

## **JAMES H. ROBERTS PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY MEETING #3**

### Meeting Summary Notes

- DATE:** March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
- LOCATION:** Honan-Allston Branch of the Boston Public Library, 300 N Harvard St
- PRESENTERS:** Kenya Thompson (KT) | Boston Parks & Recreation Department (BPRD)  
Cassie Bethoney (CB) | Weston & Sampson  
Gracie Swansburg (GS) | Weston & Sampson  
Emma Uzgiris (EU) | Weston & Sampson
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### **PRESENTATION:**

- Community Meeting #3 was held as an open format gathering. The BPRD and Weston & Sampson team set up presentation materials in a large event space at the Honan-Allston Library.
- At the entrance of the space, attendees were greeted by My'Kel McMillen (BPRD Outreach Coordinator) and encouraged to provide their contact information in order to receive future project communications.
- Boards were set up around the room. Attendees were able to move around the space, starting with boards that illustrated existing conditions at the park.
- Next were boards that captured feedback from previous meetings and community surveys – including responses to the initial Concepts A, B, and C.
- Following these were boards that showed the Preferred Concept graphic plan, as well as inspiration images featuring amenities envisioned for the Preferred Concept.
- After the Preferred Concept materials, boards were set up that displayed dog park fit tests and local dog park size comparisons.
- BPRD and Weston & Sampson team members were stationed throughout the space and engaged in conversation with attendees. Attendees were able to respond to the presentation materials with notes and stickers, in addition to sharing their verbal feedback and observations.

### **COMMENTS:**

#### **Seating:**

- There was a positive response to the amount of seating shown in the Preferred Concept Plan.
- Neighbors commented that seating at the center of the park is more desirable than at the edges, and that any perimeter benches should be more spaced apart to prevent

gathering on the outskirts.

- Deterrent features on benches and seat walls were endorsed.

### **Paths and Connections:**

- Local residents expressed concern about the lack of a direct commuter path between Goddard and Hooker Streets in the Preferred Concept Plan. It was expressed that not having this connection formalized would result in the creation of a desire path.
- There was a positive response to the new loop path shown around the park, as well as the direct connection between Hopedale and Sorrento Streets.

### **Dog Park:**

- Meeting attendees and the BPRD/W&S team engaged in ongoing conversation about the strong desire for a space to exercise and relieve neighborhood dogs. The design team concluded that this site is not appropriately sized for a dog park, but existing dog parks nearby may be candidates for improvements that will address this need.

### **General Comments:**

- Local residents who care for children approved of the retention of the fence around the 2-5 playground in the Preferred Concept Plan.
- It was expressed that the North-West quadrant of the park is used for informal play and as much open space should be maintained here as possible.
- Neighbors endorsed addressing drainage concerns and reported that abutting lawns have minor puddling issues after weather events.

End of Notes.