

FALLON FIELD PLAYGROUND
COMMUNITY MEETING #3
MEETING NOTES

DATE: 3.3.15 @ 6:30pm

LOCATION: ROSLINDALE COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENTERS: Cathy Baker-Eclipse (CBE) | Boston Parks & Recreation Department
Cherilyn F. Ruane (CFR) | Weston & Sampson
Cassie Bosco (CBB) | Weston & Sampson

PRESENTATION:

- CBE opened the meeting with introductions, described the project schedule, and progress thus far. Survey has been delayed due to the snow, so the project may not break ground in early fall as expected. More to come.
 - CFR reviewed existing site conditions, opportunities and constraints as well as summarized the outcome of the prior community meeting.
 - CBB described preferred concept for park improvements.
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GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Where can you sit to gain the best view of the entire playground? Some concerned about viability and use of stadium seating, while others endorse this seating option as the “social center” of the playground.
 - Many varieties of seating are available, from formal, traditional options to informal boulders and seat walls.
- Where can strollers go?
 - Anywhere. The park is fully accessible; anyone of any ability, stroller or not, can access all levels of the playground.
- “We want more height” in the slope.
 - Marrying the park’s grade change with ADA accessibility has been a delicate balance.
- Can granite boulders be used in place of retaining walls? Adds play value.
 - Consideration: Boulders close to 4’ high fence may promote kids to climb over the fence. Difficult in areas where fence and thinner profile are needed.
- Attendees don’t want to create walls and visual obstructions that can impact safety.
- Voted: 1/3 of the attendees would prefer no gate directly at the Walworth/ South Street entrance because of the intersection’s busyness.
- West Roxbury Crushed Stone may be a potential source for boulders.
 - Considerations: Rounded, dulled edges.
- Are there opportunities for growing ivy along court edge and/or up retaining walls? Planting tomatoes/ sunflowers?

- Parks maintenance will take care of lawn and trees. All else would be the responsibility of a dedicated group of neighbors and community members.
- Seating in the shade was widely endorsed.
- Can café tables have chess boards incorporated? Yes.
- A Friends of Fallon group was suggested. A group of this kind could help with microdecisions.
 - CBE to connect with City's "Friend's Of" manager.
- Benches, trash receptacles and bike racks are desired.
- More community buy-in was requested.
 - Easter Egg Hunt (4/4/15) is very diverse and may offer great opportunity for input.
 - Other opportunities: Saturday Farmer's Markets, Roslindale Village Main Streets, Roslindale Village Newsletter, plan available at Roslindale Community Center and Storytime at Library, additional Saturday morning site meeting in warmer weather.
 - Community members started a facebook page and have actively publicized community meetings, shared plans and information as this process has progressed.

PLAY:

- The iconic piece (pyramidal slide and/or the spherical net climber) is missing from the previous schemes. Something more risky and challenging is desired. Four feet of grade change between upper and lower playground seems tame.
 - Build up embankment higher to gain more slide height. Perhaps there is a way to taper the embankment such that one side starts at 2 ft. and expands to 6 to 8 ft. on the other end.
 - A structure to span upper and lower playground levels was widely endorsed.
 - Not much included for big kids without the pyramidal slide and spherical net climber.
- Swings are priority. More swings desired.
 - T-swing (little kids) and tandem swing (big kids) are good. Intermediate option desired.
 - Belt swings are needed. Two buckets and two belts are preferred if the footprint allows.
 - Group/ basket swing as an option? Parents and kids can swing together.
 - Swings offer a communal space for parents.
- Spinners are "not awesome." Keep one spinner for its gross motor skill/ play value, but can we put an iconic piece in place of one of them? More risk desired.
- What are slides made out of? Consider wet butts sliding down.
- Extra wide slide widely endorsed. Perhaps combine little kid embankment slide and extra wide slide?
- 2-5 yr. zone seems to require high parent supervision due to unprotected edge at the top of the embankment.
- Sand?
 - Not shown in this scheme right now because of discussion at earlier meetings, but it can easily be added back in if desired. Tactile/ imaginative play may be met through timber scramble. Possible sand in "secret garden."
- Splash pad widely endorsed.

End of Notes. cbb