

East Boston PierPAC

March 19, 2019

Attendance:

Mary Berninger
Fran Carbone
Lucille Drago
Karen Maddalena
Bob Strelitz

Karen Buttiglieri
Peter Cardinale
Mary Hanlon
Louise Montanino
Melissa Tyler

Connie Carbone
Jerry Deneumoustier
Sal LaMattina
Frances Piantedosi

Excused:

Bernardine Joslin

Lucille Monuteaux

Rose Petraglia

Absent:

David Halbert

Adrian Madaro

Associate Members Present:

Michael Bruno
Alex DeFronzo
Mary Romano

Tom Bruno
Margaret Farmer
Libby Scimeni

Mary Cole
Lucille Reed

Attendance taken. (Melissa Tyler arrived after attendance was taken.)

Bob Strelitz - Minutes of the last meeting. Correction of name; Robert Boaz to Boaz Sender. Any other corrections, deletions, etc.?

Karen Maddalena - One correction. Under attendance it is listed Lucille Drago and Bernardine Joslin listed in Attendance and Excused. Listed in 2 places. Both were excused

Bob Strelitz - Additions/deletions to the special meeting we had on Saturday. All in favor of adopting those?

Aye.

Bob Strelitz - The February meeting. All in favor of adopting those.

Aye.

Karen Buttiglieri - Motion to accept minutes.

Louise Montanino - Second.

Voted and passed.

Bob Strelitz - I only see Amy. Would you like to talk about the progress about the design of the park?

Amy Blake-Baldwin - Could we wait for Anthony because he has other things to talk about?

Peter Cardinale - Back in the day, 20 something odd years ago, under Representative Gus Serra, PierPAC started. We had a good crew, just like this one is. We had one person from each district representing East Boston. Now it seems that every (undistinguishable). It seems that everything that has to be said, has to be brought to the committee. What happens now, those people we had 20 years ago, used to bring back everything happening at Piers Park, then back to the neighborhood. And you know how Piers Park turned out; pretty good. Now it seems we have to have a meeting with this, that group, meetings with all kinds of groups. Let's get this park done. Seems like we are wasting so much time. I

knew it has to be brought up to different committees. Are we bringing the message back? All these Eagle Hill, etc. Nobody is having kids anymore. They are having dogs.

Bob Strelitz - How many dogs do you have?

Peter Cardinale - I have 5, but I still have 4 sons. I think they are getting the message, that we are trying to bring to them, wrong. I know you want to have everyone involved in everything we are doing. I don't know if we are wasting time or not. I can read this 5 times and I still do not know what I am reading.

Bob Strelitz - I think part of the problem was that Piers Park was on everybody's mind. It was well published. It was the first time that Massport got into 'park' building. It was a big deal. This has taken a lot longer because of all sorts of intervening circumstances, like the financial crash. A long time has passed. We were in the designing of Phase II back in 2000. Now, it is 19 years later, I think people have gotten to the idea of it not happening. We have a web site, which we didn't have before, and anybody that goes on the network can see that. People have stated what they want. A lot of people have said what they want and don't come. I do not know how to make them come. Anybody that has ideas to make people come, we should do that. I understand exactly what you are saying and it is the passage of time without anything happening.

Karen Buttiglieri - I also think the first Phase of Piers Park for us, as a community, we felt that the mitigation package really had to be something. We knew that we deserved it because of all the years of neglect and that the airport kept encroaching on us. So, as a community, I think we had all had it and when everybody started going to the first Phase of the PierPAC meetings and everybody had their own point of view, we knew it was easier for us because it was a passive park. When you have a passive park there are rules. No roller blading, no frisbees, no dogs, etc. We had rules and there really wasn't much besides the sailing program that was there. The park itself was the view which is what we wanted. With the second phase, on the other hand, we have gone through so many different things. When I was going to the meetings, 100 years ago, it was more of the fact that we were talking about fishing on the end of the pier and some of the things we would not even consider today. Now things have changed. We are thinking about people who are older, the handicapped, thinking about what the neighborhood actually needs. Not for today, but needs for tomorrow. I understand what you are saying, we need to have it built. But I also think we need to have a plan in place that we are all going to be able look at. Like for example: When I look at Roseland being built and being part of that Waterfront Advisory Committee, that took us over 15 years, numerous meetings, and us walking out of meetings and saying I never saw this design, not accepting it, my name is not going to be attached to it, etc. I think a lot of us feel the same with the second phase. We need to make sure that it is something we are all going to be proud about. That we look at and say I don't mind if my name is attached to it. Down the road, when you look at it, you say we did the best we could. Everybody has a different idea. Personally, for me, I do not want to see another ballpark and that is my opinion. Someone else could have another opinion. I think when we are discussing things with us as a group, I think we should come up with a wish list or what would be a great idea and then go forward. At that point we could go to the communities, different areas, and tell them that we have been brainstorming and this is what we think is in the best interest of the community. Period. I think for us to go to every community and ask them what they want, everybody has a different point of view. That is just my opinion, my take on it. I think at some point, we as a group, need to be proactive. We need to look around as you all have. I missed some meetings because of personal matters.

Peter Cardinale - The people that live on Eagle Hill. Would they be coming down this way? I don't think so.

Karen Buttiglieri - I think you are wrong. For me, when I talk about Piers Park, that's East Boston's park. It's not just a Jeffries Point Park. It just happens to be located here. Like Constitution Beach is all of our beach. When we talk about the second phase it has to compliment the first phase. If we do not do it right we are going to kick ourselves because we did not do it right. At that time football was big in East Boston. And soccer, as you see today, is a big sport. When you go to the neighborhoods and open it up you are going to hear hundreds of ideas. We should go over there with some kind of plan.

Mary Berninger - Peter, to your point about how it was originally constructed. Over time the neighborhood evolved. I don't even know, way back, how many of the neighborhood organizations were even in operations.

Karen Buttiglieri - We used to have the advisory group, the Land Use Council and at that point everyone would come together and talk about different things. The Orient Heights group started in 88. So it was after Piers Park.

Mary Berninger - So, over time when an opening became available on the board, and if someone had been coming, they may not have been attached to a neighborhood group, but they had expressed interest in helping to move forward with this mission. They then became part of the voting members. But, that part of going back to the neighborhood groups, it is not a lack of interest in the neighborhood groups, but they were not necessarily involved with them to take on that role.

Peter Cardinale - 15 years ago I brought up the subject of getting all of these groups together and have one big group, but that fell to the wayside. 100 years ago we used to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning just to get a ballpark. Now these kids have everything. How many are used?

Bob Strelitz - I think they are used pretty heavily. Whenever I go to the stadium there are lots of people there.

Peter Cardinale - The stadium probably. But I don't see that many kids utilizing these fields.

Karen Buttiglieri - A lot of kids are not going to use the first phase of Piers Park unless they are with their families because they can't run, they can't do a lot of things. The second phase, I really have a lot of hope for. I think we really need to look at that closely. I also think as a group we need to make decisions before we go out to the neighborhoods. I think we should really know the path we are taking and the direction we are going.

Bob Strelitz - If we are going to make decisions, then we need a list of things that we are going to decide. I think it is a great idea to organize a list of options that we are going to be dealing with.

Peter Cardinale - Just in closing. I think we should have classes and have Adrian give these classes. He is the only one I understand. Adrian has that deep voice and I can understand it. This might be half my problem; that I don't understand what people are saying. I hate to be just a guy that just sits here and twiddle my thumbs and not be involved.

Bob Strelitz - Peter you would never be a guy that just sits there. That is not your nature.

Peter Cardinale - Don't patronize me.

Bob Strelitz - I was complimenting you.

Karen Buttiglieri - Would it be easier for you to sit up front. It is not assigned seats.

Peter Cardinale - That may be better.

Karen Maddalena - To Peter. I am going to speak loud. As far as people using the park. Not only do people from Eagle Hill come, but visitors from all over come because the park has such a wonderful reputation. There are people that may be just passing through from the airport and they come. People from all over East Boston and all sections of the city come here. The park is a jewel

Peter Cardinale - I know that and I had this speech written out for a week. I had to vent my feelings.

Karen Buttiglieri - My boss, the Deputy Commissioner, comes from Brookline and he loves our park. He comes at least 4 times a year. It is used. I think when we do the second phase, for us, we need to make sure we do it right.

Peter Cardinale - I think you have started to convince me a little bit.

Anthony Guerriero - To Peter. I love you and everyone here loves you. Do not underestimate what you have done for this community, never. You are a true American hero. We appreciate that and we love

you. I have some general business, housekeeping to go over. Forwarded it to Bob over the last week, about what is going on. I sent an email out last week. The Trustees are going on to what is the proposed Phase III site. Just to do survey work. This is their first action and we have allowed them to have access to this site. You know this pier. It is dilapidated, has caught on fire a couple of times. They are doing a survey. We do not have a plan yet and they are not sure how far they are going to go or if they are going to move forward. (Passed around depiction of the pier.) They identified the surveys they are taking on. The piles underneath there are rooted and are probably 100 years old. They are not encased in cement. I just found out about pier I. So, exposure to the elements and the water, over a period of time, has rotted those. We have allowed them access and it will take them a couple of months. Then they will start the second phase. Once I have a more clear indication as to what the next moves/steps are, I will share that with you. I am not asking to bring them to you right now because there is no plan. Our focus, right now, is on Phase II and getting that moving forward. As soon as we have more information we will do that. Massport is at the Boston Conservation Commission (Con Com) today. They sent out a notice. Maintenance of Piers Park, and we have some sink holes. I think that some of you have identified those. We had to go to Boston Con Com to identify them because we are going to be on the water and there is water underneath that we have to identify. A member of our staff is at Con Com today. They sent out a notification to the abutters on Marginal St. One of Massport's best neighbors is Excel Academy. I had a meeting with Excel Academy last week. They are moving the middle school from its current location on Saratoga St. the professional building near CVS. They are putting it on their current site, where their high school is. So, where the parking lot is, they are building a 2 story structure.

Karen Buttiglieri - Where are they going to park?

Anthony Guerriero - They are going underneath that building and look for other spots. Talking about 200 kids at the school.

Karen Buttiglieri - So if they did it right to begin with, and they built it the way they were supposed to, we would not be dealing with this.

Anthony Guerriero - They are going to the neighborhoods. They are going to Eagle Hill and Central Square Civic Club and they are coming to the PAC. They will be reaching out to you to do a presentation. Owen and Pat Forbes are they architect directors that I have been dealing with.

Karen Buttiglieri - I had said to them, why don't you make sure when you are building it add another on top?

Anthony Guerriero - So 1 1/2 years ago, when we talked about parking, the LIAG and now Phase II, the senior center came out of the LIAG process. We are talking about the relocation of the gas station to the Jeffries Point area, on airport property. Right where you see the overflow parking lot construction began last fall on the new gas station. The plan is to have the gas station operational and opened this summer. We looked at the design of the EB Library and tried to replicate that. This would be a convenience store/gas station. Meridian Market will be serving food there.

Louise Montanino - Where is this?

Anthony Guerriero - It is across from the DeFronzo Center. This will have an area in the back to sit, eat, have coffee, etc. (Pointed out on a depiction what it would look like.) They will have gas pumps. The gas station you see at Terminal E will be moving here. This will be opening this summer.

Mary Hanlon - The taxis will be going here?

Anthony Guerriero - The taxis will stay on Porter St., Harborside Drive. (Passed around pictures showing the convenience store and the area.) When we came up with this RFP back in 2016, we wanted to make sure that there was a local store/business associated with this. Starbucks will be the one providing coffee.

Alex DeFronzo - Will there be a Gulf sign?

Anthony Guerriero - Maria Energy is the operator and I am not sure if it is Gulf.

Bob Strelitz - Maria is the operator?

Anthony Guerriero - Maria Energy is the operator.

Alex DeFronzo - I just want to know if there will be a sign. I support not having a sign shining in my face.

Anthony Guerriero - The next couple of weeks will be busy. I have spoken to a lot of you over the last several months. We have provided you with a lot of information to digest. Karen Buttiglieri made a very good point and this is how I think about it. I am an adopted son of the PierPAC. When I think about Phase II, and we were designing the Neptune Rd. buffer, and when we were designing the Maverick Mother's pocket park, I was involved in every open space project in the last 15 years at Massport. We were not designing it for today. We were designing it for tomorrow. To Karen's point; we are not designing it for 2019/2020. We are designing it for 2020, 2030, just like you did for Phase I. It is about the present and the future of what this community looks like. You have been involved. Went to hundreds of meetings over the last 15 years. I have seen the change. There are a lot of young families here. There are a lot of contributors to this community, including you. You are the stalwarts. We have just lost a great, person in MaryEllen Welch. She was probably the most selfless person we have ever met. I think about her, and Cathy, and I think about the future. Sal was on me for about 11 years about Roseland and getting it started. We had about 4 false starts. You, Trav and Anthony. We just kept at it. Look at the waterfront and how it has changed that whole dynamic. There is going to be a lot of things. We have a blank canvas. When we go to the community meetings, starting with Gove St., then we have Eagle Hill and the Greenway, I will be there to talk and solicit about coming to this meeting on the 23rd. I am not going to call a design meeting, not going to call on the charrette. I will just say East Boston Piers Park meeting. I am thinking about what we had talked about at the last meeting. Just trying to provide options. That is what we need from you tonight. That is why we have Marion and Amy here. To extract from you what the options that we think we want to have here. When we have this community meeting in April we will have 3 concepts of the park. We do our presentation and maybe what we do is what we did at the LIAG. Mary you were at the LIAG. We voted with red dots. We might have an opportunity, if you think that is a good ideas, to have the option to talk about the things you discussed. Senior equipment, water features, basketball court, etc. In this room, when we talk about it, you are going to help me control the discussion.

Karen Buttiglieri - I have a little problem. Let's say the softball league and the baseball league, they get everybody to come to the meeting and they all vote on a baseball field.

Anthony Guerriero - That's a good point. From the last meeting here, when we showed you all the spatial design, and unless I completely misunderstood you guys, it did not seem that a multi purpose field was a go. So, tonight, we are going to extract from you ideas and we will apply it to 3 options for Phase II.

Karen Buttiglieri - So can you mix and match the options together?

Anthony Guerriero - Sure. Let's say 10 of you want a full basketball court. We can do 2 versions with a basketball court. Then you might say the 3rd version doesn't have the basketball court, but we like this here or there. We can mix and match. If I have to come to a Saturday meeting with what you have given us, and what we have put on paper, and then take a look at that, before the meeting. Your next meeting is April 16, so we have 7 days to the big community meeting on Piers ParkII. That gives us 7 days to make an alteration or change.

Mary Berninger - To Karen's point. If we had a consensus tonight and I have been hearing it, too, that there is no appetite for a ball field of any dimension or size: baseball or softball. If we just make that decision now for none of those options. Can we make a motion?

Karen Buttiglieri - I agree with Mary.

Anthony Guerriero - I think that if that is the will of the PAC I have to bring it up to my CEO. All I am asking is that there has to be some level of activity.

Mary Berninger - Take a motion right now and vote on that motion. That takes the onus off the Board. It should not create controversy because it would not be on the Board.

Louise Montanino - I thought we had discussed that at the Saturday meeting. Everybody that was there was in favor of it just being free play. No organized sport.

Mary Berninger - There was no voting that day.

Louise Montanino - I didn't know if it was a vote or if they just asked who was for or against it.

Mary Berninger - I think we said there would be no motions or voting that day.

Bob Strelitz - That is correct.

Mary Berninger - I would like to make a motion and have a discussion on it, that we not include organized play of that type. It doesn't become a controversy because it doesn't exist.

Richard Lynds - We would have to put it on for a discussion topic as a separate agenda item.

Anthony Guerriero - Does that include a basketball court? Organized play?

Richard Lynds - Sure.

Anthony Guerriero - I think that is the distinguishing piece. A basketball, handball, tennis, volley ball, etc. I think the PAC has to distinguish a multi purpose athletic field, i.e. soccer and baseball or that a baseball /softball/ football field is not what the Pac is thinking. You need to spell that out, specify.

Mary Berninger - So, can we add that to the agenda on the 16th as a discussion item, so we can have a chance to vote on it in advance of the 23rd.

Anthony Guerriero - My only concern is that I would not have enough time. My goal is to get you 3 concepts.

Mary Berninger - And if you put a field on there that is reason for comments.

Anthony Guerriero - I don't disagree. Our goal is to get 3 concepts for the April 16th meeting.

Karen Buttiglieri - Discussion on Mary's motion.

Mary Berninger - Well Richie said we cannot do it.

Karen Buttiglieri - So we can't take it under Old Business? Is there a way we can take a vote without it being New Business because this was Old Business which was at the last meeting?

Richard Lynds - I think the appropriate thing to do is to put it on as an agenda item to take action on park matters so that the public has a right of notice or at least, as I understand it, that issue may be taken up and voted on. Old Business is available for discussing matters that were taken up previously but not necessarily to vote.

Karen Maddalena - I know the PierPAC makes decisions, but I think we should be open minded about the community and what they would like. We have to approve the plan, but I also think there should be space, get feedback from the whole community, like we did at the LIAG meeting.

Bob Strelitz - That's the purpose of the meeting on the 23rd of April. Everyone is invited and everyone can come with their specific ideas.

Karen Maddalena - People should be allowed to contribute.

Karen Buttiglieri - That was March 9th which was published. I think at some point, as a group, we have to take some stance, whether good, bad or indifferent. As a group, I do not have a problem saying that I don't want a ballpark or soccer field or any of that, because if we have something that is going to take up that much space, we are not going to have anything.

Mary Berninger - In addition to what Karen said, and I agree, is there a way that we can present it is close to organized sports but it is a pickup area for basketball, handball?

Anthony Guerriero - Again through the chair. All I am saying is; what is the definition of organized sports? You need to be very clear because we have to report back to our bosses and my CEO. Say this is where the PAC is going, this is some of the options/design considerations. We need to be very clear. I think your response is because you are segregating a majority of the population from enjoying the park.
Karen Buttiglieri - It is more than that. If we have something that size it will take up half our space.

Marion Pressley - Originally it wasn't organized sports. What we talked about was active recreation. An active park and a passive park. You are active doing water play, active when you are on play equipment, on a court or a field. The charge was active recreation. Sailing is active. It's active recreation. If we think of it as active versus passive we may be able to get to some sort of recreation agreement. You can have active activities whether you are saying what sports you are having or not.
Karen Buttiglieri - I agree.

Melissa Tyler - This is a question for Anthony. What is MP going to do if the community says we want organized sports? Will Massport be willing to schedule soccer games, football games, baseball games, etc.?
Bob Strelitz - It's not really the idea of this park. To have formal games.

Anthony Guerriero - It's hard for me to say no. You are talking to the manager of Festa Field. I am right in the middle of giving license to Little League and then I do softball. We program that and any event that happens at Bremen St. Park, and primarily Piers Park, we also program that. So if you guys were to install a soccer field then it would fall to MP to manage the schedule and work with the city of Boston. It is our property, we program it.
Melissa Tyler - I was trying to find a loop hole.

Karen Buttiglieri - 100 years ago we were talking about the second phase of Piers Park. We were talking about an active park. This is what I am saying about how it evolved. We actually said at least in this park you could rollerblade.
Marion Pressley - We had tricycles for the family.

Sal LaMattina - We had rollerblading.
Karen Buttiglieri - At that time people were starting to do rollerblading. We had no place for the kids to go. We said maybe the kids could do rollerblading, skateboarding, etc. We did not do it, but what I am saying is, that was discussed. All I am saying is that we really need to think about what we are doing on this second phase because we are not going to have another chance. I am really hoping you have some great ideas for us, Marion, and I am sure you do. We all adore and trust you. And of course we trust you, Anthony. All I am trying to say is we need to think outside the box. Years ago our goals were just to have it built, just to have some open space. Now when I look at East Boston, I see how our waterfront has developed. There are no more gates, we can walk everywhere, up to Orient Heights, etc. To me, we have really done an incredible job, so I think with this part here, we need to go forward.

Anthony Guerriero - On Karen's point, I think that is where I need your help. I have Fran, Karen and Mary who are members of Orient Heights.
Karen Buttiglieri - I am not a member of Orient Heights anymore.

Anthony Guerriero - So when I go to the Orient Heights neighborhood meeting it is important to me and Amy that you are there. So that when I solicit people to come to the meeting on the 23rd, you can jump in, saying you are a lifelong member of the PAC, and we are looking at an active recreation area. The meeting that we had last month and then back in the fall when Kleinfelder did all of that research, you get thrown at you, well we need another soccer field, baseball field. You have that documentation that identifies all of the recent parks, including Porzio, that is being rebuilt. So that is part of your argument as East Bostonians. Me saying that; I am Massport, but as East Bostonians, who have been involved in

this project, that is up to you. Also, when I have been in the neighborhoods and so have you and Bob, Mary, Karen, Fran and everybody else, the PAC meetings are open public meetings; the 3rd Tuesday of the month. They have never changed. They are advertised in the newspaper and you have a nice web page. It is up to the individual, and you know this is a tough selling point, to come to the PAC meeting. If you are asked where are you in Phase II? Come to the PAC meeting. (Tell them) to come offer their opinion, their support to the PAC. There are going to be people chirping that they knew nothing about this process, that it was a closed off process, etc. That is the farthest thing from the truth.

Louise Montanino - When we had the discussion on that Saturday, we were talking about having spaces for free play, but not to have organized, football and baseball. Am I understanding correctly that we can still do the same functions there, but just not have it be organized play?

Marion Pressley - It is not really big enough to have a game. You could have an informal game.

Louise Montanino - That's what I mean. What they used to do in the schoolyards, when a bunch of kids show up. I just wanted to make sure that was still on the board.

Anthony Guerriero - Absolutely. If you wanted a pick up soccer game, play catch, etc.

Marion Pressley - In Phase II from the year 2000, that was what the field in the middle was; multi use.

Anthony Guerriero - This goes back to Sal's point about the rules. At some point, reevaluating the rules. If my recollection is correct, Bremen St. Park was supposed to be more of an active park.

Marion Pressley - It ended up as playground. Can I say something about Phase I? I think one of the things that you accomplished and you worked very hard to get, were things that were unique in the area. You worked very hard to get an amphitheater and a pier that allows you to go into the harbor to look at the other side. At the last minute you invested in sailing and the sailing became a reality. Each of those things were totally unique in the Boston area. To even have them in park together. I think you need to think that way as you are thinking about the next park. You need to go for unique things that are not someplace else and then make it work. It is a great combination of things out there and everybody can be passive and active.

Louise Montanino - Someone brought up, I think it was this young lady here, about parallel parking. Instead of having all of that space be used for parking we would only need 3 ft. for angle parking.

Melissa Tyler - It would almost triple the spaces.

Louise Montanino - Is that a consideration? Because if you are going to do all of these pictures instead of having all of that parking inside, let her explain it.

Melissa Tyler - It is a combination. You would lose the sidewalk, the 8ft., that is already on the street and probably about another 3 ft. of the park. Put the fence on the inside so that the parking is out of the community. Put signs up that it is only 2 hour parking and overnight parking for residents.

Marion Pressley - At Butler at Conley Terminal that's what we did. We took part of the sidewalk. Single parking and took part of the park. We don't own the sidewalk. The big question is who owns the street? The city of Boston. If they own, it we have to do a lot of negotiation with the city of Boston because they own the sidewalk. It's an ownership issue.

Melissa Tyler - You guys take care of it and if anything is on it, it's Massport's issue.

Anthony Guerriero - We had this issue with Butler Park. What we did at Butler Park in Southie is we created a total of 91 parking spots along East 1st Street. We added about 47+ angled spots. We had a very difficult time with land ownership with the city about maintenance of that area and who takes care of it.

Karen Buttiglieri - I can't imagine the City of Boston having a problem for not having to take care of something when they do not do a good job of taking care of a lot of things.

Marion Pressley - Ironically, it does bother them.

Anthony Guerriero - And, also, I think from meetings and discussions of other things, beyond Piers Park Phase I, at the end of the gate, probably within 7 ft., the sidewalk doesn't exist. The sidewalk going to the shipyard does not exist. It never did. To get rid of the sidewalk, and where they had that issue there, I just don't know. I can ask.

Mary Berninger - We want that land reclaimed to be incorporated in this entire park. Not just Phase I or II, reclaim that area for additional parking. That could help this venue and could then help the neighborhood.

Louise Montanino - She is also talking about down the side, too.

Anthony Guerriero - The Pier Park plan is going to have parking spots on the street.

Mary Berninger - No, I am talking about going towards the shipyard where the lobsters pool would have gone. We were talking about that at our meeting. That would be a great addition.

Karen Maddalena - That is your suggestion, but realistically, that land is being used by the shipyard. You're saying to reclaim. That is where they store their boats and that is part of the shipyard property. You have to be realistic.

Sal LaMattina - At one time Phase IV was supposed to go for lobsters.

Karen Maddalena - Edie DeAngelis thought that was going to happen and then she was told by Gus Serra that was not in it, it changed. (Undistinguishable, over talking.)

Bob Strelitz - Out of respect for everyone, have one person talk at a time so we can understand what they are saying.

Mary Berninger - To respond to that. I am being realistic. I am not talking about encroaching into the shipyard itself. I am talking about the linear area along Marginal St. itself, prior to the gate. That is what we talked about at the last meeting. Just to create an additional parking area, not encroaching. I am realistic because I knew exactly what I was talking about.

Marion Pressley - It depends on who owns it.

Anthony Guerriero - The parking lot that we have in Phase II probably combines 32.

Marion Pressley - No, it is more in Phase II. Phase I is 30 something. We had a couple of options that we showed. You could up it to 65. That was the high number we could put on. They were not angled because you could come in or out from either end because you have an entrance on either end. If you angle them you can only come in one way and out the other.

Louise Montanino - They were talking about doing that on the front and on the street that goes alongside. I don't know the name of it.

Anthony Guerriero - I don't know if you can do that on Piers Park Lane.

Louise Montanino - As far as the city is concerned, it was always my understanding as a property owner, that if the city does anything, they only replace to the sidewalk and the person that owns the house is responsible for the rest of it. So why wouldn't you be able to do that?

Anthony Guerriero - That is exactly right. We maintain that sidewalk. We rebuilt the sidewalk.

Louise Montanino - I am just saying that if you have to do that you should be able to use the sidewalk.

Marion Pressley - It's not that simple. We went through that with Conley. There was a lot of negotiation around that whole thing. It wasn't just a straight thing. We had to negotiate with them to get it to work. They did have control of the sidewalk.

Anthony Guerriero - You have to build the sidewalk to their specifications. You have to go to the Public Improvement Commission. You have to go through all of these hearings, then build to their

specifications. Then it would have to be handicap accessible and all these things would have to be included.

Karen Buttiglieri - So why can't we ask for it?

Anthony Guerriero - We can ask. So that I am clear, you are saying that the parking lot in Phase I, you do not want in Phase II. You want that space and then do a series of angle spots in front of Phase II.

Marion Pressley - If you do it in the street it is either that or you take the land out of the park, and move the fence in and then you lose park land. So whether you have the parking inside or outside, you lose park land.

Melissa Tyler - You are not losing as much. You are only losing about 3 to 5 feet of park versus 40 ft. by whatever the length is.

Mary Cole - I like Melissa's idea of diagonal parking for a couple of reasons. It takes the parking outside of the park premises. That is an area where parking is very tight and it would be a huge benefit to the community to have that parking be available in the evening after the park is closed. We are seeing pressure during the summer. I have heard from people that work in the shipyard and people that live on Marginal. So having the diagonal parking and having it available in the evening for people coming home would be a big win.

Anthony Guerriero - We can definitely evaluate that. I think Karen, Sal and Mary are the most familiar with Butler Park and what we did there. In South Boston, they do have the residential parking signs which is enforced by the city of Boston. When they get plowed in they are responsible for their own vehicles.

Karen Buttiglieri - But, that is how it is, in general. My driveway gets plowed in.

Mary Cole - My sense is that it is super popular.

Karen Buttiglieri - I like the idea.

Michael Bruno - I thought Saturday's session was really productive and I think there was a lot of consensus amongst the group on high level design features. I am just wondering if it would be worthwhile to step through those with the Massport team.

Marion Pressley - Yes, I would like to know.

Michael Bruno - I don't mind doing my best to capture those and hope that others would chime in if I miss anything. We touched on a few of them, but here are some of the key focal points. There was agreement that there is a preference for the park to be a largely open but active space. I think the terminology we used Saturday was flex. Active so that people could come and do what they want. There is also high priority for there to be additional parking, which we just touched on. More than what was then seen in the early design and more than is available at Phase I. So, there are a lot of creative concepts about how to incorporate additional parking and try to minimize taking away from the park space, but if needed, to look at that option. A few of the other things that we talked about, and I think people were excited about, was some kind of swimming feature. In the harbor which could be more complicated or in the park. Not necessarily being a pool, but maybe having a more nature-type looking swimming feature in the park. We also talked about a seasonal shade structure so that people can congregate in the park. We talked about how Phase I is used often for birthday parties and celebrations. There are picnic tables, but there is not a large area where you could get a big group of people together for any kind of celebration.

Marion Pressley - Is that viewed as a permanent in place or something that is set up? Like something we did at Harvard Medical School. We put down a quad and they have the ability to set up a huge tent because the posts are in, so they can do it. Do you want it to be an event space when an event happens or it is there 24/7?

Michael Bruno - I think the preference would be that it was there, available all the time, so there was not a need to have it set up.

Anthony Guerriero - On that; there is the matter of location or anywhere in the park? Was that under consideration?

Michael Bruno - We did not get to that level of detail.

Marion Pressley - Is it paved underneath because you cannot grow grass underneath?

Michael Bruno - Yeah.

Marion Pressley - I just want to get a visual.

Anthony Guerriero - We could be creative as we want with that.

Marion Pressley - Paved space with some kind of structure over it.

Michael Bruno - There was a desire to have the outdoor classroom space. Specifically something that the sailing center could use when the kids were at camp, in session, but also space that could be used by the community when it was not in session.

Anthony Guerriero - I received an email from Alex yesterday. I think we are going to sit down and talk to him about his needs.

Marion Pressley - Is that the same as the other structure or can it be used in place of the other? Are we now going to have 2 structures. 1 for classrooms and another one paved for other things? Are we talking about a series of structures or can 1 structure do double duty? Just asking how flexible it is. I am talking about the part that has the structures over it. In other words; the classroom if it has a structure over it, it is a paved space.

Karen Buttiglieri - Does it have to have a structure over it?

Alex DeFronzo - No.

Sal LaMattina - They have a couple of outdoor classrooms at the Bradley School.

Karen Buttiglieri - The Bradley School is never used. They do not even take care of it. It's disgusting.

Alex DeFronzo - We have an outdoor program that the kids are on land for about 4 hours.

Marion Pressley - And you use it as part of that whole thing, that is happening on that day?

Alex DeFronzo - Correct. Right now (undistinguishable) the part of Phase I that is actually part of Phase II.

Anthony Guerriero - If we put picnic tables in front of the sailing center, at that space. We could take that into consideration. Right?

Marion Pressley - That was what was there.

Anthony Guerriero - I just want to clarify that we are not building a structure.

Marion Pressley - Yes. That was what I was trying to clarify.

Melissa Tyler - I believe and I am not sure someone else could back me up on this. We were talking about putting something like that that we could assemble over a basketball court or a court of some sort. Is that what we were talking about? Some kind of tent over a court.

Mary Berninger - No. The intent was to replicate what they have existing at the sailing center. When we were in New York, I loved the shed look and it covered things. It really protected the kids in inclement weather. I thought it let the sun in. There is nothing like that right now other than way out on the pier. Those are the real shade structures.

Alex DeFronzo - The other things we talked about is making sure that Phase II blends with Phase I. So that there is not a curved lineation. There are certain features, some Mary had proposed, but consideration for a water feature in Phase II that could also function as a movie screen.

Marion Pressley - We saw that in Somerville. I think your amphitheater would be a better place for that because you have no place to sit when you are in the water fountain.

Mary Berninger - That brings up a very good point. We have been hinting at it in a not so subtle way. We want to revisit Phase I, to incorporate some things that, perhaps, are not there anymore. To make better use of it.

Marion Pressley - I am just saying that the use of a screen needs a place to sit, to congregate.

Mary Berninger - Except some people bring their own, they could bring blankets.

Marion Pressley - That's why there is the grass amphitheater.

Mary Berninger - Right. But, if you are going to do that method Massport has to come on board with that. Revisit some features in Phase I.

Karen Buttiglieri - So, don't we already have an amphitheater at Phase I?

Marion Pressley - Yes and at Bremen St. Park

Karen Buttiglieri - So why can't we have it over there?

Nasser Brahim - I am just suggesting that we are also on a coastal environment, so it can be windy. It would be challenging to have a collapsible structure like that, that really would withstand the gust times.

Mary Berninger - I don't think it is used in the wind often. Maybe we could investigate which ones are the sturdiest, which ones stay rigid and are connected to the ground.

Anthony Guerriero - What I have seen at Bremen St. Park is the inflatable screen. Zumix has been showing movies for the last 3 years at Bremen St. Park They usually do it once every summer month. I remember going down there and seeing an inflatable structure. But that is at Bremen St. Park. There is an amphitheater there. It rests on the ground, its staked in, but you do not have some of the wind. I do know from experience when we had (undistinguishable) and the orchestra there, and even when Sal said Eastie Pride day, the wind and the climate are challenging. Doesn't mean it can't be done, it's just challenging.

Louise Montanino - We also talked about a water feature thing and we know you do not want a pool. Maybe something like a Frog Pond that in winter could be frozen over to be used as an ice skating ring. It is in those notes that you just took from the Saturday meeting.

Bob Strelitz - That raises a liability problem, but I think it is a great idea.

Karen Buttiglieri - Everything is a liability problem.

Louise Montanino - They have it at the Boston Common.

Bob Strelitz - The city insures itself.

Anthony Guerriero - Let's re-evaluate that. Maybe we can look at Phase I.

Marion Pressley - Right; at the original amphitheater site. That was supposed to be the original area for ice skating. It would be a better place to put it because it would be perfected and there would be seating. Seating is very important. Just being able to gather makes a big difference. And you have the sound equipment there.

Mary Berninger - We just have to have an understanding that we can do that. That we can revisit it over there. You used the term evolve and we are going to evolve in certain ways.

Anthony Guerriero - What I am thinking is that we already have the amphitheater structure in place. Instead of spending the money to build that in Phase II, is there an opportunity for Massport to take a look at that and say; this came up, it has been discussed in the original Phase I planning, and is that a viable option to evaluate that and see whatever it takes to do that. I do not know if it is possible, but I would like to take that approach.

Marion Pressley - Or whether it is portable or permanently in place?

Anthony Guerriero - I think it would be portable. It is sunk down that is resiliency designed and already there.

Mary Berninger - If you are doing that, engineering has changed over time, revisit the ice skating rink there too.

Anthony Guerriero - That's what I am talking about.

Mary Berninger - I thought he was talking about the movie theatre. In the good weather the movie theatre or performances and in the winter months there could be an ice skating rink.

Michael Bruno - Just a few final items that we discussed. One was making the park look attractive and accessible to the community. That was one of the consideration; opening it up. What we talked about was not having a really high fence.

Karen Buttiglieri - I disagree with you on that

Anthony Guerriero - You have to have it. Just so you know, it is security.

Karen Buttiglieri - That's why it looks so good and if you look at the look of the fence, it is quite appealing.

Anthony Guerriero- Thank you Michael.

Michael Bruno - I am just relaying what was discussed at the meeting. Other items were to have features for seniors and toddlers.

Marion Pressley - We talked about that last time. We also talked about music and the play equipment. Something musical instead of just standard play equipment. We also have a vote for a carousel.

(Discussion about a carousel, cost, financing it, etc.)

Michael Bruno - One last point.

Anthony Guerriero - Is this about the Christopher Columbus statue?

(Laughter, over talking.)

Michael Bruno - We talked a little bit about the storage for the sailing center and to make it aesthetically pleasing.

Anthony Guerriero - Like I said earlier, Alex DeFronzo, a good Director of the sailing center, reached out to me last week. We are going to have a meeting with him, relatively soon, to go over what their needs are. We think, internally, that might be an opportunity to partner with the East Boston shipyard. They are right there, and I think there is a possibility that it might be a good, mutually beneficial, relationship.

Karen Buttiglieri - And Massport would pay for the beneficial relationship?

Anthony Guerriero - We will do the best that we can. We love the sailing center. Don't forget Mary, I have a flag for you.

Louise Montanino - When you do the new sailing center are you going to still have the old sailing center?

Anthony Guerriero - No. The only thing that we have offered about the sailing center was the thought, because there will be plumbing and utilities there, that maybe, it might be a good idea, to do a unisex, handicap assessable bathroom.

Karen Buttiglieri - That's a great idea.

Marion Pressley - We need a public restroom in that location.

Karen Buttiglieri - Now, maybe, we could have Marion come in and tell us her thoughts.

Marion Pressley - I will come back with 3 and maybe some others.

Anthony Guerriero - We did talk about a Gold Star Mothers bench. That is something we will put in.

Margaret Farmer - I know we are focusing on what we talked about on Saturday. I was down at the park on the weekend with an under 1 year old. I could not find a changing table.

Marion Pressley - In the bathroom?

Margaret Farmer - No. I looked in the bathroom, did not see one. So I asked a Massport person. Am I insane, do I not see one? He looked in the bathroom, didn't see one so he opened the little room for me, so I could go in and use, which I appreciated. I am just saying that the Massport employees didn't know where it was and I didn't see any signs.

Anthony Guerriero - I am surprised by that. It is there

Margaret Farmer - None of us could believe it. There must be one there, we just don't know where. I am just saying that it might be an opportunity for education or more signage. I would just encourage that there should also be one available in the men's room.

Marion Pressley - There is one.

Anthony Guerriero - One on either side.

Margaret Farmer - The Massport staff looked in for me and they didn't see one.

Marion Pressley - Maybe they did not know what they were looking for.

Anthony Guerriero - There is one at Bremen St. Park, too.

Anthony Guerriero - We are going to advertise the community meeting. It will be here (this room) again, starting the 2nd week of April. We will work on these designs and get them to you. And then talk to you on the 16th of April. Bob and Maria, I gave you the dates and I am going to give you the times. I am going to these meetings to talk about Phase II and some Massport related stuff. Gove St. is the 25th, Eagle Hill the 27th, the Greenway on the 28th, Harborview for the 1st of April. I am going to work with Orient Heights for the 15th and then we are back here on the 16th.

Mary Berninger - You said you would give us the times for the meetings.

Anthony Guerriero - I will have to get back to Bob. I will send it to you and Maria.

Bob Strelitz - We will publicize it when we get it.

Karen Buttiglieri - Let me know when you are going to go for the one on Orient Heights.

Anthony Guerriero - The 15th. I just have to confirm it with Joe Ruggiero.

Karen Buttiglieri - Just make sure they are going to put it on the agenda.

Anthony Guerriero - I am going to be talking about the parking garage and then the RFP that is going to be coming out in the summer.

Mary Berninger - How are the Bayswater embankment repairs coming?

Anthony Guerriero - I talked about this in the fall; it is 18 years old. Recent storms and time has destroyed it. They came up with a number to do the rip wrap repair. I haggled with that because you have to go out into the Orient Heights community and to Com Com. So I asked the staff to revisit it. See what we can do. I do not have the schedule for it yet. It is either a snow fence or a jersey barrier because people are afraid of going into the drink. So that is the issue. I still have problems with trash, stealing the dog signs, they are all gone, etc.

Fran Carbone - But the embankment of the fuel pier is lovely. Why can't you do that on Bayswater St?

Anthony Guerriero - The fuel pier is set in. It is out, right on the outside. Bayswater is narrow and set in. It gets whacked. What I found out last year and I shared with you, was that the winter of 2015 and last

year, croaked it. You already had erosion with time and then those 2 things did a job on it. So as soon as I know about the Com Com, I will let you know.

(Discussion, Hanscom Field, Worcester, regional approach, etc.)

Bob Strelitz - On the Agenda. We talked about it at the last meeting. A bench with a plaque for MaryEllenWelch.

Anthony Guerriero - I think it is great that the PAC, rightfully so, wants to honor MaryEllen Welch. What we have done with a lot of the PAC members that have gone to greener pastures are the plaques on the benches. I am just asking about a consideration and that's all I am asking. Why not do a music garden for MaryEllen? We showed, a couple of meetings ago, stainless steel musical instruments for kids. Xylophone, drums, etc. The stainless steel does not rust. You know MaryEllen better than I do. She was a teacher. She was always about little kids. As we talked about the future, so if you had a small section of Phase II, not a big section and you had the xylophone and the drums, maybe surrounded by seagrass. I think that would be a fitting tribute. I am just asking you to consider it.

Karen Buttiglieri - We were talking about the outdoor playground. That might also be an area for it as well. To be quite honest with you, I thought the world about MaryEllen, but I do not want to tie ourselves into something that we may not use. At this point, before we go any further on that, we need to figure out a design.

Karen Maddalena - I agree with Karen. At least for now, get the plaque put on a bench, because we have done that for all former members.

Anthony Guerriero - So you want a plaque for Phase I? So if I do the plaque for MaryEllen Welch, like we usually do, like Joann Cardinale EBPP, the years of her membership. How do you want me to handle MaryEllen's?

Bob Strelitz - Her whole life.

Tom Bruno - Lifetime, dedication, service to East Boston.

Sal LaMattina - The Greenway may want to do something for MaryEllen.

Anthony Guerriero - Is there a particular bench?

Karen Maddalena - This is just as a part of the process and in the planning stages. We can talk about that, but right now just a plaque. And I know there is a plaque on a bench for her brother. It meant so much to his wife and both families.

Anthony Guerriero - Is there one bench you want to identify, I would be more than happy to use it.

Karen Maddalena - I would like to make a motion for the PierPAC make a plaque for MaryEllen.

Fran Carbone - Second.

Peter Cardinale - MaryEllen deserves something a little better than just a plaque. She has done so much for us.

Karen Buttiglieri - I agree with you. I think the garden is a great idea. But, if we can't make a decision on things are going to happen, or where they are going to happen or when, I think at some point we might want to do something. Whether it is in the outdoor space or something. In the meanwhile, I think we should honor her.

Tom Bruno - That is what I was trying to say. An outdoor classroom in this park. That becomes a reality. A perfect thing to dedicate to her.

Karen Maddalena - Friends of the East Boston Greenway are planning an event in June, on the Greenway in May. A tree and a bench and also name the Greenway after MaryEllen.

Mary Berninger - Not to say it is going to happen, but when you are doing the 3 plans that you are going to present, could you find a way to just pencil in the music garden, so that we can see where Marion, Amy and you might think it is appropriate.

Anthony Guerriero - So the PAC likes that idea.

Karen Buttiglieri - I do like it. But do something in the meanwhile.

Anthony Guerriero - I will work on the bench and get it ready for installation. Then we will work on the 3 concepts.

(Karen Maddalena - Undistinguishable.)

Bob Strelitz - We are already about an hour behind.

Alex DeFronzo - Just quickly, about the bench. Close to the sailing center.

Bob Strelitz - I do not think that is ours to decide. Moving to Old Business.

Richard Lynds - We have a motion on the floor.

(Secretary - Karen made a motion for MaryEllen and Fran Carbone seconded it. You did not put it up for a vote.)

Bob Strelitz - Any discussion? Hearing none.

Voted and passed.

Bob Strelitz - Old Business or New Business.

Karen Buttiglieri - Mary Berninger has something.

Mary Berninger - A year or 2 ago we talked about the possibility, as we get into more involved meetings, to help the meetings run smoothly, especially the community wide ones, about perhaps use some of our funds to engage the services of a facilitator. I think that we should consider that. Richie spent a lot of time last month doing it. His services are better served by dotting the I's and crossing the t's. Could we have a discussion on it?

Richard Lynds - There'd be no vote on it but you would put it on the agenda for the next meeting to have a complete discussion and then potentially put that to a vote.

Mary Berninger - I would like to discuss that.

Bob Strelitz - Is there a second on that idea?

Karen Buttiglieri - I second Mary's motion.

Richard Lynds - We do not need a motion. We need to have it addressed on the next agenda.

Richard Lynds - I think the appropriate entry on the agenda is to start including an agenda item for park design and park issues. That way we can include in the agenda that votes may be taken. So that the public would be aware that the PAC may take action. As long as there is transparency as to what may occur, or that action may be taken.

Mary Berninger - In the similar way you do for the Executive Session.

Richard Lynds - Exactly. As long as there is transparency as to what may occur or action be taken.

Bob Strelitz - Okay. I did not hear anything else under New Business. Hearing none.

Jerry Deneumoustier - Motion to adjourn.

Louise Montanino - Second.

Voted and passed.

