

I-195 REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMISSION

MEETING OF PARKS DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE

July 23, 2014

The Parks Design Subcommittee of the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission (the "Subcommittee") met on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 beginning at 9:30 AM, at the offices of the Commerce RI, located at 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, Rhode Island.

The following Subcommittee members were present and participated throughout the meeting: Ms. Barbara Hunger, Ms. Diana Johnson, and Mr. John Kelly.

Also present were Ms. Jan Brodie, District Executive Director, and Project Associate, Kate Holguin. In addition, Ms. Kelly Carr of BETA Group, Nina Brown of Brown Richardson Rowe, Alan Joslin of Epstein Joslin, David Freeman of CDR Maguire, Lambri Zerva of RI DOT, and Bonnie Nickerson of the City of Providence were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the Minutes of Commission Subcommittee Meeting held on July 9, 2014.

The minutes were distributed to the Subcommittee members in advance of the meeting. There were no comments or revisions and a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. A vote was taken and voting in favor were: Ms. Johnson and Mr. Kelly. (Ms. Hunger arrived after the vote was taken.) Voting against: none.

2. Background and Overall Goals of the East and West Side Parks and Pedestrian Bridge.

There was a discussion about the importance of a seamless connection between the two parks and the bridge. Ms. Nickerson gave a background to the parks design development leading up to the approved conceptual plan of November 2012.

Ms. Carr presented the thinking behind the East Side Park design, including its linkage to the City parks to the north and south, acting as a pathway and filling in the current gap in open space from Waterside Place to India Point Park.

Ms. Brown presented the background to the West Side Park design, noting that the original plan had centered around an amphitheater, and an ongoing design theme to keep view lines and flexibility of space, while maintaining a personal scale.

3. Specific Elements of the East and West Side Parks.

East: Ms. Carr noted that the East Side Park was very linear, had minimal programming and its points of interest were intended to be more passive, acting as places one "comes upon." Concern over the number of different hardscape materials was discussed, with suggestion made to make one of the transitions in material in DOT's work to the south of the park. Mr. Michael Lewis, DOT Director, offered that this was very possible. The landing of the pedestrian bridge was also discussed. Widening the northern landing

path was seen as desirable by all. Plantings were reviewed which Ms. Carr described as seeded, naturalized plantings, of low maintenance and no irrigation.

West: The width of the walkways was discussed, with the goal to keep intimate spaces within the larger park context, and to keep a successful balance between hard and soft scape materials.

Pavilion: A presentation was made by Mr. Joslin describing the rationale, materials and sustainability of the proposed pavilion. The look and feel for the pavilion, as well as its purpose and program, will be further discussed at the next Subcommittee meeting on August 19th. There was discussion about Peck Street and existing utility structures and lines, and about prioritizing to build with funds available now.

Water Feature and Programming: Unanimous support to include a water feature in the current plan and to design for the integration of current and future programming. Additional time and discussion devoted to these concepts is needed. Ms. Brown will bring a range of options, with pricing and infrastructure requirements to the next meeting.

Riverwalls: Mr. Zerva mentioned that the bridge and the supporting riverwalls will be going out for bid soon and asked if there were changes to the riverwalls as proposed. There were none on any basic elements; finishes will be reviewed at a follow up subcommittee meeting. Ms. Brodie mentioned her conversation with WaterFire founder and director, the plan for its extension to the pedestrian bridge, and a desire to coordinate infrastructure with the work of DOT.

4. Next Steps

There was overall consensus on both the east and west side park plans and design, however more discussion is needed for the following:

- a) Subcommittee Meeting to discuss the water feature, the historic markers, finish materials, park furniture, and the East Side Park's "come upon" features. Alternatives from the designers will be presented to help advance the discussion. Public comment would not be made a part of this meeting.
- b) Subcommittee Meeting to discuss Pavilion and its programming, and programming in general. It was agreed that this would be a meeting at which public comment would be welcome.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.



I-195 Parks Design Subcommittee Member