From: Wan Huang
To: Ann Lafferty
Cc: meghann.ryan@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Fwd: Community Regarding 555 Park
Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 2:07:58 PM

Hello Ann and Meg,

I am just back from a vacation in Canada where I really enjoy the cooler and dryer air. Please first forward my thanks to Heidi for her clear summary of the meeting in the park.

Do you know what the date was when the sides of the waterfall was taken at the corner of the Boston Ave? It is impressive how the water gush down from the park to the street. I will forward it to the consultant once we make the selection.

The existing playground may seem loose, but there are required fall zones for each piece of equipment. Therefore I don't think we will have space to add new equipment. There will be natural play component outside of the playground.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Wan Huang
Principal | LEED AP | (617) 981-1021

www.wanhuangarchitects

From: Ann Lafferty <lafferty_ann@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 01, 2018 9:12 PM
To: Huang, Wan <Wan.Huang@nextgenerationparks.org>
Cc: meghann.ryan@gmail.com
Subject: Fw: Re: Community Regarding 555 Park

Hello Wan –
Perhaps you remember Meg, the neighbor who joined us on the park walk-through. She lives on Boston AVenue, right across from the park. She's the mother of 2 young girls, and described how her daughters love riding their bikes up and down the rolling dip, calling it the "half-pipe".

Anyway, Meg sent out the following message to the same group, basically, who was present at the walk-through, and asked the message be forwarded to you.
Thanks, Ann Lafferty

Forwarded Message
From: Meghann Ryan <meghann.ryan@gmail.com>
To: Heidi Coleman <heidiacoleman@gmail.com>
Cc: Beth Holleran <bethholleran@gmail.com>, Stephanie Murphy <stemurphy3@icloud.com>, David Minton <boardman3@icloud.com>, Ann Lafferty <lafferty_ann@yahoo.com>, Aj <kmail3@comcast.net>, Roger Coleman <rogercoleman3333@icloud.com>
Date: Sunday, August 26, 2018, 10:06:49 PM EDT
Subject: Re: Community Regarding 555 Park

Heidi,

Thanks so much for all the updates and clarified information regarding the current standing thoughts on the park.

I'm so glad our community has a voice in the design since it is something that we should all feel reflects our collective needs. So far, I'm happy with the current direction and share similar concerns on the re-grading for storm water. There is an issue as we begin to have more of those heavier downpours. I wasn't there when we had the heavy rain on July 25th but here is a video my husband sent. (see attached) That was by far the worst I have ever seen it. If anyone is in direct communication with Wan currently, feel free to pass it along to her team.

I hope there is not any drastic changes to the current lay of the land. The temporary swale in the middle has made me a bit nervous as kids start through the fields and not notice the dip. Also, these fields (in the 3 years we have lived across from them) are only occupied as "soccer" fields for brief seasons and then only a fraction of the time each week. The majority of the parks use is the playground basketball courts and tennis, leaving the fields open for pick-up games, free running and non-designated activities. I hope it stays that way. A sweet little field in an ever-expanding urban space.

If they ever add more structure on to the Childs playground, there is this wonderful brand of equipment made out of wood. My daughters pre-school just invested in three pieces for their playground (TPCSS). They are a soft-spoken tree wood and I love the ability for imaginative play it would create, esp. since the daily morning consist is of the pre-school age. The brand is Kompan and can be found here: https://www.kompan.com/en-us/products/playsets ?

Cheers,
Meg

On Wed, Aug 28, 2019 at 2:30 PM Heidi Coleman <heidi.coleman@bowdoin.com> wrote:

Hi Megan,
Welcome back.

All,
I've been meaning to send out a note. A week ago or so, Ann and I had a chance to meet with Ellen at the park. We asked a lot of questions and she shared a lot of information with us. I have the impression she's trying hard to really hear and balance all the interests, explore additional options and find a solution that meets as many of the needs as possible. I think Ann felt that way, too.

Regarding process:

- They hope to bring on a consultant sometime in Sept, who will help them with design details and permits
- They are also doing a study (or Step) regarding options for "indoor season" (to look at other parks, as well, which may serve as better options than the tennis court at 300 Park)
- They expect to present a proposal for Board approval by Jan or Feb
- We will have another opportunity to comment (online)
- Trail survey will be independents how far from the park they live and how often they use the park
- The design work can be finalized for another year or so

Regarding the direction of the design:

- They no longer plan to include exercise stations
- Drainage remains a challenge and ADA compliance
- Another priority is the fence gate near the playground (to prevent small children from running into the street)
- They plan to create three retention ponds for drainage
- The budget is $1 million
- Biggest expense is likely repairing the retention wall at the east end
- They plan to remove the steps and alter the paths (leading toward the tennis court), so they're less steep and they'll add a railing (for ADS)
- They plan to add a "natural play" area near the playground
- A shelter and the path near the white wall are not a priority; opinion was mixed about those elements
- They will try to maintain as many trees as possible and they plan to add new ones near the basketball court
- They hope to add a water fountain (2 levels - for adults, kids and pets), and they plan to add pickle ball lines on the tennis courts and a bike rack (near the parking lot, I think)
- The biggest question, I think, is how much grading they will do (none, some or a lot). Ellen hopes the contractor can help: the work order for the contractor asks them to balance solving drainage, making the park useful for sports, and maintaining rolling natural terrain

She welcomes additional questions.

Also,
Please add if I forgot anything and correct me if you think I got anything wrong.

Heidi

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