

## **Downer Avenue Park Community Meeting 3 Meeting Minutes**

***Meeting Date/Time***

January 24, 2018

***Today's Date***

February 6, 2018

***Location***

Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester  
1135 Dorchester Avenue  
Boston, MA 02125

***Written By***

Lena Smart

***Project***

Downer Avenue Park:

***Purpose***

Community Meeting Minutes

***Pages***

3

***Copies to***

NF

***Present***

Nathan Frazee  
Marchelle Jacques-Yarde  
Flavio Daveiga  
Shauna Gillies-Smith  
Olivera Berce  
Lena Smart  
Community members

***Organization***

Boston Parks and Recreation  
Boston Parks and Recreation  
Boston Parks and Recreation  
Ground Landscape  
Ground Landscape  
Ground Landscape

***Initials***

NF  
MJY  
FD  
SGS  
OB  
LS

## **Item Description**

1. **Introduction by Nathan Freeze from Boston Parks and Recreation:** NF talked about the Downer Avenue Park project. He introduced the project team, reviewed the history and previous stages of the project process, schedule, construction cost, City of Boston design initiatives and goals. He also discussed the five elements of play and what activities are included within each category.
2. **Presentation by Shauna Gillies Smith from Ground Inc.** SGS reviewed the previous designs and comments from the Downer Avenue Community Meeting 2. She introduced the new scheme and specific design elements including the removal of the existing wall, new transparent fencing, park entrances, dog park, seating area, athletic/game court, skating wall, play areas, fitness stations, open lawn and lighting. For the play areas, she presented several different options for the equipment to get opinions from the community.
3. **Public discussion/ comments:**
  1. Street Openness and Safety:
    - i. The community members expressed strong support for the street openness and safety precautions made. All who spoke was in favor of eliminating the existing stone wall and revising the park's grading to allow for multiple entrances and openness to the street.
  2. Basketball Court:
    - i. A number of members of the community expressed that they liked the multi-use court and felt it would be more conducive to appropriate park activities. There was some concern about the lighting for the court shining into neighboring houses so care should be taken with the lighting design.
    - ii. At least one community member gave support for a more standard basketball court (half or full).
  3. Trees and Green Space:
    - i. Generally, the neighbors were positive about having an open green space as part of the park. There was at least one community member who requested that the old trees be replaced.
  4. Play Areas (child and adult)
    - i. Most of the members did not comment on specific play equipment although it was mentioned they liked that there was a range of play equipment for different age groups. Several community members spoke in favor of the adult fitness station. Two members were in favor of the play and platform option for the kids play because they can be used by a

large range of age groups and were concerned that the sculptural and rope play options offer similar play activities to the hillside play area.

- ii. Generally, the community members spoke in favor of the slide and climb hillside play area. One person mentioned that color of the hillside play area should be considered and to make sure that metal slide was not too reflective. NF mentioned that BPRD policy is to shade metal slides so they do not get too hot. One person mentioned they liked the idea of a swing in some part of the park.

5. Multi-use Skating Wall

- i. There was little support for the skating wall/elements. The community members expressed concern with the noise that it would bring to the neighborhood.

6. Dog Play Area:

- i. Many community members were in favor of the dog park. They commented on the beneficial location and how it will further promote safe activities.
- ii. One person was apprehensive about the dog area becoming overcrowded and too large. Another was concerned about the use of peastone and suggested using the stone material found at the Zero Washington Dog Park in Somerville.

7. Lighting:

- i. There was strong support for adding lighting for safety and decorative purposes although concern was expressed about the potential of light shining into adjacent neighboring houses. They requested that the current dawn to dusk regulation be maintained.

The above minutes constitute our understanding of events that transpired at this meeting. Please notify this office in writing of corrections or additions within ten working days of receipt of these minutes.