

MEETING MINUTES

Noyes Playground Community Meeting #2

Date: Tuesday April 25, 2017

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Location: BCYF Pino Community Center, East Boston, MA

Prepared by: Danielle Mellett & Scott Landgren

Project Name: Noyes Playground Renovation Project

Attendees: Nathan Frazee, Project Manager Boston Parks and Recreation (BPRD)
Claudia Correa, ONS Representative, City of Boston
Scott Landgren, Project Manager, CDM Smith
Danielle Mellett, CDM Smith

Meeting Objective: Noyes Playground Design Improvements Community Meeting

Meeting Summary:

- Interactive discussion with the audience and the Presenters:
 - The design team presented 4 different concepts identified as Concepts A through D showing various layouts of baseball, little league, and soccer, along with playground concepts, basketball and a walking path. Some of the concepts included various other potential amenities including tennis.
 - There was no support for tennis courts.
 - There was unanimous support for the design proposed with two basketball courts
 - Those representing baseball in the audience noted that Little League needed to have a permanent fence around the entire field.
 - The design team will provide a fence around the whole field.
 - The various layouts assumed a 25-ft back stop to home plate distance for softball and little league. For baseball, the design standard of 60-ft was utilized. Discussion amongst users was the 60-ft dimension was not necessary, and that much less distance exists now. (Further examination after the meeting indicates that the existing distance is 25-ft.).
 - The 25-ft dimension will be used for the design.
 - A significant discussion centered around the conflicts in permitting the sites. People permit the use for baseball or softball and find other users out in the field who are not permitted to be using the facility. This is a big problem for many users. The audience asked if the BPRD permitting representative could attend the next meeting.
 - BPRD intends to have a representative for permitting at the next meeting.
 - Discussion amongst the competing groups talked about how many soccer fields existed at other places in East Boston, and how many baseball fields existing elsewhere.
 - BPRD noted that the intent was to provide both uses at this local park, and to as best as possible, replicate current uses with the main objective to minimize use conflicts.

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- The audience asked if scoreboards would be provided at the fields.
 - The intent is to provide scoreboards.
- The audience asked about seating for the various fields.
 - Limited seating was indicated on the concept plans but bleacher seating will be provided in the final layout.
- The audience asked about batting cages, and noted that they are valuable for providing alternative practice space.
 - The designer team will look at locating at least one batting cage in the final design.
- The baseball users suggested utilizing artificial turf for the infields, as maintenance of them is not adequate.
 - The design team will investigate utilizing artificial turf.
- The audience asked about the playground design and discussed the importance of it being handicapped accessible.
 - The design team noted that many of the playground equipment manufacturers are advanced in providing universal access equipment. More specific playground equipment will be shown at the next meeting, with focus on handicap accessibility.
- The designs indicated a potential splash pad area. There was desire to have this included as part of the play area.
 - The design team will include a splash pad area as part of the overall play area.

Next Community Meeting #3: May 23, 2017 6:30-8:00 PM