

MCCONNELL PARK  
COMMUNITY MEETING #3  
MEETING NOTES

DATE: 10.30.2018 @ 6:30pm

LOCATION: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF DORCHESTER

PRESENTERS: Cathy Baker-Eclipse (CBE) | Boston Parks & Recreation Department  
Jeanne Lukenda (JL) | Weston & Sampson  
Elise Bluell (EB) | Weston & Sampson  
Adria Boynton (AB) | Weston & Sampson

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PRESENTATION:

- CBE opened the meeting with introductions (JL, EB, AB).
  - CBE discussed general schedule of Meetings, Bid Documents (Winter 2019-2020), Construction (Summer 2020), Park Opening (Spring 2021)
  - CBE reviewed comments and key take-aways from Community Meeting #2 and mentioned ongoing stakeholder coordination
  - JL reviewed existing site aerial with notes about 4 key zones: athletic fields, grass hill, playground, parking
  - JL recapped recent storm events and touched on climate change and resiliency efforts that will be considered in the design process
  - AB reviewed BH-FRM 1% Annual Storm Map (present day, 2030, 2070), Flood Progression and residency time maps, as well as schematic projected inundation map. AB also suggested potential utility improvements to accommodate increasing amounts of storm water
  - EB described the preferred concept design, noting important field layouts and orientations as well as upgraded and/or new amenities. EB also explained the lighting concept for the proposed site, noting that the sports field lights will be independent of the pedestrian and street lighting
  - EB discussed precedent images: fields (natural vs synthetic turf); playground (styles of structures and importance of inclusive play elements); passive/plaza (use of paving, lawn, and trees to beautify spaces); pedestrian safety (speed table, specialty paving, bollards)
  - CBE opened the floor to discussion
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#### GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Seemed to be general preference for synthetic turf multi-use field; would get more use and would extend playing season; would also welcome users from Challenger Field for other sports
- Would like emergency call boxes and security cameras to be added
- Would Challenger Field be better suited at Savin Hill Park due to the flooding concern? (representatives from Challenger League prefer to keep it with the other ball fields)
- Would like to see cost comparison between synthetic turf field and natural grass (standard maintenance and clean-up post-storm events)
- Please consider salt tolerant plant species due to proximity to floodwater
- Overall park signage should be revised and improved to avoid visual clutter
- Would like to see reduction in number of parking spots in order to keep more of abutting residents' properties

#### STORM EVENTS AND FLOODING RISK

- Do not raise road so that stormwater flowing down Playstead and Denny gets backed-up into abutting properties
- What is the concern with the infill for the synthetic turf? Drift and resettlement post flood? What maintenance goes along with this? How will you deal with drifting beach sand from storm events?
- Would natural turf be better suited to flood scenarios?

#### PLAY

- Keep focus on inclusive play features to accommodate users of Challenger field
- Like fencing at perimeter of playground as well as PIP rubber surfacing
- Play structures should be suited for both 2-5 and 5-12 age groups

#### LITTLE LEAGUE / BASEBALL

- Liked the inclusion of Challenger Field but questioned maintenance and longevity of field life given proximity to flood zone
- Keep outfield fencing at Challenger field to encourage home runs
- Would like to see some sort of lighting at Challenger field since players are getting older and would like to play outside of daylight hours
- Would rubber play surface be better for the Challenger field since it is more "flood-friendly"?
- Would like to see sports lighting located outside of central grass zone if possible (keep area clear for other uses)
- Should Challenger Field be located farther away from the flood plain? Is it possible to adjust the layout to see if this is feasible?

#### ADULT USE

- ADA access to lawn areas and benches/ resting nodes along perimeter walkways was well received

#### DOGS

- Would like to see a dedicated dog park in the "paper street" portion of Springdale / Squirrel Alley (behind 60' diamond); some were concerned about smell and adjacency to kids at the ball field
- If multi-use field is synthetic turf, a dog run should be included in the design

#### LIGHTING

- Glad to see that the lighting has been considered; would like pedestrian lighting throughout the site to discourage trash build-up and undesirable behavior
- Would like to see more lighting in the parking lot (more than what was shown on the lighting graphic)
- More lighting near northeast corner of site by the baseball storage containers
- Consensus was that the more lighting that is included, the better

#### YACHT CLUB ACCESS ROAD / PLAZA

- Very happy to see focus on pedestrian friendly space to discourage cars speeding through that road
- Make sure this is designed carefully to ensure proper safety measures are followed
- DCR needs to increase maintenance of their portion (or close Yacht Club)

End of Notes. EB