

Task II Concept Design: Community Meeting 2

Fidelis Way Park
City of Boston

Date/Time: October 28, 2025 / 6:00 PM
Location: Virtual Meeting
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MINUTES OF MEETING

This document summarizes discussion topics and community feedback collected during the second community meeting for the Fidelis Way Park improvement project. The meeting was hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) in collaboration with landscape architects Brown, Richardson and Rowe (BRR). BRR presented their findings from the initial community meeting and survey data, providing an overview of the community's desires and preferences in the new park design. The primary purpose of the meeting was to share the three initial concept designs with the public and gather input from community members, which will directly inform the development of the final concept design.

PRESENTATION

1. Survey Results

- BRR presented data collected from the initial community surveys.
- BRR presented four main takeaways from the community surveys:
 - Fidelis Way Park is a part of neighborhood residents' daily routines as they use it for commuting, exercise, and play.
 - People value the playground and sport courts and would like to see improvements to both.
 - People strongly prioritize improvements to site furnishing and safety.
 - There is interest in adding a cooling feature like a splash pad or shade structure.

2. Concept Designs

- BRR presented three initial concept designs for community review and feedback.
- All three concept designs include an ADA access ramp to Pamela Donovan Rd, furnishing updates, lighting improvements, play equipment updates, pavement improvements as needed, preservation of existing trees and planting and seeding as needed.
- Concept 1 includes a new playground, dog area, plaza, and shade structure.
- Concept 2 includes a new playground, new sport court and exercise track, and terraced seating around the sport courts.
- Concept 3 includes a new playground and splash pad.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

1. Site Amenities & Program

- Community members express support for playground improvements (for ages 2-5 and 5-12) and the addition of a splash pad and bike loop.

- Some community members are interested in a pickleball court. Others have concerns about noise from a potential pickleball court. A community member is interested in volleyball or a multi-use sports court.
- Community members express concerns that a dog area would be loud and disruptive to neighbors. Community members note there are other enclosed dog amenities in the area and another one may not be needed.
- A community member suggests a Veteran's Memorial on the site, noting that Fidelis Way was originally named to honor Korean War veterans.
- A community member expresses support for a large plaza (including grill stations) and shade structure.
- Community members request a bathroom or handwashing station and water fountains.

2. Accessibility and Site Access

- Several community members expressed a desire to see accessibility improvements to the park's interior walkways.
- Multiple residents of One Nevins Hill expressed concerns about whether construction of the ADA access ramp will damage or negatively impact the building.
- A community member asks how much the project will improve conditions on Monastery Way (specifically lighting and tree pruning).

3. Maintenance and Drainage Issues

- Several community members complain of snow and ice on park walkways in winter, especially on the walkway between the Jette Ct stairs and the parking lot. BPRD noted that interior walkways in parks are generally not plowed during the winter.
- A community member asks whether trees abutting Brighton Marine and Monastery Way will be pruned.
- A community member expresses a general desire for the park to be maintained better. There is a perception that the park is difficult to maintain; the community member requests that the renovation address whatever those difficulties are.

4. Vegetation and Planting

- A community member requests additional tree coverage (as shown in Concept 1) and expresses that preserving existing tree canopy around the playground is important to them.

5. Open Space

- A community member asks how the renovation will impact the lawn near the parking lot. BPRD noted that the lawn may be graded or re-seeded but is proposed to remain an open lawn.

6. Concept Designs

- In general, community members prefer Concept Designs 2 and 3.

7. Future Community Engagement

- A youth program coordinator and community organizer from Boston Housing Authority suggested the project team should attend a Teen Night event at the BHA Commonwealth Development which occurs on Wednesdays.
- The next community meeting is likely to take place in January or February.
- BPRD noted that a second community survey will go live after the meeting and that input from the community is crucial in developing the final concept. A link to this survey is provided in the presentation that will also be uploaded to the project website.

The preceding meeting minutes represent our understanding of the information exchanged. Please notify us of any misunderstandings in writing within 48 hours of the date of issue otherwise we will proceed on the basis that these items are as agreed to by all parties concerned and will become part of the contract documents.