

Meeting Notes



Project
Byrne Playground

Client
Boston Parks and Recreation

Meeting Date
April 2, 2024

Issue Date
April 11, 2024

Attendees (Virtual)

Crowley Cottrell (Represented by Naomi Cottrell and Mark Warfel)

Boston Parks and Recreation Department (Represented by Nelle Ward)

Community Members (roughly 19 people)

+ Synopsis of the Presentation

On April 2nd, Boston Parks and Recreation (BPRD) and Crowley Cottrell held a virtual community meeting to present the design and solicit feedback on the proposed ideas to the community members residing in the vicinity of Byrne Playground. 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 proposed design and the findings from the previous meeting. Crowley Cottrell explained and walked through the new design. Post-presentation, the floor opened up for community members to share their thoughts and pose questions. The session concluded with the project timeline.

+ Comments from Community Members

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

Megan Kelly: A neighbor who abuts the park. Opposed to pickleball court next to the houses and prefers a tennis court abutting the houses because tennis is less disrupted.

David Matton: A neighbor who abuts the park. Opposed to pickleball next to the houses due to noise. Surprised by the design. Concerned about the rats and does not want open water.

David Lewis: A neighbor for 10 years who abuts the park. Not a fan of pickleball. Wants to swap tennis court with pickleball. Loves half-court basketball hoop. Prefers the backboard to be a transparent material. Wants communal picnic tables. Tricycle track useful but wants it to be flat with no curbs.

Paul Doherty: A neighbor. Wants to leave the tennis court where it is now. Prefers half-court basketball on Everett Street. Thinks pickleball is inclusive and easy to play. Has grandchildren and likes the tot lot equipment.

Kevin McDermott: A neighbor. Likes the gathering spaces. Dogs need more space in the neighborhood. A walking loop in the park would also be useful for dogs if there is not going to be an off leash dog area.

Chelsea Sauln: A neighbor who does not live next to the park. Likes the lawn idea. Likes the flow of the playground. Excited to see the water play area be expanded. Likes water play next to playground. Tricycle track sounds like a nice feature to have but not completely necessary. Wants to leave the tennis court and pickleball courts in their current location.

Ann Hynes: A neighbor. Does not want structures that are too big because it's hard to chase kids up the structures. Wants play equipment for younger kids as well as older kids.



During these comments other neighbors were making comments in the chat. Here is a summary:

- Strong opposition to placing pickleball courts adjacent to homes due to noise and disruption.
- Concerns about the proposed basketball court, with some suggesting it should be omitted or kept full-size and separate from tennis courts.
- Prioritizing control of rats in a way that doesn't compromise water play options for families.
- Support for the tricycle loop as a nice addition but perhaps not the highest priority.
- Many community members missed Community Meeting 2, so the design from Community Meeting 3 surprised them.
- Many community members seemed displeased with the Community Meeting 3 Schematic Plan and requested the opportunity to revisit previous layouts.

+ Response from Project Team

- In response to requests from the community to revisit previous design options, the project team pulled up design options from Community Meeting 2.
- The community reviewed the previous design options and found consensus around the general layout of Option 1.
- After showing the previous presentation from Community Meeting 2 and revisiting those options, the project team (BPRD + CCLA) stated that elements of the design from Community Meeting 3 would be combined with Option 1.
- CCLA stated that even though the community will be presented with a "Final" Schematic Plan that it is important to remember that the general layout will stay the same but the amenities and details about the plan will evolve as the project moves through the construction documentation phase.

Next Steps

Community members asked about another meeting, and BPRD said that would not be typical. However, BPRD will follow up about the best way to share the updated Schematic Plan that will have community consensus and incorporate this feedback from the meeting.