

I-195 REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMISSION

MEETING OF PARKS DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE

August 19, 2014

The Parks Design Subcommittee Commission (the "Subcommittee") of the I-195 Redevelopment District met on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 beginning at 10:30 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, Alan Joslin of Epstein Joslin, Nina Brown of Brown Richardson Rowe, 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 10:30 AM.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the July 23, 2014 Parks Design Subcommittee Meeting.

The minutes of the July 23, 2014 Parks Design Subcommittee Meeting 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 Ms. Hunter. (Mr. Kelly arrived after the vote was taken.) Voting against: none.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the August 4, 2014 Parks Design Subcommittee Meeting.

The minutes of the August 4, 2014 Parks Design Subcommittee Meeting were distributed to the Subcommittee members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Johnson suggested changing the word "Commission" to "Subcommittee." A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, subject to these edits. A vote was taken and voting in favor were: Ms. Hunger and Ms. Johnson. (Mr. Kelly arrived after the vote was taken.) Voting against: none.

3. Pavilion in West Side Park.

A decision was held surrounding the pavilion design for the West Side Park. Mr. Joslin presented the rationale for the pavilion design scheme, which has two lightweight, economic and flexible structures that would be built in two phases. One would include a performance space, and the other could contain concessions and restrooms. The Subcommittee discussed that they would rather build one structure than two and have it support day and nighttime performances, as well as restrooms and possibly storage. The question of the necessity of a concession stand in the park was also discussed. The walkway between structures planned in the 2-building scheme will be kept with other elements, trees for example, defining the space. There was disagreement about the design scheme of the pavilion, and recognition that the Subcommittee needed to meet

to refine scope to give the designers specific direction before design would proceed on the pavilion. It was recommended that the Subcommittee members visit Boarding House Park, part of the Lowell National Park, that includes a pavilion by Epstein Joslin and landscaping by BRR, to aid in its development of pavilion programming, and look and feel. It was also requested that an estimate for additional design services by Epstein Joslin be developed before the next Subcommittee meeting, in the event that additional design schemes are warranted.

4. Specific Elements of the West Side Park.

Ms. Brown presented on the specific elements of the West Side Park.

Lighting: The lighting will be spaced widely apart with each light standing at a 17-foot height. Three LED-light options were presented: one to go with the curvature of the park's water feature and bridge, another that bridges the look of the old style existing lighting and the first option, and a third that is very similar to the existing riverwalk lights. It was suggested that the lighting near Peck Street should be the lighting similar to the existing lights, and that all the rest would be the second option, more traditional style. It was also suggested that the lights in areas where people congregate have electrical outlets.

Furniture: The West Side Park would include stainless steel and wood benches, moveable chairs, stainless steel bike racks and trash cans, and wooden chaise lounges. It was suggested that the furniture be strategically placed in specific locations of the park. Styles and materials presented were approved.

"Come upon" features: The Subcommittee found attractive the idea of incorporating steel sculptural elements as "come upon" features in the West Side, such as sea lions that appear to be emerging from the pathways. Five such features were presented and approved.

Ship Street Triangle Activation: The Ship Street Triangle would be an open area with shade trees and would include modular stainless steel and wood benches, stackable stainless steel chairs, moveable tables, and stainless steel play equipment with special flooring below that would reduce chances of injury. It was suggested that the angles of the modular benches be softened.

5. West Side Park Programming/Public Comment.

A public comment period was held with focus on the West Side Park programming. There were concerns about the pavilion design, specifically not advancing the concession stand element (which could be rented out full-time) and only advancing one structure, rather than two. There were also concerns about the strength of connectivity from the West Side Park to other parks and public spaces in the area, across Point Street, and from the Dorrance Street edge of the West Side Park into downtown. It was suggested that more thought be given to storage areas and if there were opportunities to generate income in the park. There was much interest in finding ways to activate and program the park, in insuring safety and in long-term maintenance. It was suggested that the park design incorporate more river access, as potential future events at the park, such as Waterfire, would necessitate park visitors to be closer to the water's edge.

6. Next Steps

The Subcommittee reached a consensus to continue their review of the pavilion design by visiting Boarding House Park, after which discussions about the pavilion design will continue. The next Park Design Subcommittee meeting will be held on Friday, September 12, 2014 at 1:30 pm, where issues from the public comment portion of this meeting will be discussed, as well as the pavilion and water feature. It was suggested that the next Subcommittee meeting have a closed session period where a contract can be discussed.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.



I-195 Parks Design Subcommittee Member