off at a certain time. We can consider adding one of the two lighting options listed, but keep in mind that it will greatly impact the allocation of the funds available for renovating the park.

Next Steps

The community members were informed that later this spring there would be a final design meeting.