

Cronin Wainwright Playground
Second Community Meeting, Wednesday, February 16, 2011
Location: Epiphany School

Attending: Cathy Baker-Eclipse, Project Manager, Boston Parks and Rec. Dept.
Clara Batchelor, Principal, CBA Landscape Architects LLC
Member of the Community (See attached list.)

Cathy Baker-Eclipse opened the meeting by reviewing some of the overall parameters.

1. The park will be funded by the City's capital improvements budget and from a PARC grant.
2. The construction budget for the park is \$875,000.
3. The design needs to be completed by June 30, 2011. The construction needs to be complete by June 1, 2012. Construction should begin in August or September of 2011, after the summer camp programs have ended.

Cathy also said that she had emailed the meeting notes from the last meeting to everyone and had gotten some comments back. The most notable comment was that the baseball field was used by the Epiphany School and that they wanted to maintain it.

Clara Batchelor added that she had received a letter from Michael Keenan, Sr., the brother of Joseph F. Keenan, HM3 who was killed in the Korean War and for whom there is a Memorial Stone with a plaque in the park. Mr. Keenan wanted to make sure that the "memorial remain in a place of honor and care will be taken that it will not be damaged during the reconstruction" of the park.

Clara presented four schemes. All schemes included

1. a lighted walk across the park from Wainwright Street to Melbourne Street,
2. Interior perimeter walks,
3. Benches along the paths,
4. Bicycle racks,
5. Trash receptacles,
6. An enclosed area for play equipment that was larger than the existing play equipment area,
7. A water play feature within the play equipment area,
8. An ornamental perimeter fence,
9. Picnic areas,
10. More trees,
11. Two basketball courts, one 94 x 50 and one 84 x 50 both fenced on the ends,
12. An under ten soccer field,
13. An opening into the park at the end of Joseph Road,
14. The double-dutch jump rope pavers reinstalled.

Two schemes had a diagonal cut through path from Melbourne to the corner of Wainwright

and Brent Streets.

Two schemes had the baseball diamond, two did not. The baseball diamond schemes did not have the diagonal path.

Everyone at the meeting favored Scheme 3. They liked it because the smaller basketball court was separate from the larger court. The smaller court is in the northeast corner of the park. They liked the diagonal cut through. People strongly believed that the baseball diamond should not dominate the park.

Items that people want to add to the preferred scheme include:

1. The diagonal path should be the main path, add lights.
2. Big Belly trash receptacles,
3. Bike racks at every entrance,
4. A sign with park rules,
5. Electric outlets (it was stated that they could be added to the light poles),
6. Community bulletin board at Wainwright and Brent,
7. The decorative arch should be at the Wainwright/Brent corner entrance,
8. Lights should be added to the diagonal walk through to the corner of Brent and Wainwright,
9. A second water fountain at southeast corner,
10. Bleachers by the larger basketball court,
11. Easy care plants,
12. Movie night is important, design should keep in mind where the screen will be located.

It was discussed that a new baseball backstop could be added where one currently is. A more informal baseball diamond can be created that can serve as a kick ball field and informal softball games.

People discussed the pros and cons of a picnic area. It was decided to keep the picnic area for now.

Precedents

CBA presented precedent images for the park. These included examples of entry arches, decorative fences, play equipment, walls, pavement, and site furniture.

Next Steps

CBA will refine Scheme 3 to incorporate the comments outlined above. They will also prepare preliminary sketches for entry arch options, decorative fence options, and play equipment options.

The next public meeting will be on March 10th.

End of Notes

Prepared by Clara Batchelor, CBA Landscape Architects LLC

