

East Boston PierPAC

October 17, 2017

Attendance:

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|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mary Berninger | Karen Buttiglieri | Connie Carbone |
| Fran Carbone | Peter Cardinale | Florence D'Avella |
| Edie DeAngelis | Jerry Deneumoustier | Marie Deneumoustier |
| David Halbert | Mary Hanlon | Karen Maddalena |
| Rose Petraglia | Frances Piantedosi | Melissa Tyler |

Excused

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| Bernardine Joslin | Sal LaMattina | Adrian Madaro |
| Bob Strelitz | | |

Associate Members Present:

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| Alex DeFronzo | Lucille Drago | Lucille Monuteaux |
| Libby Scimeni | | |

Attendance taken. (Edie DeAngelis and Florence D'Avella joined via telecommunications.)

Mary Berninger - Richard will try to join us. Corrections, deletions to the minutes?

Anthony Guerriero - Page 6, correct spelling for Sam Sleiman.

Mary Berninger - If no other raised hands or comments will someone like to make a motion?

Jerry Deneumoustier - Motion to accept minutes.

Mary Hanlon - Seconded.

Voted and passed.

Mary Berninger - Before we get to Phase II, for those of you who went to the event today, I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. It was a banner day for East Boston. Anthony, Richie and I are going to begin the finalization of our next field trip for Nov. 3rd. (Passed around the attendance sheet for anyone that could not go and had signed up or for anyone not on it, could add their names.) We will come up with an itinerary for 3 to 5 parks, take a bus with box lunches and maybe get some people to talk to us about how those parks were designed, funded, and are maintained. Feels we have the best program because of Massport. Phase II was officially announced today to the greater public in a phenomenal ceremony at a luncheon. Great to see so many community members, business leaders, politicians, etc. It was an opportunity for this community to shine. Will really shine when the park is built and the senior center. The next phase is the design phase. To begin tonight's discussion asking Ned to do a Power Point presentation of the New York trip for those who did not catch it last month.

Ned Dawes - Senior Project Manager for Massport, was a public school teacher, Civil Engineer. (Passed out copies of the presentation.) Has done work at Logan, last month Massport went through a process to select a consultant, Kleinfelder was selected, based out of Cambridge.

- Went over team members, proposals, other parks they designed, qualifications, etc.
- Massport and Kleinfelder hoping to get a master contract by the end of the year, beginning of next year, gathering documents, paperwork, etc.
- Spoke about the visit to the New York parks, their design, the size of both parks have to remember the size and the scale of the parks
- Vegetation is important, salt water, drought, etc.
- Get input from the maintenance staff at Massport for any changes that would accommodate their issues

- Big issue on resiliency and flooding at New York Parks, they raised ground elevations
- Being a waterfront park, prevent flooding and water getting into the rest of East Boston. Tides in East Boston are about 10ft
- Active and passive activities have a close proximity, multiple activities
- Hudson River Park had multiple designers design sections of that, talked with community, walkways, lighting, seamless from one end to the other
- Questioning how we make Phase I to Phase II, how to make those connections
- In New York, multiple parks for children, sandlots, next to it a more active area
- Have to think about the activities we want to integrate into a park design.
- Menino Park, Spaulding Rehab Center, reused some of the granite blocks, made sure the design was inclusive, gradual ramps, everyone could use the area, children, elderly etc.
- Funded by the city of Boston, managed by the Spaulding
- Looking at other parks, other things and how they relate to our parks, our facilities and what we have available

Anthony Guerriero - Out of the 2 New York parks, what was the wow factor of both parks?

Ned Dawes - At the Brooklyn Bridge Park it was how accessible the water was in multiple places. Someone walked their dog right into the river.

Karen Maddalena - Liked the kayak park.

Ned Dawes - At the Hudson River Park, was amazed at the cruise line terminal, converted into a soccer space, a lot of different fields.

Karen Buttiglieri - Told that the new Slip 65 will have kayaking.

Melissa Tyler - Have to have membership, no parking, can't launch your own kayak, etc.

Alex DeFronzo - Depending on what happens with the wooden pier and if there would be room behind the back of it, you could use the 2 coves, stay in the coves.

Ned Dawes - That's one of the things we talked about; create a safe haven for kayaking as opposed to how busy the rivers in New York were.

David Akins - My first time here. Question is if showing much larger, more continuous pieces, any attempt to at least, upfront in the design process, to address some of the sad, landscaping waterfront of Roseland? To hopefully merge. Feels it will be 2 very nice parks here that moved into the port side of the pier development. There is a handful of small trees and a lot of concrete. Wondering if anything could be done now.

Anthony Guerriero - Right now the focus of this group is on Phase II design. We have heard from Margaret, you and other people regarding the state of Roseland. They are still figuring out the things they have to do. That's another issue, another discussion.

(Eddie unable to hear. Volume of the phone was raised.)

Mary Berninger - Thinks it would be nice though, as Roseland sees what we are doing, a bulb would go off.

Margaret Farmer - The pier behind port side. Feels that could be turned into a something like a public place.

Anthony Guerriero - Roseland still has an option to build there.

Matt Barison - Question for Ned. You mentioned the reuse of some building for soccer fields. What other attributes do you see for other sports fields, aquatics? Anything along that line?

Ned Dawes - At the Brooklyn Bridge Park they reused some of the structures that had. They also reused certain areas for public art, etc. At the Hudson River Park, they used a huge cruise ship terminal and converted it to a soccer field. Some of the pier tops were taken off to see the pier posts sticking up.

Melissa Tyler - Just to piggy back on what Ned was saying. There were also Ping Pong, tennis, squash, basket ball courts, roller blading.

Ned Dawes - They took existing fields and rehabbed them, made areas with various activities.

Margaret Farmer - While we are at the early stages, wanted to throw out a suggestion. We know that Piers Park is very popular and the expectation is that Phase II will be just as popular. As we design the active space, keep in mind for more than one use. 2 or 3 separate uses, might be something we should think about. Like a basketball court. Hang the baskets in such a way that if they wanted to use the field for hockey they could. Set up a baseball diamond off to the side of the soccer field so that could be soccer or baseball. With Piers Park I not being an active park, we know people are going to want to use those amenities. They are going to want the flexibility to move them around and have them fit the needs for multiple people.

Mary Berninger - Thinks as we get further along into that process, and if that is something that happens, whether a single use or tri use, history has shown in the community, that there has to be some type of permitting mechanism for this.

Anthony Guerriero - We had 2 different tour guides for both parks (NY trip). Both said they looked at everybody and wanted to include all. The tour guide from Brooklyn told us about another park that the neighborhood had minimized the children's lot.

Mary Berninger - That was on the Hudson River one, closer to the left. The more mature individuals didn't want those activities, but as time went by more families came in.

David Halbert - The section of the Hudson River Park that's along Greenwich Village there was a community of individuals, older, multi generational area of the city. It was a more established community and in the moment, at that time, they said they did not want a lot of activities. Over the last 5 years there has been an influx of families, a boom in children there. Now the existing play structure is inadequate, overrun. In the beginning they did not project it would be like that.

Anthony Guerriero - Something that we see in the Bremen St. Park, when it came on line and we took it over, busses of people from outside East Boston have come in.

Margaret Farmer - A number of people we see are from Chelsea and Revere. Tons of people go there.

Karen Buttiglieri - Also think because we have a had a passive park from day1, Phase I would be the passive park and Phase II would always be an active park. When we started talking about this it has always been that this would be an active park. Do not think anyone can complain about anything because we have passive and active.

Margaret Farmer - Excited to see this will be an active park. I support that. Just know that we are going to try to meet the needs of many groups and that may not be easy. One of the ways might be to figure out things that have more than one use.

Karen Buttiglieri - For me, when it comes to the Sailing Program because they work with people that have other needs, I think we need to think about that when we try to incorporate those types of individuals. We need to maybe have playgrounds for children that have (special needs).

Mary Berninger - We have talked about that for months, the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) components. You referenced the Menino Park and there are several there. Did not see that in the New York parks. Did not see that they recognized that need.

David Halbert - I think that they did. Thinks it was integrated very well, very organic. The pathways had enough space so that if you had mobility issues, things were relatively level.

Mary Berninger - Referring to the actual play structures.

David Halbert - Right at the beginning, a ship structure, we went by it.

Alex DeFronzo - There were also ones at the end of the Brooklyn Bridge Park that were accessible. The slides, instead of having stairs, they had ascending ramps to go up.

David Halbert - Important to this conversation is how we think about this. There is a scale issue, the large population of people, volume of people there (NY) through out the day. These were big parks. Brooklyn Bridge Park was a mile and a half, the Hudson River Park was four and a half miles. Feels it make it even more incumbent on us to think about Phase II of Piers Park. Not in isolation, but just as one thing that we are trying to do as much as we can, but as part of a larger component system of what we have as a community. Think of that in terms of how it interacts and reflects what we have to offer as a community, out of Bremen St. Park, LoPresti Park and others. If we have things that are already existing, thinking about it in that holistic sense, we can save ourselves some stress or worries. Also, make sure that what we are doing with Phase II is the most effective. We have these wonderful new services at LoPresti Park. One of the questions we might have; do we need to have a field that replicates that?

Ned Dawes - Feels that is an excellent point. Try to take an inventory of what is around you and what are the services that are offered. Do you really want to replicate it because we have a limited amount of space?

David Halbert - The other piece to that, and I feel it is to our advantage, is that we have a wonderful community, a lot of gems in our community, of places we want to see. I also work with EB Main Streets and we promote small businesses. If we have folks walking from section to section and they are seeing our small businesses, restaurants and other things our community can offer, and they are interacting with them, feels it is better for the community. How we think about it that way, moving people with signage, information campaign, etc. Important to utilize this tremendous asset that we have in Phase II.

Karen Maddalena - Even though, at LoPresti Park they have the soccer field, there is still a need for more soccer fields or different things. Just because there is one close by, it may be a need for more than that. Think we should take that into consideration.

Fran Carbone - The Stadium has a soccer field.

Mary Berninger - To Karen's point, you mentioned the inventory of the existing parks; their amenities and features. Maybe it would be instructive because I know we talked about bringing in little league and soft ball. Maybe if the sub committee or someone from this group contacted all of the existing sports programs in the community and ask them to be candid and tell us what their needs are, give us just a wish list, let us know, so we could have some kind of launching point. Can we accommodate those groups?

Anthony Guerriero - I shared with this group that Paul from Parks and Recreation, did call me at the beginning of the summer when the RFP came out in May, asking what the plan was for Phase II. I told him it would be more active. I did interact with softball and Little League and there is a dire need for space. Did not give him any commitment, need to talk to the community as a whole and the PAC. First of all we need to remember, we are working with a blank canvas here. There are a lot of opportunities to do something and there is also, within in the last 20/30 years, there is also multi purpose use. A soccer field could also be a softball or baseball field. Don't feel that you are locked into one specific sport. Soccer fields are also being used for LaCrosse.

Karen Maddalena - This is just a suggestion with regard to the survey. Maybe a staff person from Massport, in the Communities Relations Dept., could contact the people. A paid person, just to lift it off

the plate. A lot of people have commitments and just to get it done, a person to conduct the survey as to the needs of the community.

Mary Berninger - It's not that you have to do it (Anthony) you could delegate and I do not mind helping.

Anthony Guerriero - Thinks it is a good idea. Would be interested in what Kleinfelder and Marion Pressley have done in the past to that point. Their community engagement piece and get their input as well.

Karen Buttiglieri - There are boys leagues and girls leagues. Want to make sure both leagues are being asked. That way one does not feel slighted, feels both should be asked, just to get input.

Mary Berninger - Don't forget the Boys Scout and the Girl Scout thing. We might be merging all of the sports. Thanked Ned for his presentation, but we may have some more going forward.

Karen Maddalena - When we do a tour of the parks would like to suggest the Naval Fuel Pier buffer edge, down beyond the shipyard. It is designed with sea grass, etc., very environmentally friendly.

Mary Berninger - I am thrilled at how many folks came out tonight who are not members. We have been trying to outreach on social media. We want people to come to these meetings and what we have envisioned was going out to individual community groups. Harbor View, Jeffries Point, Eagle Hill, Gove St., Orient Heights, etc. , asking to be on their agenda. For us to come and ask for ideas, their thoughts, etc. Maybe one or two of us could reach out to them. Questioning if that was okay with everybody to do that.

Karen Buttiglieri - I think it is important, especially now. We are talking about all the youth programs and I would like to see fishing off the end of the dock for some of the older people that like to fish. Just making comments, but feel it would be nice if families could go out there to fish.

Mary Berninger - Magdalena Ayed is here. She took advantage of reaching out to us and come down to talk. She represents 2 constituencies in the community Maverick Landing Residents Assoc. and Harbor Keepers. We are on the waterfront and this is the kind of thing this group envisioned. That people would step forward, offer help and explain what they envision and help.

Magdalena Ayed - We are setting up a structure for this organization (The Harborkeepers) which is already a 501C3, non-profit, etc. I live in the Maverick area, in East Boston for 13 years, active community member and leader. Been involved in the Maverick Assoc. of Residents, environmental work and also housing to a range of issues. Worked recently at Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, CDC. Felt the need to branch out and set up an environmental advocacy because we need it. Love the coast, we have a beautiful harbor that we need to celebrate. I set up this organization, it is non-profit and will do a presentation next time.

Mary Berninger - Will make sure we allocate that time and if you know any other groups that have a presentation, have them call me and will put them on the agenda.

Magdalena Ayed - Our main goals are education on coastal issues and that's broad range, but a lot of it is marine and coastal education, stewardship. Feel you all agree that we need a conduit to recruit more people to get engaged on waterfront issues which include taking care of it as well. Environmental stewardship, community engagement and education Those are our main targets. We submitted a huge grant yesterday and I am hoping to get it. We are now going for the bigger funds with whole programs in place. Would require hiring more organizers. We get a lot of help from professionals, lawyers, etc. Over the summer we worked with the Maverick Landing Community Services, 2 and 3 hour sessions of marine education, celebrating the harbor. The Piers Park Sailing Center is amazing. We want to work with partners like the Sailing Center. When it comes to the park design, tap into us, we can help you. We have a whole network of people to do community engagement. When it is time to mobilize we could help with surveys, get feed back.

Mary Berninger - We have to be cognizant that our design team Kleinfelder has a lot of those in place. If everyone can keep in mind that we are welcoming all this feedback, that we have a sub committee that will sit with Massport and the design people outside of the frame work of these meetings. Get the details, come back, give the feed back to this group and then the voting. We will take everyone's considerations into mind, but the actual voting and decision rests with the Board. We are trying to be as open, flexible and transparent as possible.

(Magdalena left her card and thanked the Board.)

Mary Berninger - To Anthony, the next steps time line.

Anthony Guerriero - Looking at narrowing down what parks we are going to look at on Nov 3. Feels everyone here on the right path. Think the design and the committee should be the repository for all external output or input that's coming in. Met with Nuey about a week ago. Kleinfelder, with Marion Pressley, has to go over the contract and they should be in place and signed up by Jan. 1, 2108. Kleinfelder is the prime and will probably come in either Feb. or Mar. Mary and I talked last week in that we could do another tour in the spring and identify some other parks we did not see with flowers in bloom, etc. Kleinfelder and Mary will work thru Ned and I, do those thing in incremental steps. That's what we are looking at right now.

Mary Berninger - Do we need another subcommittee meeting since you do not have the contract?

Anthony Guerriero - Think that it is really important when we meet with Kleinfelder and Marion Pressley, and taking in all this information, what are the questions we have to ask, what are we looking at. When the PAC is going to these parks, what are the right questions do we need to ask. Looking at where Phase II is going to be, looking at the chain link fence, questioning, is it going away? It is going away but how do we make it seamless. Karen and Mary played a large role in the new library and remember the big debate was taking down the WPA wall. How to transition the library and that wall? The agreement between Massport was to cut the wall in half, have a seamless transition. Not an architect, but listening to these people, with Ned's input, kind of crafts the message to the community meetings that you are not wasting time.

Mary Berninger - So if I am hearing you correctly, I should not be scheduling these meetings until after Feb. and Mar?

Anthony Guerriero - My recommendation is that once we have Kleinfelder and Marion here, they could do their tour, then let the summer season go by one more time. Then, in Sept. of next year, meet with the other organizations because it will be fresh in their minds. May be able to identify; not enough swings, pathway not wide enough, etc. In June, July and August the parks get swamped with people. In Sept., that is the time to talk with people because it will be fresh in their minds, they will have more input. This is my recommendation.

Karen Buttiglieri - Asking for not this (park visit) the next visit to some parks; could we do a weekend instead of a week day?

Mary Berninger - For those who are coming we are going to meet here on Nov. 3, at 10:00.

Anthony Guerriero - Just to Karen (Maddalena's) point, the questionnaire going out to the general public. Let me see what I can do internally. Thinks that the community as a whole, if it is a PAC questionnaire going out to the community, would be better, instead of a Massport questionnaire.

Karen Maddalena - Just thought you could be the foot soldiers for us.

Anthony Guerriero - We can help craft it. Mary had said at one of the meetings you wanted to do newspapers, social media, etc.

Mary Berninger - It could be done under our umbrella because we did say this was collaboration.

Karen Buttiglieri - Years ago we had all the different tables, different meetings. We had lots of those and they were helpful. Might be nice to get them all in one room

Ned Dawes - We can do that and other things. One of the things is that we have to pick their brains.

Anthony Guerriero - Kleinfelder might say they worked with other teams and you could talk with them. I worked with them on the Butler Park, tribute on Fri. the 27th, 2:00 pm. Wonderful tribute to a wonderful guy. This is one of those things that we will have those resources on board. They might have done the project where they had an open community conversation, on line, in the newspaper, etc. How do you craft it, and most importantly what are the questions you need to ask?

Karen Buttiglieri - I would hope at some point, after hearing about Tommy getting a park named after him, and I am thrilled about that, if all of you remember Cathy Leonard-McLean. She was a sweetheart who really advocated for our neighborhood. I really think that a community room like this, her name should be on here. I hope other people would feel the same way.

(Discussion on the subject matter. All of the meetings that everyone attended, WDAC meetings, waterfront meetings, etc. Discussions on the designs, changes that were made. The tributes of Cathy's contributions to all of those meetings, the changes, etc. Was an advocate for us until she retired. The general consensus was to do something in her name. A request could be made through a motion.)

Mary Berninger - In order to do that someone has to make a motion.

Karen Buttiglieri - Motion to have this room be named for Cathy Leonard-McLean Community Room.

David Halbert - Second.

Mary Berninger - Old Business.

Karen Buttiglieri - Thanked Mary for today, great job. Have gone to many meetings and always said this would happen, thrilled that the second phase is going to happen.

Mary Berninger - Under New Business; Planning for our annual meeting in December. Some of us did not care for last years meeting. Service was poor, food mediocre, very disappointing. Questioning where we would go this year. Some have mentioned Off the Boat.

(Discussion on where to hold the meeting. The Reel House, the Winthrop Arms, and the Wharf on 1A. Try to give the business to the local community. Will make sure it is accessible for wheel chairs, etc. Comments, pros and cons were made on each suggestion.)

Mary Berninger - The Reel House, the Winthrop Arms and the Wharf on 1A. Fran will report back next month, ideas, pricing, menus, etc. She always picks good places.

Edie DeAngelis - Please make sure that the area will be accessible for both parking and accommodations in the restaurant for everybody. May not be able to come but at least it should be available to everyone.

Mary Berninger - If talking to people in the community for our visitors, talk it up. Tell them we are here every 3rd Tuesday. Will make sure we have enough chairs.

Karen Buttiglieri - Have a question. So the last time we had Massport come in, some woman was talking about the sailing program, about the facility being smaller, no lift, etc. Has anyone come to their senses yet about changing things?

Anthony Guerriero - We are not there yet. We have not even signed the contract from Kleinfelder. For a discussion point the sailing center plays a large role in this.

Karen Buttiglieri - We still need to make sure that it is successful and to make it successful they need to be able to have a lift. Should not be part of the discussion, it should be part of it (the design) period.

Matt Barison - Does this group's jurisdiction encompass the Bremen St. Park? The lighting within the park there are nice the ornamental lights which are not too bright. On the sidewalk there are still those same ornamental lights by all those cross streets when you have to cross Bremen St. Very dim. Hoping that Massport take a look at those fixtures and see what they can do.

Anthony Guerriero - We do not maintain the sidewalks. That is city property.

(Discussion on other lights in the area how bright they are, etc.)

Mary Berninger - Will bring it up again to Sal, see what he can do because it is a city issue.

Anthony Guerriero - At November's meeting we will plan to have a security, operation and maintenance report.

Mary Berninger - Questioning when it will be signed.

Anthony Guerriero - Hopefully soon enough.

Mary Berninger - For those of you who do not know Massport and the PAC enter into an operations, security and maintenance agreement that clearly states what they are responsible for doing. Goals, recommending what should be done, etc. The head of Public Safety, their Parks crew, etc. They report to us all of the things they do for us.

Peter Cardinale - Wanted to thank you for the introduction today. It was one of the happiest days I have had in a long time. And to top it off my nephew Anthony and Marie gave a lovely dinner. Tripe was nice surprise.

Connie Carbone - Motion to adjourn.

Jerry Deneumoustier - Seconded.

Voted and passed.