



**Dorchester Park  
Community Meeting #2  
Meeting Notes**

Date: December 14, 2022  
Time: 6:00pm – 6:50 pm  
Location: Zoom

Attendees

Community Members

Lauren Bryant - Project Manager, Boston Parks and Recreation Department [BPRD]

Ray Dunetz - Principal, Ray Dunetz Landscape Architecture [RDLA]

Christine Brandao - Outreach Coordinator, External Affairs [BPRD]

Melissa - TSL interpreter

The following summarizes this meeting grouped by topic:

**1. General**

- a. Lauren welcomed Community to the meeting and presented the team, zoom instructions, project schedule, agenda, City of Boston priorities, Boston Parks and Recreation's Goals, Project Scope and budget;
- b. Lauren shared the events of the first meeting site walk and community's input;
- c. Lauren stated that the project will look at the connections to get to all the elements of the park [pathways and entrances], condition of the pathways and entrances and accessibility, site furnishings, drinking fountains, tree health removing deadwood near the pathways;
- d. Future park initiatives could look at woodland areas;
- e. Lauren reviewed the project schedule;
- f. Once we get the community feedback, we will come back to the Community to present the final design direction. Lauren will email the date when it is scheduled;
- g. Lauren requested email addresses from attendees to put on her mailing list;
- h. After the winter meeting, we will develop the design in anticipation of a Fall 2023 start of Construction;
- i. Total budget is \$1,525,000;
- j. Lauren reviewed how park design works [community input, City of Boston priorities, BPRD goals, ADA requirements];
- k. Lauren reviewed site specific project goals
- l. Ray presented the Site Analysis, Scope of Project and inspirational images of site furnishings and swing types.

The following subjects were discussed throughout the remainder of the meeting:

**2. Circulation/Access**

- a. Lauren stated that the Access Board would likely require at least one accessible pathway to traverse the entire park. Team will review options that balance environmental conditions, grading conditions, ledge, tree assessments/locations and cost. Some sections of the park may require variances if accessibility is not easily achieved;
- b. Lauren discussed that every single amenity including the tennis court, field playground has to have an accessible entrance and path to them;
- c. Currently there is not an accessible path traversing the park nor a fully accessible entrance;
- d. BPRD works with their Arborist and Disability Commission to provide input at challenging access pathways;

- e. One attendee asked what the revised grading will look like. Lauren responded that the design team will study this prior to the next Community meeting in Winter 2023;
- f. Likely only one of the entrances at Richview will be able to be made accessible;
- g. One attendee asked if both Richview entrances will be “modernized”. Lauren responded by saying that yes, both entrances will be improved during this project;
- h. We will also look at stairs to make sure they meet ADA guidelines.

**3. Grading/Drainage/Erosion**

- a. Grading will be sensitive to existing trees and the intent is to make the resulting improvements look natural;
- b. Ledge will also be a determining factor in path location and grading;

**4. Trees/Vegetation**

- a. An attendee asked what an Arborist will do;
  - i. Lauren stated the team has not yet engaged an Arborist, but that work is forthcoming;
  - ii. Arborist will evaluate all trees within 15’ of the pathway to determine health, safety and grading concerns.

**5. Utilities**

- a. One attendee reminded the team that one of the drinking fountains was shut down due to lead concerns. Lauren responded by saying part of this work will be to update drinking fountains to bottle fillers and make sure there are no lead concerns before they are reopened to the public;
- b. Lauren stated that the water fountain can accommodate dog bowls. Some attendees responded in the chat that the dog bowls would be desirable;
- c. A new water bottle filler would be desirable near the playground, but not with a dog bowl.

**6. Historic Considerations**

- a. An attendee asked will the project need to be permitted by the Landmarks Commission [LC]?
- b. Lauren responded that this park is a historic park with a small “h” and does not need to get LC approval;
- c. However, the park will be designed with respect to the historic nature of the park and the ideals of the LC.

**7. Swing**

- a. RDLA presented swing options to Attendees;
- b. Lauren stated that a typical swing has a large safety zone and will take up a lot of space;
- c. Any new swings will have to meet Playground Safety standards;
- d. One attendee provided a picture of the old swing with a belt and bucket in the chat, see below;



- e. Lauren described that the original swing layout did not meet playground standards;
  - i. A lap belt and bucket seat cannot be located in the same swing bay;
- f. Dish swings are an option because they have a small footprint, multiple children can play and they are inclusive;
- g. Community stated that a belt swing and toddler swing like before would be good but are also open to a dish swing possibility;
- h. Design team will review swing options, including footprint and layout implications and present at the next Community meeting.

**8. Site Furnishings**

- a. RDLA presented new site furnishings should tie in with existing park furnishings;
- b. New benches to have a center arm rest to prevent sleeping;

- c. One attendee requested the design team provide two picnic tables at the base of the hill at Richview. Traditionally the residents would carry a picnic table to the park during the Auto Show. Design team to review;
  - i. Two picnic tables are desirable;

**9. Fencing/Gates**

- a. Fencing was not discussed during the meeting;

**10. Signage**

- a. RDLA presented that new identification signs and bulletin boards would be installed to replace existing.

**11. Schedule**

- a. One attendee asked about the schedule and if construction would interfere with the Auto Show on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 [weekend after Labor Day];
- b. Lauren will review the construction schedule to avoid the show and get back to them at the next meeting.

**12. Next Steps**

- a. Design team will look closer at the challenging accessible areas denoted in purple on the Concept Plan;
- b. Representative images of grading;
- c. Swing types and layout;
- d. Grading;
- e. Lauren will notify the public of the next Community meeting in advance.

The author assumes this to be an accurate transcription of this meeting unless notified otherwise in writing from those present within five business days.

Prepared By:



Ray Dunetz, PLA, ASLA  
Principal

Attachments: None  
Cc: Attendees, File