



TOWN of BROOKLINE  
*Massachusetts*

Department of Public Works  
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DIVISION

*Andrew M. Pappastergion*  
*Commissioner*

*Erin Chute*  
*Gallentine*  
*Director*

**Cypress Street Playground  
Design Review Committee Meeting #5  
Meeting Minutes  
Room 103-Brookline Town Hall  
Wednesday, August 14, 2019 6:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present:** Nancy O'Connor (DRC Chair), Daniel Lyons, Wendy Sheridan, Clara Batchleor, Deborah Rivers

**Committee Members Absent:** Helen Charlupski and Matthew Cooney

**Staff Present:** Jessica Zarni, Administrative Assistant, Scott Landgren, Senior Landscape Architect, Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director

**Public Present:** see attached sign in sheet

**Welcome/Call Meeting to Order**

N. O'Connor welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming out. She stated that Barbara Scotto Scotto is here tonight on behalf of the School Committee.

D. Lyons moved approval of the June 19, 2019 minutes. Seconded by W Sheridan. All in favor.

**Agenda**

Scott Landgren introduced himself and went through the agenda.

Welcome and Introductions

Recap of Meeting 4 Project Scope & Schedule

- Preferred Overall Concept Plan
- Various Slow Street Options

- Park Fence and Sports Netting
- Playground Options and ADA Pathway
- Existing Trees and Planting plan. S. Landgren discussed an onsite visit that took place regarding the trees. D. Rivers wanted to thank S. Landgren for that meeting.
- Site Furniture

S. Landgren detailed the Design Review Process and Project timeline.

### **Part 1: Softball Field and Netting**

N. O'Connor stated that the Park and Recreation Commission have been talking about netting for a very long time. She stated that last night there was a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting where men's adult softball at Cypress was discussed. They talked about minimum/max field dimensions for all the different users. She discussed a neighbor of Cypress that was there last night and several other neighbors through the years that came out to the Commission meetings to discuss the balls hitting their homes. She stated that there is a feeling of just looking at trajectories, that if the field was being built now with the current dimensions you would not be permitting adult men's softball. The Commission discussed this issue at last night's Park and Recreation meeting as well as several other meetings in the past. There was discussion around netting and permitting. Last night the Commission moved to not issue future permits for adult softball at Cypress and therefore we would not require netting on the field. It was voted 6 in favor and one opposed. There was a discussion among the Commission about trying to find an alternative site before the permits were no longer given out at that field for adult softball. L. Jackson, Recreation Director and Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director discussed where men's softball might be able to go. N. O'Connor stated that men's softball would not be permitted on either field. The issue is too great and balls will still go over the net/trees and there is a liability. She stated that we are being told it is an issue and we heard it loud and clear. There will be nothing changed at the High School level. The adult's men's league seems to be what is driving the balls that exit the park. E. Gallentine stated that the high school baseball plays at Warren Field. D. Lyons stated that there is a lot to say, he thinks that this entire issue needs to be revisited and perhaps modified at some point. However, right now he stated that it's a moot point, but he thinks there are other solutions. C. Batchelor stated that the construction drawings will need to be ready to go, you do not want to add in a change order and thinks the decision needs to be made now. D. Lyons stated that as far as he can remember that field as been there, there has been men's softball there. He played in the league for more than 20 years. He stated that it was an aluminum bat league, there are college level players playing twice a week now with metal bats. He thinks they can hit it over the fence and believes that one solution is to raise the size of that fence for a length ( to be discussed later)and to limit any permits for men's softball on that field to wooden bats with restricted flight balls. N. O'Connor stated that you are talking change orders as of right now, the Park and Recreation Commission voted down permitting men's softball at Cypress. W. Sheridan stated that right now that decision would affect the height of the fence along the sidewalk not netting. D. Lyons is talking about putting a ten foot fence the length of the whole right center field to 179 Cypress. He thinks it should be an option. He stated that part of the Park and Recreation Commission Mission Statement is to provide a healthy lifestyle, not just for High School Kids but for adults too. He stated that we are eliminating a league that has been playing there for years and he doesn't think it's fair to target one group of men. N. O'Connor stated that this will have to be discussed again at the

Commission level. She stated that this has been an ongoing concern and has been talked about for many years. She hears what D. Lyons is saying, but just because men's softball has been at Cypress for many years does not mean it should stay. D. Lyons stated that he believes the Commission is overthinking and worrying too much about the liability issues. W. Sheridan stated that if the risk of adult men aluminum bats, with their estimated trajectories and small size of the field, it too great a liability and there is an inherent danger to the public, then she supports the non-permitting of men's softball at Cypress Field. However, she stated, if there is a way to allow adult men to play at this field with a change to the equipment then the Committee should consider it. She asked if Weston and Sampson could provide the Commission/ Committee the trajectory and field size requirements for a wooden bat and low flight ball. This could possibly mitigate the risk by adding equipment requirements to adult men's softball permits. She would love to look into it further and if the report comes bac as still too great a risk then maybe we do have to remove men's softball from Cypress Field. C. Batchelor asked G. Bolinger if he has the information to be able to show us the trajectories with a wooden bat and low flight ball. He said we could look into that, he says no data is flawless. He stated that it was hard coming up with data that has already been provided, but he will look into it. D. River and D. Lyons discussed where he would propose the fence. He stated that it would be a ten foot fence from Dana Street up to 179 Davis.

G. Bolinger stated that we would want to put out a clean set of documents at the beginning of the year, he stated that you want to avoid modification during the bid process and avoid a change order.

G. Bolinger presented the Committee with a field plan view slide. Netting is not needed unless men's softball is played on this field. It is very easy to hit a ball upwards of 300 feet. The trajectory of 300 ft. for men's ball was shown to the committee on both sides of the field. They are proposing a 6 foot decorative metal fence along the entire edge. They are showing 2 runs of 30 ft. sports netting in front of the tree line. Sports netting can be installed and it has a lesser impact to the tree canopy because it is further anyway from the western field. Installing the 30 ft. netting on the eastern portion would be more impactful to trees (this was pointed out on the slide, particularly one tree was looked at). E. Gallentine isn't sure if that one particular tree would make it. The trees scheduled to remain were shown to the Committee. The netting goes in with some impact to tree canopy. He stated that 30 ft. sports netting would provide benefit, but it is only catching a certain number of additional balls that is not being captured in the tree canopy. G. Bolinger stated that his point is Installing sports netting would capture a certain number of additional balls but there are some balls already being captured under current condition and 30 feet would not be adequate to catch all the balls. This would not be eliminating but rather reducing the number of balls. He is thinking about the delta between aluminum bats and regular softballs versus the wooden bats and low trajectory balls. He wonders what happens to that 300 ft. trajectory, he is unsure of what that would look like. He stated that on Tappan Street were balls are less prone to leave the premises. They are proposing a 4 ft. decorative fence that mimics the design of the higher fence. He stated that they have black vinyl clad 6 ft. chain link that line the players bench and a 25 ft. high back stop. N. O'Connor stated that we may need to talk to manufacturers that fabricate these low trajectory balls. There is a filling inside it, it has a cork center. N. O'Connor stated that the type of bat and special ball would be language that needs to be added to the permitting if men's softball were to stay at the fields. She stated that we can add the language to the permit, but it will need to be enforced. E.

Gallentine listed the user groups at Cypress. E. Gallentine does not think just aluminum bats are the problem, she believes that wood bats are hitting balls over the fence. D. Rivers would like to achieve a balance and she would hate to see losing trees that provide much needed shade for 1/3 of the block of Davis and Greenough because of the netting. She would like to see the attention to the permitting. She feels that the street trees are vital to the feel of that block. She will continue to be an advocate for maintaining those 4 trees; she would hate to lose them

G. Coltof discussed the softball blog he looked up on the internet. He stated that the restricted flight softball reduce trajectories by 25 percent. It takes it from 300 and brings the trajectory down to 225.

E. Gallentine stated that in regards to the fence on Davis, they talked about 6 feet but wonders if that is a little shy. She is thinking that maybe a 6.5 ft fence would be better, or possibly doing a curb and a 6 ft. high fence. She isn't sure if maybe Weston and Sampson were considering a custom fence. G. Bolinger stated that current conditions have a combination of 6ft and 4ft fencing. Clara Batchelor stated that a curb cut cuts the tree roots down. She stated that potentially you could cut an 8ft fence down to 6.5 feet.

## **Part 2: Play Area and Accessible Pathway**

The overall concept design was shared with the Committee.

### **Preferred Playground Concept**

#### **Option A**

B. Kunkel stated that in past meetings we had settled in on a general shape and come to a conclusion that the play equipment more in line with the traditionalist post and platform style, but with a modern take. He stated that they have been refining the grading in particular now that they have settled in on a play equipment style and manufacturer. He stated that in regard to accessibility and movement throughout the playground it will be more or less at some grade as it is now. B. Kunkel walked the Committee through the grading of the whole park. He stated that from an accessibility standpoint and traversing the topography along this edge (this was pointed out) this is where they start to play with elevations and contouring. He stated that you would climb at 4 1/2 percent (no railing required), this brings you from 46 elevation to elevation 53 plus or minus. The playground will be at elevation 47, as you start to rise up and the topography increases, there is a grade change and they will leverage it to favor the playground. This provides an interesting play aspect where the kids can run up and down the hills. There would be play equipment along the hill and it also provides an elevated change where the kids can enter in an accessible route up to a higher elevation and transfer to different play equipment at different heights. There is 6 ft. grade change along the edge. He pointed out a retaining wall, but there would be guardrails along the top edge. This would allow you to pass underneath the bridge, as well as enter at a higher elevation and transition down to a slightly lower elevation and transfer back up. B. Kunkel discussed providing play elements along the wall, such as rock climbing. He discussed leveraging play equipment along the edge, he suggested natural play elements. He stated that you could actually get through half the playground without touching the ground. The seat wall within the interior of the playground was detailed. The safety zone area for a pair of swings was pointed out. The embankment slide was shown to the Committee. Currently, there are 4 swings on playground and with this option there will be 5 swings.

Examples of the types of swings were shared with the committee. He suggested a modern playground on this inside. The retaining wall was pointed out to the Committee. He pointed out where the elevation is higher than the street, he thinks you could get creative with planting to provide a buffer. There would be a handrail required to make that path ADA accessible. They could not make it work without increasing the length of the walk as it started to encroach upon on the playground or street edge.

### **Option B**

This option would eliminate the pair of swings, and use a group swing or carousel in lieu of the group swing.

### **Playground Components**

The 2-5 age custom play structure images was shared with the committee

The 5-12 age custom play structure images were shared with the Committee.

Examples of playground components were shared with the Committee.

N. O'Connor and B. Kunkel discussed custom loop and rope climbers. W. Sheridan thinks that it is interesting how kids can dream up how to use them. D. Lyons and B. Kunkel discussed where these pieces could possibly be placed.

N. O'Connor and B. Kunkel discussed where the rock climbing would go. N. O'Connor discussed the rock climbing at Billy Ward.

Barbara Scotto asked B. Kunkel what the surface would be on the ground in the playground area. B. Kunkel stated that it would all be poured in place. She asked if there would be a place for kids to dig in the sand. B. Kunkel stated that there could be outcropping from the main path and outside where the kids could dig and have sand. Barbara Scotto asked if there would be any grassy surfaces. He stated that everything outside the safety surfacing is lawn, except for the sand area. E. Gallentine stated that the Commission decided to not add sand because of fecal matter and that they are difficult to keep clean. She stated that the commission works with neighbors on this issue. E. Gallentine stated that we are not introducing sand currently where there is not. She stated that we could put another type of material for digging. There is a conversation to have with park maintenance regarding materials for a possible digging area.

W. Sheridan asked with if they have any experience with skateboarders and slopes. She wonders if something should be placed on the path like a type textile warning strip to deter skateboarding.

J. Dempsey asked B. Kunkel what the surface of walkways would be. B. Kunkel's stated that right now budget wise it's held for concrete, the next preferred option would be asphalt. He stated that we don't recommend stone dust in playground areas. It has a higher level of maintenance to meet ADA. Stone dust could wash out with the elevations. E. Gallentine stated that because of the grading the preference would be concrete.

D. Rivers asked if the whole grade at the corner is basically reworking the contours that are already there, or is there fill being added. B. Kunkel stated that he is working with the natural grade as much as they can, but there are grades modified to meet ADA.

Existing Conditions for the Sledding Hill were shown to the Committee.

### **ADA Path : Design refinement -plan view- Option A**

B. Kunkel stated that in order to make accessible without a handrail, it is a pretty severe grade change. Elevation 47, 55, 58 and 59 was shown to the Committee. They are currently proposing the slope that comes from the playground down and with the grade change it will not work without a handrail. There isn't enough run to extend the walk to make it transition down from 58/59 to 53/54 (which is at grade of the street). It is softened with no handrails to a point which was shown to the Committee. They think they can detail it pretty nicely where it merges into the bleacher seating of the basketball court, add a ramp and transition down with ramp/handrails to the entrance. C. Batchelor asked if the Committee talked about whether there is a gate needed at the intersection of the entrance, because it's such a busy intersection. G. Coltof wondered if it could be a grand entry instead of being gated.

Jonathan Smalls and B. Kunkel discussed where the hand rail starts and ends.

Erin Gallentine stated that there are three options for that path. She stated that there is handicap access at this entry down to the basketball Court and there is a railing at the ramp behind the court, but she thinks it can be nestled in with the stone in such a way so it will be not as intrusive. She stated that it is either the ramp with railings, a slope that is not an accessible path but a useable path within the park or stairs are incorporated with not railings.

J. Dempsey and B. Kunkel discussed rain water erosion. J. Dempsey stated that you have added hard surfaces, and he wonders now where does the rain go and is worried about erosion on the hill. B. Kunkel discussed how it is a 3-1 slope in terms of a landscape perspective. The water will follow the slope of the walk; they are looking at designing swales around the perimeter. Weston and Sampson are still designing the system. J. Dempsey discussed the eroding that takes place now at Cypress.

Antonia Bellalta was wondering if the corner with the gate should be preserved, not have that direct access point and put the entrance where the pinch point is. She is wondering what the whole area is going to look like. She stated that there is a lot of things happening in that little tight spot.

A resident addressed the Committee. He stated that besides the daycare traffic and traffic with the new high school building, he thinks it will be interesting point at that corner. He thinks a lot of people will be coming from Dana Street and into the park from there and instead of going up the long way to the bottom of stairs; they will head toward that corner as a way to get out of there.

A. Bellalta stated that the corner feels awkward to her and she is concerned with people walking down and making a cow path in that sled area. She thinks it's a bad intersection to stop at. She thinks there is going to be more activity there, it's a tight corner and she is just concerned with all the activity. G. Coltof stated it would put people entering and exiting on a 3 ft. sidewalk and taking a hard turn. He stated that here it could be a nice landing, a lot of room to convene.

W. Sheridan wants to keep the perspective of why they are doing an ADA Path to begin with and making this space accessible to all. She stated that there is a need for residents or students with special need to cross there and use that path to get further down on Tappan Street. She thinks we should respect that and try to do our best to make that work.

E. Gallentine asked A. Bellalta if the entrance was up a little higher on Cypress what she would envision that looking like. She doesn't think that corner is the most desirable place to bring people safety in the park. She would put it in the middle of the sidewalk. She thinks maybe pushing the fence back to the inside of the ADA pathway, and create more of a landing area. She would push the gate down or push the gate further in, similar to Downe's.

Barbara Scotto and N. O'Connor discussed how students will be entering the school building.

W. Sheridan discussed the new stair case that will be on the Tappan Street side.

B. Kunkel stated that Option B is to break it up either a series of two steps at a time without handrails. The ramp that could be tucked into the bleachers by the basketball Court and the lower path can be nicely integrated with the retaining.

G. Bolinger stated that E. Gallentine mentioned earlier that there are 3 options for the second slope. One is to construct at 8.33 percent with a railing to be fully ADA compliant, the second option is to construct it at 8.33 no landing or railings and have it not be ADA compliant, another option to make it a bit flatter and have incremental stairs in a few locations (also not ADA compliant). E. Gallentine stated that this portion is not compliant, but the overall park is ADA compliant because there are other ADA compliant paths to get to all the same destinations.

C. Batchelor thinks it should all be ADA accessible even though by the letter of the law they don't need to be. C. Batchelor wants to offer the same experience everyone, this way everyone is included and none is singled out.

G. Coltof and B. Kunkel discussed what the handrails would look like. D. Rivers would like to see graphics of the handrails moving forward.

J. Smalls is not convinced that we need the handrails. He stated that you can get anywhere in the park with a wheelchair except for that one area. He knows these are all about tradeoffs, but wonders if this tradeoff will create some issues that may not be worth the benefit. N. O'Connor thinks that if it's one person and their experience is changed because of the decision made today than she has her answer. She understands what Jonathan Smalls is saying, but she thinks the whole park should be accessible.

Drawing section cuts of the ADA Path was shared with the committee .

### **Part 3: Overall Design**

B. Kunkel discussed existing pervious and impervious surfaces on the site, current and proposed.

Existing: Perv 4.46 ac and Imp 0.74 ac

Proposed: Perv: 3.8 ac and Imp: 1.40 ac

B. Kunkel pointed out the locations of where there could potentially be more pervious and impervious pavements.

### **Dana Street Crossing & Basketball Area**

B. Kunkel discussed the plan view from the Dana Street Corridor. A lot has not changed from the last time, it was refined to work with the accessibility piece and that is the only change along that edge.

### **Greenough Plaza-Plan View**

The biggest change in the Greenough Plaza from the last meeting is the fact that two Lindens are being saved. That has an impact given their considerable size, they have increased the landscape area below it and that has changed the walls a bit. It still is generally in the same concept. The seat walls under the trees and quiet space in this area were pointed out. B. Kunkel stated that they are playing with topography to create interest and a bit of separation so it doesn't feel like a concrete wasteland. He stated that from the slow street perspective, they have simplified it from the last meeting. There are just the 3 major connections and the rest is asphalt pavement.

D. Rivers is concerned with all the impervious surfaces being created. She stated that students like sitting on the grass and she is concerned with the increase of impervious areas. She wonders if that could be tweaked. She stated that everyone seeks the shade of the trees when it is hot. B. Kunkel stated that Weston and Sampson can continue to look at it, but there is a lot of movement thru and sitting and gathering in this plaza space. E. Gallentine is hoping with irrigation and utilizing structural soils that they will get healthy street trees along Greenough. She stated that we are looking to build a healthy row of trees along Greenough, she knows the lindens aren't in great shape. D. Rivers stated that in general people are trying to increase pervious areas and decrease impervious areas and we are going the opposite way here. She isn't sure we need this much paving and this many seat walls. She would like it cut back, while still serving the students well at the same time. Antonia Bellalta agrees with D. Rivers, but this is huge benefit to those who hang out in the middle of the street. She stated that they can socialize in a better space than the middle of the street. She stated that once the other trees grow in it will be a nice greener corner. She is wondering if the planters in the middle could be part of the storm water management. G. Bolinger thinks in a few years it will become a pleasant place to sit. He thinks there are still plenty of spaces with grass for the students. N 'O'Connor asked if there was an opportunity to make a green space along edge the edge of softball diamond to bring the green all the way down. However, she then wonders where is your line, how will it be contained and stop it from getting trampled.

Clara Batchelor would ask that the tree pits along the street be made as big as possible.

G. Coltof wonders if there is room for a bike path. He was down the street the other day and thinks you could put it on other side of the street away from the utility poles. He stated you would have a reverse course. C. Batchelor discussed the policy of other cities where the bike lane is raised above the curb and its asphalt where everything else is paved. E. Gallentine is not sure in this plaza where people come out and through you want a bike lane going right through it. It could be more of a conflict. G. Coltof would like to make it more bike friendly/making Brookline more bike friendly. He is just sad it is not there.

W. Sheridan thinks the seating is terrific, she love how it hugs the corner of the space and the kids can face in or out. She stated that could have lunch, make after school plans and possibly use it as an outdoor classroom space. She stated that with the number of student coming to school and knows it is only increasing, having that number of seating with this canopy will be a very special and popular space.

Greenough Plaza-Define Refinement Sections were shared with the Committee

A fencing strategy was shared with the Committee.

G. Coltof addressed the Committee. He has been at the last five meetings to make sure there is mid-block entrance on Davis and he has not heard a compelling argument on why it shouldn't be there. It is his front yard and he doesn't understand why it has been removed. He suggested putting in a gate and if the field becomes ruined than they lock it. N. O'Connor stated that at the July the Park and Recreation Commission meeting that entrance was discussed by the Commission and the Commission voted to not have an entrance. N. O'Connor stated that she said she was going to bring it up at this meeting when fencing was brought up and discuss how the Committee feels. D. Rivers does think it is going to create a desire path right across the field. G. Coltof feels that there are multiple entries on the Tappan side, but no one is concerned about that. C. Batchelor stated that we have increased access to make it a more attractive and she thinks not having an opening will protect the field. D. Lyons thinks an entrance there is going to create a little X. He thinks it will ruin the field if there is an opening. Barbara Scotto doesn't think you aren't saving much by not putting a gate in the middle. W. Sheridan stated that there hasn't been a gate there ever which is not a reason to not put one in, but she is not convinced that it's a great hard ship to walk to this new and improved path. She has a different perspective of team sports on that field and not encouraging people to come in mid field and the seating for spectators is opposite on Tappan Street. She stated that from a high school youth sports perspective she doesn't want to encourage entry on midfield with spectators on one side or the other. J. Smalls supports the idea of a gate in the middle. He thinks it will not destroy the field. He thinks we have to recognize those who are inconvenienced. D. Rivers doesn't find an inconvenience with this. N. O'Connor stated that her feeling is should have been a synthetic turf field. Hhaving said that it's not happening. She stated that the cow paths are going to happen, it is going to get dissected. There will be sports played and you're putting in an entrance at the midpoint. She stated that you will be bringing people into the outfield when they first step in, so with that in mind she thinks it is better to have them walk around. She would not add the gate, she is hearing G. Coltof's point but she would not support an opening/gate. If the Committee would like to have that entrance it can be voted on it and then brought in front of the Park and Recreation Commission.

N. O'Connor asked the Committee members how many would be in favor of adding the entrance on Davis Street side. The Committee voted against the opening. She stated that if G. Coltof would like to go in front of the Park and Recreation Commission and plead his case, he should do so.

Park Perimeter- Edges, Fences and Elevation example slides were shown to the Committee.

Park Perimeter- A Cypress/Davis Street Corner Elevation example slide was shown to the committee. Clara Batchelor and Deborah Rivers find the step aesthetically pleasing compared to the slopes.

## **Planting Plan**

A Tree Removal diagram/ slide was shown to the committee. They have increased amount of trees that they are saving. The conditions of the remaining trees were detailed and labeled by color. S. Landgren stated that there are 4 trees that will be retained along Davis that have grown in better than anticipated this past season. They are proposing 52 new trees throughout, existing trees to remain 28, they are transplanting 4 and they are adding 52 new trees. The trees to be removed trees are at 30, so they are adding 22 trees.

Slides of the existing planting plan were shown to the Committee. Weston & Sampson are going to utilize a similar plant pallet. Examples of the proposed trees for Cypress were shared with the Committee. G. Bolinger stated that they are avoiding Norway Maples and Lindens. D. Rivers asked what they are planning for the street trees along Davis between Cypress and Dana. B. Kunkel is thinking about a Birch forest around the playground. D. Rivers stated that having street trees and shading pavement is very important for heat island effect and she feels like the stretch of Davis has lost trees and it has no shade. She thinks a birch forest won't give you any shade on the street.

C. Batchelor asked that they would reconsider using the birch. She finds that after 15 years after they are planted, they are brittle, always dropping branches and are not a great shade tree. She stated that they fall apart, and she feels that if you had them in play area while kids would love running around them; the kids would be peeling off the bark. C. Batchelor suggested a European Hornbeam as they are an urban tree and have a lovely fall color. E. Gallentine stated that in terms of the trees, in addition to native trees, we should be thinking about trees that are adaptive and climate resilient.

A. Bellalta asked B. Kunkel what they are considering at the corner of the plaza where a lot of trees are being put in, where all the curved seating is. He is suggesting something smaller scale with a lighter canopy such as serviceberry. Antonia would say no to serviceberry, she loves the tree but not under seating. She thinks cherries could be great for that area.

Site Furniture - examples of benches and table palates that they are leaning towards was shared with the Committee .They are looking at using a combination of wood and metal.

The Dana Corridor materials being considered were discussed.

Examples of sculptural/fun seating options were shared with the committee.

N. O'Connor and B. Kunkel discussed how they are coordinating with the High School Project. They are looking to match or complement to an extent that makes sense. They are looking to coordinate on some level so everything looks like one campus.

N. O'Connor asked if the area for picnicking in the playground will be fine-tuned later and wonders what that will look like. B. Kunkel showed an image of what they envisioned for that space. B. Kunkel stated that they are thinking simple, stone planks flushed with the ground. He

is thinking that there may be stone dust or mulch in between and family style picnic benches under the existing trees.

D. Rivers is concerned with lighting. She is concerned with the lighting for the path on Dana and over Greenough, it is going to need some lighting that is not street lighting and she thinks it's important on how that lighting works aesthetically. She is sorry to see this happen at the last meeting when they won't be able to provide that much feedback. She is hoping it fits in. She thinks it's an important element to how it makes the space feel. B. Kunkel stated that they are looking at pedestrian scale lighting and they are looking at multiple light fixtures for larger plaza spaces. Examples of potential lighting were shared with the Committee. D. Rivers thinks people need to feel safe. E. Gallentine agrees, she thinks it's been hard to get their heads around the lighting because there is not set furniture pallet. She stated that as Weston and Sampson narrows it down you will get a better sense of what can work well. G. Bolinger stated that get will come back with more information on the lighting. E. Gallentine stated that in terms of lighting the basketball court will be lit, the field is lit, there is pedestrian scaled lighting on the promenade from Dana and she wonders about electrical source maybe on the plaza side. She is thinking about maybe being able to do string lighting on the trees on Greenough Street.

W. Sheridan stated that in general she loves the direction and style of the mixture of wood and metal. She is a little bit confused because the Committee is being shown more options/different styles than the amount of furniture in the plan. She stated that with that being said, she loves the basketball seating and loves the concept on Greenough Street. The concerns she has are the lounge chairs being shown, bar height table with free floating stools that will tip and move. E. Gallentine agrees and thinks the Committee should be looking at a recommended pallet. W. Sheridan doesn't understand where those high-tops would go verse benches or built-in. She loves the seating rocks shown. E. Gallentine will work with Weston and Sampson on putting together a sheet as a pdf and send it to Committee and the Committee can send back comments that would include feedback on the examples of lighting/furniture. The choices will be narrowed down to simplify the conversation. **Possible café table locations were shown to the Committee still part of the vison.** W. Sheridan is unsure of where the high tops could go.

Plowing of the Greenough plaza was discussed.

E. Gallentine thinks the stone/concrete blanket on the lawn is fun, but it might be too much for this space. C. Batchelor is concerned about performing maintenance around this piece.

C. Batchelor would request a simple post with a circle around it for the bike racks. B. Kunkel pointed out where bike racks would be placed. D. Rivers is wondering how many bike racks we really need at the park, after the ones that have been added from the high school renovation and the MBTA. E. Gallentine discussed the standard bike racks that are currently around Town. The Committee discussed coordinating with the High School project to see how many racks are needed.

The Committee discussed the picnic grove. E. Gallentine stated that it's a flat grate piece flush with the ground that has stabilized stone dust around it. The benches would not be moveable. W. Sheridan and N. O'Connor discussed the surfacing for the picnic grove. N. O'Connor would like to see the area enlarged and is thinking of something all linear. W. Sheridan suggests a

round organic shape. A. Bellalta stated that it feels like a lot of different materials in a small space.

The updated cost estimate was shared with the Committee: it will become more defined when a preferred plan is chosen.

N. O'Connor stated that in addition to options for seating and lighting, she would like to see larger images of the picnic grove and the splash pad added to the presentation.

W. Sheridan loves the addition of the swings in the design.

N. O'Connor moved to adjourn. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor.

Date: August 14, 2019

Park and Recreation Commission Cypress Street Playground Design  
Review Committee Meeting

**GUESTS SIGN-IN**

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY \*\*\*\*\*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Antonina Bellalta	74 Davis Ave	antonina@bellalta3.com
Barbara Scotto	26 Crownshield Rd.	b.scotto@psbma.com
John Dempsey	43 Brington Rd.	jdempsey64@gmail.com
G. deA Coltof	181 DAVIS AVE	gcoltof@gmail.com
THOMAS CLASBY	175 DAVIS AVE	tblasby7@comcast.net
K. M. Smith	22 Brington Rd.	k.smith1450@ aol.com
Jonathay Small	151 Davis Ave	jjsmall514@gmail.com