

SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK
COMMUNITY MEETING #2
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 03.22.2017 @ 6:30pm

LOCATION: South End Branch, Boston Public Library
685 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02118

PRESENTERS: Lauren Bryant (LB) | Boston Parks & Recreation Department (BPRD)
Brandon Kunkel (BK) | Weston & Sampson
Cassie Bethoney (CB) | Weston & Sampson

PRESENTATION:

- LB opened the meeting with introductions. She discussed the project schedule, funding and both City of Boston and BPRD priorities and goals. LB reviewed the project history and the reasoning hold this second community meeting after the South End Historic District Commission (SEHDC) meeting.
 - BK briefly reviewed the park's existing conditions, design opportunities and constraints; discussed each of the three concept plans presented at the last community meeting; and relayed the comments received at the SEHDC meeting.
 - CB walked through the preferred concept plan in detail, which incorporates what was heard at the last community meeting and comments received at the SEHDC meeting.
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GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Create more intimate spaces through seating and paving areas.
- Discussion about the granite block seats, which were donated by a resident. They are a play opportunity for kids, but uncomfortable to sit on.
- The park has become a dog park. Discussion of BPRD standard signage as a topic to discuss with Library staff.

FENCING & BOLLARDS:

- Clarification of gate locations and panels of fence to be removed.
- Fence connection at building was broken by previous contractor and never fixed. Should it be included under the scope of this project?
- Bollards at Rutland Square entrance are not located within park limits and thus, will not be included within this scope of work.

SITE FURNISHINGS

- Inset game board within the café tables was preferred.

- Metal single chairs have held up well.
- Will the curved bench invite sleeping?
 - Armrests will be installed at each end and within the bench to prevent unwanted activities.
- The seating reads as an allee. Is there a way for some seating to interact more with the performance space and/or create more social gathering spaces? It feels restrictive given that it lines both sides of the plaza.

GRADING, VEGETATION, & SOILS

- The pin oaks were planted in 1972. In 2012, dead limbs were pruned.
- There are extensive grading and compaction issues in the park and especially dramatic micrograding near the catchbasins.
- There is no division between paving and dirt currently. Look at the cobble curb at Hitchcock Park, which keeps dirt off of the pavement.
- Divert water to areas where it can infiltrate into the ground through the regrading of this site.
- Discussion of the proposed concrete pavement and historic unevenness and sinking of bluestone pavers.
 - Careful regrading and laying of the proper subbase should alleviate these issues.
- Discussion of the existing plant material (e.g. hostas donated by Mahoney's). The range of input was heard, including protecting the plant material in place, digging it up to nurture it at home during the construction period, and full removal and replacement by the Contractor.
- The community agreed that transplanting the weeping cherry and memorial plaque was preferred.
- Use the perimeter fence as a backdrop for shrub planting, such as azalea and rhododendron.

End of Notes. CB