

East Boston PierPAC

July 18, 2017

Attendance:

Mary Berninger	Karen Buttiglieri	Connie Carbone
Fran Carbone	Peter Cardinale	Jerry Deneumoustier
Marie Deneumoustier	Mary Hanlon	Bernardine Joslin
Rose Petraglia	Frances Piantedosi	Bob Strelitz
Melissa Tyler		

Excused:

Florence D'Avella	Eddie DeAngelis	David Halbert
Sal LaMattina	Adrian Madaro	Karen Maddalena

Associate Members Present:

Alex DeFronzo	Lucille Drago	Lucille Reed
Mary Romano		

Mary Berninger - Questioning if Anthony wanted to be on the list (for the minutes) every month.
Anthony Guerriero - Yes.

Mary Berninger - Questioning if everyone has read the minutes? Deletions or additions?
Bob Strelitz - Correction Page 3, near the bottom of the page: 'birds defecting' to 'birds defecating'.
Peter Cardinale - Motion to accept.
Bernardine Joslin - Second.
Voted and passed.

Attendance taken. (Melissa Tyler joined via telecommunications.)

Mary Berninger - Richie and I had a conference call with Massport. It was a good call; talked with Kathy, Ashley, Rochelle, and Liz, to get things in motion for Phase II. Looking towards the end of June to get their big approval piece with regard to the projects at Logan. Questioning Anthony if the agencies responsible for giving all of the approvals came in.
Anthony Guerriero - Terminal E is all set, still waiting on the parking approval for 5000 spaces.

Mary Berninger - We talked about the old agreement for the operations, security and maintenance of Piers Park Phase I, but going forward with the discussion with them, to add the Bremen St. component. Before, the East Boston Foundation was involved; they will still be involved with this next phase as a mechanism to make sure everything is done. It comes under the environmental and sound proofing. There was a question that would have to come through the electives; if the LIAG would be staying or going away.
Richard Lynds - My understanding is it is our park, they are only intended to serve a specific function.
Anthony Guerriero - Do not disagree with that. It started late last year, focused on those two projects and probably to get the consensus of mitigation projects.

Richard Lynds - Do not believe the LIAG has any function beyond the initial advisory. Once that is concluded and the agreement is signed the LIAG's function is concluded.

Mary Berninger - So your point about having the agreement signed, that still hasn't been done and they are waiting for that final piece for the 5000 parking spots and then there will be a community event.

From what we have been told, that signals it is signed and the next phase, building the park and the senior center.

Richard Lynds - Bob had raised the question relative to that we do not have the draft yet. We have an interim understanding through July 31st. That will need to be amended to give us time to have the discussions that we need to have.

(Melissa Tyler joined the meeting through telecommunications.)

Mary Berninger - Richard to your point about getting the new agreement so we can look at it. We did talk about it again, to 'place hold' the language for Phase II, so that it would be there past July 31.

Questioning whether it would be a 7 to 10 year agreement, kind of open ended.

Richard Lynds - We have been operating under a 7 year window that give us the ability to have the renegotiation in a shorter time frame than 10 years. It allows us to have input in a more frequent interval than 10 years. There is a way we can come up with a plan that we agree to 10 years, but we have the option to renegotiation at any time after 7 if conditions warrant or circumstances change or if there are factors that we feel are necessary to reopen the discussions sooner. We get the best of both worlds with that. It's a 10 year agreement with the right to have discussions or to reopen.

Mary Berninger - Working with the subcommittee it would be an efficient and quick way to get the information to the group, with that working subcommittee. They direct it and bring the most important pieces back to this group. Originally you were calling them RFG or RFI, whichever it is, you're going to present some of it tonight to the meeting. You were also going to draft a memo to the PAC about umbrella components. We will do another meeting once we have the agreement, the subcommittee will be the second meeting, and the full PAC meeting will be the 3rd meeting, at which time if we all agree, to accept it.

Anthony Guerriero - A lot of work has been done, as you can tell by the recent conversations with Richard, Mary and the legal staff. At our last meeting you questioned the process and that is why we have Nhuy Hoang here. She worked on Phase I, the Neptune Buffer, this project, South Boston Maritime Park. In good hands to talk about the process that has transpired in the last 30 days.

Nhuy Hoang - Excited to be part of project, want to see it to completion. We went out in April and advertised for a consultant team with an RFQ. On May 16 we had 60 people attend a meeting. The interest was huge because Phase I was such a success. We received 11 proposals 2 days ago. Each proposal is obtained, whether or not it is a civil engineer who teams up with a landscape architect, there is a building in there. They team up and there is 11 separate teams submitted. We are in the process of accessing the proposal because of certain criteria. Past litigation has had a law suit, we have to investigate that. There are steps we will need to take to make sure the proposals are qualified for review; check their references with past projects. Over the next few weeks, will do background checks, check the information, past performance, etc. Information will be accumulated and we will review. The design selection panel will meet Sept 13. It is an open meeting. Massport opens the panel selection, anyone can sit and listen, but they cannot vote or comment. The selection panel will put together a process, will go to the AG's office and we will lay down our selection process, the members, construction criteria, etc.

Mary Berninger - But our group will be privy to see those and you called it a grid?

Nhuy Hoang - We usually don't do a briefing, but in this case, Massport recognizes the fact that this group has a lot of interest in this project. Once we have done our homework with other team members we would be able to sit down with a small group of you, to go over the proposal and highlights.

Mary Berninger - That's what we anticipated, it would be our chosen subcommittee. As Anthony knows, we are an equal partner at the table. Want to make sure we see it before the 13th. Questioning if it is appropriate to have someone from this group be on that panel.

Nhuy Hoang - In terms of the committee seeing the proposal ahead of time, the proposal cannot be made public until after the selection has been made. But we can do a review summary and brief you on the details. Even with the name of the company, there is a lot of proprietary information in the proposal so it cannot be made available till after the selection has been made. We can say the teaming, what team, their projects, etc. We can go over some factual information

Mary Berninger - I think we anticipated a little more nuts and bolts of the whole thing prior to the choices. Thought we would have an opportunity to give feedback to the Port as to what this group would be comfortable with seeing.

Karen Buttiglieri - For me, I know it is important for it to be someone like Marion Pressley, who really understands the neighborhood, she understands Phase I, etc. Not saying she should get the whole thing but I want to make sure she is at that table. So if someone doesn't partner with her, does that mean we are going to lose someone that has that ability? I have a problem with that.

Nhuy Hoang - Marion is on more than one team.

Richard Lynds - Just for clarification, my understanding is the design was 90% complete for Phase II, and we are now putting this out for consultants to take it to the next stage or are we re-designing this?

Nhuy Hoang - Think this is something we are going to work with the committee. My understanding is we will start with a fresh look because the park we designed 17 years ago (undistinguishable).

Fran Carbone - We had a complete design.

Mary Berninger - We did have a complete design, but we discussed this before, to keep it open and transparent to the greater community. Important to remember there are elements of that (the old design) that have been replicated elsewhere. We may go back to that design, but we have to have the discussion to bring in other ideas.

Richard Lynds - Not picking a design, we are picking a design team at this point. We can establish, after the design team is selected, to review what a base line is for the park and move on from that.

Nhuy Hoang - We will bring a design team with all the resource necessary to give you the information you need to make the decision.

Mary Berninger - Anthony wanted to know if we would push back the date of our trip to New York. I was of the opinion perhaps no, but will open it up for conversation. He had thought we could bring representatives of the chosen team with us who might be able to give reasons if the elements there would or would not work in East Boston because of the environmental concerns. If we push it back to October Adrian would not be able to go because of his wedding. Would be unfortunate if he could not go because the IAG pushed it to this point. That was his and Sal's idea, the IAG. Those two individuals should really be there because they have so much input. Questioning if anyone else has input on that.

Karen Buttiglieri - When you said pushing it back what month were you looking at?

Anthony Guerriero - After the firm is selected have the lead architect come on the trip with you, New York, Baltimore Park, etc. Have their counterpart who designed, say the Brooklyn bridge Park, come in with ideas as to why they chose certain trees, etc. Have someone with you that thinks about spacing, areas, etc.

Karen Buttiglieri - What month were you looking at?

Anthony Guerriero - Thinking maybe October.

Mary Berninger - Realistically you are going to choose that team on Sep 13, can't they clear their calendar to go.

Richard Lynds - They should all be told to be prepared.

Anthony Guerriero - If not this trip we could make arrangements for the PAC to do a Boston tour. There are a lot of new beautiful parks that opened up over the past 5 years right in Boston. Cool stuff for kids

and that may be an opportunity. Meet here, get a small bus, drive to Roslindale, Roxbury, JP. This could give you some other ideas. Do the New York trip and then sometime in October have the person come with you.

Karen Buttiglieri - Feels it would be helpful if we visit parks they should be the same type, on a waterfront. No sense visiting something so inland it would not be helpful.

Richard Lynds - Elements to both waterfront and urban parks, 2 elements that coexist in urban residential environments.

Karen Buttiglieri - Plant wise we should be able to look at certain plants that grow better by the water. If we are going in September, we are looking at a totally different look, (fall) flowers not blooming, etc. May be looking at a different type of look.

Mary Berninger - Some of the design elements that Anthony brought to my attention because this is the active parcel, there were some unbelievable play structures. The ones that impressed me were the ADA compliant ones. They could be on the waterfront or the inner city parcel.

Anthony Guerriero - Brought my son near the Lincoln School, they had musical instruments, xylophone Bongo drums, etc. The only reason I mentioned the trees, when we had the arborist down, he said we had the wrong trees.

Mary Berninger - Would like to recommend that we stay with Sept. 16th. A lot of effort put into getting everybody on board.

Karen Buttiglieri - Unable to attend due to previous plans in New York.

Mary Berninger - In the interest then of beginning the next part, I did call the bus company. If we could get an attendance sheet, think about it again to decide if you would like to go will decide which size bus to get.

Richard Lynds - Probably would want the 55 seat bus and then we would have to arrange for lunch, etc.

Mary Berninger - He said we would leave at 6:00am, get there by 11:00 with 1 rest stop, ballpark figure about \$3000. They need 2 drivers because they can only drive 10 hours a day.

Karen Buttiglieri - Have one but it depends on how many people, A&M Limousines. But they do not have bathrooms.

(Discussion on comfort, the original date, the people interested in going or are able to go, time of departure, etc.)

Richard Lynds - Have a definitive number of people by Aug. 1, by RSVP, to decide what size bus is needed.

Mary Berninger - Set a deadline for August 1st for a definite date for the people committing to go.

Karen Buttiglieri - If spending 3000 on a bus why not fly in and out and have someone there to make the arrangements for over there. (Explained her airfare for 2 round trip tickets to New York.) Just a thought.

Mary Berninger - We could have a car pick us up. I don't mind the flying, would save a lot of time. Will put out another email/call, find out if people are more apt to go if flying. Questioning if we need to send another letter about the expenditures.

Richard Lynds - Thinks it falls within the reasonable PAC expenditures for investigations.

Karen Buttiglieri - Flying home from there I had my flight changed from 5:00 to 9:00. Not a lot of options flying home on Saturday.

Bob Strelitz - Questioning if there would be an opportunity to video down there. A lot to be crammed into 3/4 hours.

Mary Berninger - Lauren Jazinsky offered to help coordinate the New York end of it. Figure out an itinerary, etc. She will figure out the best way to get around the city.

Melissa Tyler - Chelsea Piers Park is fabulous. It's on the way to the Highline, and Brooklyn Park.

Mary Berninger - Will mention that to Lauren. Anything else?

Anthony Guerriero - Girls softball started on Saturday, park is doing well.

Bernardine Joslin - Would still like to see more police officers down there.

Mary Berninger - Want to talk about the softball and the 2 leagues that use Festa Field. We talked about the chatter in the neighborhood, different groups trying to get different playing areas. Seems to be a tug of war between softball and baseball. I asked Anthony to give me a copy of the agreement. I was surprised when reading it. All of these years with my children playing, and listening to the principles of the 2 leagues, myself and others were under the impression that practices were not allowed there for 2 reasons. Because it could degrade the parks and it was not respectful to those neighbors. Curious to know if at the beginning, years ago, was there no language about practices and then it got added into it and would like to know why. Just by my looking at it, I advise this group to suggest to the Port no practices there. Last year there were a lot of problems with the infrastructure. I went down and visited with your staff and talked with the baseball people about the conditions I saw and that had nothing to do with Massport. It had to do with the kids breaking some of the fencing. I did ask the people running the leagues to speak with the coaches and the players. Told them this field is for everybody and it keeps getting broken and repaired. At a certain point in time the community needs to understand they have ownership of the issue, which is the maintenance. The maintenance piece of it is directly impacted by what the kids are doing and the coaches are allowing it. Saw it at the championship game this year; cross bar out of the channels, fencing bent again. Did speak with them, they do not have a lot of respect for this particular group. I feel they do not want to understand that we advise security, operations, and maintenance. Can we recommend that they take out the language about practice and add that whoever signs this agreement has to police those coaches and those kids?

Anthony Guerriero - We made it very clear that it is just for games no practices. The neighbors in that area are pretty good about noticing if something is out of whack. Last year we did find out that one of the tournaments did not have any East Boston kids in it. We found it out after the fact. At the beginning of this season we re-inserted language that the field is to be solely used by East Boston children. Other areas/teams can play an East Boston team at the field. One league is always pushing the other one for more time and space. Last year I had to intervene .

Richard Lynds - Should not be the Port Authorities responsibility to schedule games, what leagues play there.

Karen Buttiglieri - Is it boys against girls? Not sure about the teams..

Anthony Guerriero - Little League is from April and last week their season ended. Girl's softball started Saturday and ends the first week of October. There is disagreement between the 2 leagues of when they can use the fields.

Mary Berninger - The problem came up with the breaking down of the infrastructure. It looked like a pickup game and the parents thought it was wonderful that other kids could use the field.

Anthony Guerriero - That field was locked and they do not have access. The games start after 5:00 during the week, no games on Sunday. We have had multiple meetings over the years, the field is solely for games no practices.

Karen Buttiglieri - Why can't the coaches or the person in charge of the groups, listen to the rules and regulations and if they cannot abide by them they can't play there.

Anthony Guerriero - I coached in Revere for 10 years. It is a challenging adventure. Parents are totally involved in their children and then those parents become coaches, presidents and treasurers of the leagues. Over the last 3 years some members of one of the leagues tried to push one of the leagues out and create a new league to have only a certain gender play at Festa Field. It is a replacement field, the first field burnt down. I explained it was Massport mitigation, and there is a Board and CEO that I have to report to. In terms of the overall maintenance, you would hope that the coaches themselves police it. We get calls from the neighbors of kids kicking/breaking the fence, throwing bottles into the cemetery, their yards, etc.

Mary Berninger - Turning it back to Richie. Questioning what he suggests for our advisory role in this, about changing the language. That it is not for practice at all and that whoever signs this licensing agreement understands that the equipment is valuable to the whole community and while they are there, they are responsible.

Richard Lynds - Our role is not to micro-manage the leagues themselves or to get involved in their politics or affairs, but more or less to be the advocate to the community that abuts any of the parks in the park system. That is where our lines get drawn. If it is in the interest of the neighborhood, I think that is what is important. 2 issues here. I think the immediate neighborhood is impacted by additional use and then also the impact of the park itself and what that means. It is considered one of the gems in the area, one of the nicest Little League fields around. If acting within that purview, I think we have the ability. We have the ability but, do not know which way the PAC wants to vote on as to whether or not they want to make an advisory recommendation to the Port Authority to limit the license agreement to not allow practices.

Anthony Guerriero - Feels that is a wise recommendation. Mary has a good way of identifying with different partners in the community, Sailing Center, YMCA, etc. Maybe in March have the Little League come down, give a quick presentation. There are 800 kids, 12 teams. Develop that relationship and do the same thing with Girl's Softball.

Mary Berninger - If anything could drive this to the change around, who is culpable for maintaining this thing, it is the condition of that cross bar; it had bees in it and kids are pulling on it. It is an accident waiting to happen. Do not understand why the leagues do not recognize that fact, but if someone gets hurt, we all understand what their next step could be.

Karen Buttiglieri - Questioning where they will practice if they can't practice there.

Anthony Guerriero - They have been practicing all over East Boston. The big dilemma is the closure of Noyes Park for about 12 months for rehab. It will re-open next year, Little League and then the American Legion and other teams will be playing there. Demographics have changed, even though they are bursting at the seams they are competing against soccer. The fields where they practice, that's the challenge. Paul McCaffrey is the licensing person for the city of Boston, and we talk on a regular basis. He has challenges to get licenses for different fields. We get permits for specific times and we have the field for certain times. We have so many teams competing for the fields.

Mary Berninger - The leagues try to do scheduling, but sometimes there are groups from outside East Boston that appear at these parks, predominantly soccer, and it has gone to the point that they have to call Station 7 to come down and show the permit. Some of the conversation has been to give the permits for these months to only East Boston teams to.

Anthony Guerriero - We have gotten calls from airlines, etc., to use Festa Field for annual softball games. We try to maintain the park for kids.

Mary Berninger - Anyone want to make a motion to advise Massport?

Rose Petraglia - Questioning the area down at the beach, (Constitution Beach) at the end of tennis court.

Mary Berninger - They use that for practice and sometimes adults play there. Have to get permits from DCR. Questioning if we should give recommendations to the Port.

Richard Lynds - Questioning if legal has any issues with that.

Anthony Guerriero - Send me an email. I am more or less the advisory to Festa Field.

Richard Lynds - Thinks there is a community angle to this. Coming from the PAC is an advocate both to the immediate neighborhood and the community at large. Makes good sense, good policy reasons. If the PAC makes a recommendation it is not intended to be difficult, there is some real purpose behind it.

Anthony Guerriero - Agrees with the fact that it should not be used for practices, solely for games.

Also, thinks important to develop a relationship a month prior to both seasons.

Bernardine Joslin - And hold them responsible for any damages their teams do at their park.

Mary Berninger - Would you like to make a motion to do the advising of those two things, the park visit and invite them next year?

Bernardine Joslin - Motion to advise and invite them next season (prior to the seasons).

Bob Strelitz - Second.

Mary Berninger - Voted and passed.

Mary Berninger - Saw a posted picture, grown adults climbing trees. Hate to be hard all the time, but we are supposed to advise and preserve. Do not understand. This is for everybody. Then if it gets broken or someone falls, we all know what is going to happen. Have not seen any signage in a long time.

Questioning if on the signs it has 'no tree climbing'.

Anthony Guerriero - Never had that issue before. The other outstanding issues is that we have people putting up hammocks tied to the trees on the Greenway. to sleep, read, etc.

Mary Berninger - Questioning how the Port is handling this.

Anthony Guerriero- They are saying no way. I got involved with the one on the Greenway.

Mary Berninger - We are going into Phase II and we are choosing trees that will survive in this climate.

Bernardine Joslin - Sunday, down at the park, some couples had rented some bikes, outside the park, but they did not realize they could not take the bikes into the parks. Questioning if there was a place people could leave their bikes, protected, in the park.

Karen Buttiglieri - If they rent them outside the park maybe there should be some kind of language to let them know that bikes are not allowed in the park.

Anthony Guerriero - There is language. The other question is if it is the right location for bikes. You have trucks flying down that street. Moving forward maybe the area we visited on Thursday night, the caboose, maybe put them there, it is open space. More concerned that it is a public safety hazard.

Mary Berninger - 1 1/2 weeks ago the invitation went out to several of us to attend a Public Safety meeting. There had been instances where some women had been assaulted/approached, etc. Joe Lawless, Mike Grady, Anthony, Adrian, Sal, Sgt. Martin, Zuffante, 9 of us. Although we hear it anecdotally, Station 7 says nobody has reported it. If we hear those things, if someone tells you that had happened, we need to recommend to them that they need to record it. We did a walk around and there were some things missing. No call boxes, no lights down there, just an overhanging spotlight. Chris Cook was there from the city because it is their property and it is not being very well maintained. They are going to contact Roseland. (Question came up about where this was exactly. On South Bremen St. in front of the caboose. It was explained the area right in front of building 6.) Adrian wrote a letter and sent it off from his phone, on behalf on all these different agencies to see if Roseland would see their way to paying for and installing a security camera on their property. Joe Lawless wasn't sure if it would be tied into any kind of system. I mentioned at least we would have the loop available. He said at least, in case of an event, it would be good for forensics. I also suggested the fire dept. building, put a camera there also. Joe said there could be camera on the call box also. Would see the person making the call for

help and the people around them. Good meeting. Talked about putting out a request to get something going in the caboose. Make the area vibrant. Sal suggested a bike place, coffee shop, tables and chairs out there. Joe Lawless volunteered his guys when patrolling, he will tell them to go into that end of the Greenway too.

Fran Carbone - That's a very scary area. It cannot be seen from the street.

Anthony Guerriero - A lot of the Greenway is like that. Spent \$50,00 to upgrade the narrow gauge because it's below grade. It follows the tracks and the residences are further apart. Chris, our maintenance guy, weed whacks near the bulkheads. As Sal was saying if you could get a business, bike shop/coffee shop, table and chairs, you would have activity. It would be successful because Roseland would have 5 and 6 done in the spring. More activity, more people walking in there.

Fran Carbone - Plus you have the call boxes.

Anthony Guerriero - That was the conversation, a camera and call box, if Roseland would do it, right on the corner.

Mary Berninger - Wanted this group to know they did include us in the conversation and going forward, it could mean a lot of things.

Bernardine Joslin - Questioning if the buildings have cameras on them.

Anthony Guerriero - Yes, they have circular cameras all around.

Mary Berninger - Adrian will get back to the people who were in that meeting to see what happens. Hopes Roseland sees the wisdom in doing that and that the city does the lifting of the canopies, the pruning and they said they would look at the flooding. Under Old Business.

Karen Buttiglieri - With Roseland, feels it is more than asking, need to tell them what we need because there are, sometimes, very slow wheels there.

Mary Berninger - Thinks Adrian was very pointed, he did a good job. And the individuals that came took it very seriously. They did not want anyone assaulted, approached, et.

Fran Carbone - Even in the daytime it is totally isolated, but we walk as a group.

Peter Cardinale - The Maverick St. Gate, every Sunday afternoon, cars come really fast. Just ask them to slow down, give us a chance to get out of the gate.

Anthony Guerriero - I will definitely ask that question. We have gotten some complaints and we have been working at trying to delineate the difference between, Uber, Lyft cars coming in, etc. Have a lot of jockeys, the guys bring the cars back to the rental car facilities, and passengers rushing to get their cars out. Talking to all of them. On Tomahawk Drive they have 20 mile an hour zone.

Mary Berninger - Also, for safety reasons, you never get in or out of cabs on the street side.

Alex DeFronzo - We had Eastie Week this week which was a collaboration of 12 different non-profits with Boston Harbor Now on Main St. A Harbor Cruise on Wednesday. 300 people went out on a boat that came into Piers Park. On Sunday we did free sail boat rides. 176 people from the Health Center for kids with complex needs, then a concert in the park afterwards. On Phase II. We have had a lot of architects come into the park to ask questions. One of them was particularly well engaged, one that worked with Marion Pressley. With the plans from before versus the clean slate idea, we wanted to raise potential questions about the Sailing Center. The old plan from late 90's to early 2000 included a much larger facility, 5000 sq. ft. in addition to the dock. The RFG that went out does not. It is a 1200 sq. ft. facility and no addition on the dock, plus changes to the dilapidated pier.

Fran Carbone - Questioning if there is a lift there.

Alex DeFronzo - Not in the one that went out.

Mary Berninger - Questioning if we are married to those particulars in the RFQ.

Nhuy Noang - We are not but I think what we need to do is make sure that the programming of the park is back to budget. You have such a big building for the Sailing Center, pouring a lot of money in there, it means less money elsewhere for the park. Would like to take a look at the whole park.

Karen Buttiglieri - The Sailing Program to me is one of the major components that the neighborhood has strived for. So when I think of when you talk about not having the ability to lift your boats and possibly someone get hurt, from a public safety point of view, that is a problem. Have to also think about; Massport used to fund this program and they stopped funding it the way they used to. Used to be 100% funded by Massport, from maintenance, boats and every thing else. They are not doing that anymore. So when they talk about, they can't do certain things; they are putting 5000 cars in my neighborhood and they are getting multi, multi millions of dollars a year. I think they need to reconsider some of the things they are worried about.

Jerry Deneumoustier - Motion to adjourn.

Bob Strelitz - Second.

(Mary Berninger announced she may not be here next month and Karen Buttiglieri will conduct the meeting.)

DRAFT