

Meeting Notes from Public Engagement

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Herter Park Master Plan Public Meetings Page

<https://www.mass.gov/event/herter-park-master-plan-public-meetings-2021-06-10t180000-0400-2021-06-10t193000-0400>

Video Recording - June 10, 2021 Public Meeting # 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuZEGkg4go>

Video Recording - September 29, 2021 Public Meetings # 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZjm-T7FVbl>

project	DCR Herter Park Masterplan
date	03.31.2021
subject	Stakeholders Meeting # 1 Summary
present	See complete list below
copy	Halvorson Tighe & Bond team, DCR team

Meeting #1: Stakeholder Meeting #1 - March 31, 2021—ZOOM Meeting

Note: Tonight’s meeting not recorded

DCR Attendees:
Ginna Johnson – Deputy Chief, Design and Project Management; PM for the Herter Park MP
Ruth Helfeld – Director of Landscape Architecture; Co-PM for the Herter Park MP
Jenny Norwood – Director of External Affairs and Partnerships
Daniel Cushing – Director of Public Engagement
Craig Cashman – Director of Government and Legislative Affairs

Rep. Moran’s office:
Jen Migliore

Design Team Attendees:
Rob Adams, Halvorson | Tighe&Bond Studio (HTB)
Bob Uhlig, HTB
Vesna Maneva, HTB
Cynthia Smith, HTB
Joe Persechino Tighe&Bond
Conrad Ello, Oudens Ello Architects

Stakeholder Attendees:

- Tim McHale – resident who lives near the park; Board of Friends of Herter Park for past 3 years, (married to Jane McHale)
- Aaron Ellison – Telford 180 condominiums; on Board of Trustees from condo; ecologist at Harvard University (will retire soon) ; uses park every day, moved to Allston 3 years ago.
- Tony D’Isidoro – President of Allston Civic Association; life-long resident in Allston; serves on IAG for development projects (WBZ & Skating Club sites) (Davis Properties / RODE project)
- Harry Mattison – Mansfield Street resident; The 2002 Charles River Basin Master Plan includes good ideas for Herter Park
- Jane McHale – Career coach; on the Board of the Harvard Education Portal and Work Force Development; McNamara House Board (wife of Tim McHale)

- Jessica Robertson – Lives on Olley Street; long-term renter / would be owner; member of I-90 task force; 10-year career in urban planning, now in solar industry; founding member FHOP.
- Joy Arcolano – Boston Conservatory; President of the Friends of Herter Park. Has performed there. Loves outdoor theater. Thinks Herter is a great outdoor venue.
- Paula Alexander – Life long Allston resident. President of the Friends of the Honan-Allston Library; ACA member; Just retired from HBS.
- Peggy lafrate – Husband’s family settled on Riverdale Street 60 years ago; worked in entertainment her entire career. Started RadioDisney; board member, FOHP; curates programming, her company produces the shows.
- Troy Brogan – Harvard Allston Task Force; Wyndham Street resident; has a young child.
- Bruce Kline – life-long resident of Brighton; teacher in Boston and Chelsea; background in science; Walks the loop between Elliot Bridge and ?; Kayaks on the river.

1.1 Introductions

a. **GINNA JOHNSON**- DCR: Welcome Remarks and Introduction of DCR Team.

2.1 Park Overview

- a. **Rob Adams** - HTB:
- Overview of our work – robust team.
 - We find that parks that have community support are much more successful – program, maintainance, extension of the community > provide us your input and solicit the same from your neighbors.
 - one of the first designed open spaces of the Metropolitan Parks System
 - History and Background – tidal river, Speedway, redesign of Herter Park with amphitheater, Artisan playground, comfort station, community gardens.
 - MP Objectives – circulation, programming, environmental stewardship, visitor experience, operations, utilities and stormwater.

3.1 Working Group Discussion

- a. **Tell us one thing you love about Herter Park / Favorite memory**
- **Tim Mc Hale:** Blues fest and reaction of people who had never been there – all performances there are magical.
 - **Aaron Ellison:** putting homemade kayak into Charles River at Paddle Boston ramp.
 - **Tony D’Isidoro:** memory of grandfather taking him to horse track there, was there when amphitheater opened, huge turnout on opening day.As kids, excited about the “moat”. Feeling of excitement and joy seeing friends and neighbors there.
 - **Harry Mattison:** does a lot of running. Greenough-Herter loop is quite nice - 5K run where people can gather afterwards and eat and drink. Lots of good information in the original 2002 master plan document that has not yet been implemented. How does this park be both a local and regional park.

- **Jane McHale:** used to row with community rowing and was coxswain and steered it into embankment and wrecked the boat. Used to take family walks. Played on the incredible trees right by the Herter Center.
- **Jessica Robertson:** Talked about turtle hatching experience. Baby turtle wanted to curl up in the drum attracted by the vibration.
- **Joy Arcolano:** Favorite memory – August day from 10 AM to 10 PM with 10 little kids. Honk parade, food trucks, lecture, Shakespeare performance. This was an all-day series of events in the park, kids were entertained for a full day. Turtle hatching window is now on her schedule.
- **Paula Alexander:** Remembered the opening too, big event and such grand plans, she thinks budget cuts stopped things from continuing. You see so much space when you go there, you feel you’re out of the city like going into the country – beautiful view of the water.
- **Peggy lafrate:** performances and baby turtles hatching to the music, vibration from music helps with the hatch. “Hatch evening.” Favorite memory is from 2019 – oldies band came in; older couple got up and were dancing. End of the evening they came up to Peggy and said, with tears in his eyes said: “you helped us be sixteen again.”
- **Troy Brogan:** they are runners so they love the 5Ks. Their son loves the playground – it’s one of his favorites. There is a lot this park offers to a lot of people. Owl’s Nest pop up has been an interesting use.
- **Bruce Kline:** After falling into the river in 1958 as a member of the crew team and coming up with tar on his feet, to be able to see the bottom and see fish is special.

b. **One thing you would like to see changed at Herter Park**

- **Tim Mc Hale:** would like the connections to Mount Auburn Cemetery, MAC, Downtown with water taxi, Soldiers Field Rd become cycle track.
- **Aaron Ellison:** wishes drainage was better, would love to see more water sheet access points for boating .
- **Tony D’Isidoro:** BBN get out of the parking lot. (BB&N uses main lot for drop/off & pickup point using shuttle buses), Harvard has high standard of grounds maintenance and security and lighting and so he would hope that same standard would be the goal for Herter Park. Not sure why the amphitheater operation failed - it was going along just fine and then went through a dark period. May be worth understanding why it failed.
- **Harry Mattison:** connections to Allston-Brighton neighborhood are dismal, need more crossings from the neighborhood, desperate need for safe crossing from Smith Field to Herter Park. Herter is an important connection for people via bike to Boston so need to really make space and deal with bike and ped conflicts on Soldiers Field Rd.
- **Jane McHale:** Lighting – it’s an expectation that you don’t go down there after dark. Scary place at night. Shoreline along the moat is in great need of repair. Goose poop is nasty. Herter Center/amphitheater was built “high quality arts” accessible to all outside and not just downtown – partnership of arts, stewardship, environmental education

and connection to the community – Herter Ctr Space and Island are keys to this – magic comes from being in this space.

- **Jessica Robertson:** Coming out of performances, the path and parking lot are very dark.
- **Joy Arcolano:** Mosquitos at moat. Big dream – when the Herter Center and Herter Theater were built there was ambition to have this as a performing arts center. How can we have arts, environmental education in an outdoor environment.
- **Paula Alexander:** Need a good maintenance plan to really clean it up. Security and lighting, community garden needs some help and figure out a way to make it look better. Hopes we don't see a lot of high-rise buildings popping up.
- **Peggy Iafrate:** long list of improvements because we live in it. The moat is currently a "liability" instead of this special body of water that nobody else has. I would like to see it dredged and an area that is "alive." Make it beautiful. The moat does keep the amphitheater area safe as there is only one entrance.
- **Troy Brogan:** Connectivity, access to water with paddleboard and kayaks to get into water more easily, improved lighting. Safe crossings across the parkway have not been implemented and are long overdue; Redo Soldier's Field Road with traffic calming and multi-modal features.
- **Bruce Kline:** lighting in the park and access to amphitheater, cover over Herter Amphitheater for protection in all weather. Concern about high rise projects along this stretch. Eliot Bridge to kayak rental is almost a marsh, needs better drainage. Area from the boat house to the Arsenal Bridge is a wonderful area for trails, needs to be cleaned up, but that section has great potential. Shoreline maintenance and erosion and causing trees falling into the river.

c. Discussion

- **Craig Cashman** talked about planned crossings of SFR (Everett St, Telford St & Smith Park) – DCR is scheduled to meet with the City of Boston in the next couple of weeks. We are ready to go with this project. Final project meeting this spring/summer and hopefully the crossing is completed in the fall.
- **Harry Mattison** reminded DCR there is a commitment to provide two crossings – Craig said Rep. Moran has procured \$250K to study connection to Smith Field. DCR is working toward other crossings with Davis Co. with an MOU.
- **Tony D'Isidoro** indicated that there is also a commitment to a crossing at Smith Park by WBZ group.

Added to chat by Harry Mattison:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/07pp139141herterwestpdf/download>

Added to chat by Harry Mattison - 2018 study for Birmingham Parkway from the Market St Bridge to Western Ave.

<http://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/westernave>

Added to chat by Harry Mattison - the 2015 study about safe pedestrian crossings at Everett St and Telford St

<http://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/d8ee6a55-5714-44dc-8aaa-f8d2b554a150>

4.1 Next Steps

- Future communication and any follow-up comments or concerns, Ginna Johnson said the Stakeholder group should reach out to Jenny Norwood and Dan Cushing at DCR and they can disseminate information to the larger group.
- Discussed the need to reach out to the Community Garden Group. Jenny Norwood will follow-up on providing contact information she has for the Garden Group is privately managed and operates independently.
- Discussed a possible site tour/site visit in the spring with the design team, DCR and stakeholder group. (TBD)
- Ginna Johnson said the DCR will get back to the Stakeholder group about when the next meeting will be held.

NOTE: The foregoing represents Halvorson's understanding of the discussions and decisions made during this meeting. If anyone has any changes or comments, please notify the author within five business days of receipt.

MEETING NOTES

project	DCR Herter Park Masterplan
date	05.18.2021
subject	Stakeholders Meeting # 1 Summary
present	See list below
copy	Halvorson Tighe & Bond team, DCR team

Meeting #1: Stakeholder Meeting #1 - May 18, 2021—ZOOM Meeting

Note: Tonight’s meeting not recorded

DCR Attendees:

Ginna Johnson – Deputy Chief, Design and Project Management; PM for the Herter Park MP
Ruth Helfeld – Director of Landscape Architecture; Co-PM for the Herter Park MP
Jenny Norwood – Director of External Affairs and Partnerships
Daniel Cushing – Director of Public Engagement

Rep. Moran’s office:

Jen Migliore

Design Team Attendees:

Rob Adams, Vesna Maneva, Cynthia Smith - Halvorson | Tighe&Bond Studio (HTB)
Amanda Houle, Joe Persechino - Tighe & Bond
Conrad Ello - Oudens Ello Architects
Karen Stein, - Goodgood Graphic Design

Stakeholder Attendees:

Charles River Conservancy: Laura Jasinski, Sasha Vallieres
Charles River Watershed Association – absent
Friends of Herter Park – Peggy lafrate
Harvard University – Kendyl Maher- Trumble
Harvard Allston Initiatives – absent
Head of the Charles Regatta – Fred Schoch, Mason Cox, Priscilla Livingstone, Tom Martin
Northeastern University – absent
Paddle Boston (Charles River Canoe & Kayak) – absent

Friends of Brookline Rowing and Boston Latin School were in the audience, but as they were not part of the invited Stakeholders Group they may provide input during the Public Meeting on June 10.

1.1 Introductions

- a. Ginna Johnson - DCR:
 - Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Legislators and DCR Team.
 - Overview of Master Plan goals and process to date.

- Introductions to invited Stakeholder groups.
- b. Rob Adams - HTB: Introductions to HTB team.

2.1 Park Overview

- a. Rob Adams - HTB:
 - Open spaces change with the times – overview of Herter park history
 - MP Objectives – circulation, programming, environmental stewardship, visitor experience, operations, utilities and stormwater.
 - Overview of pertinent facilities: boathouse area, Herter Center and amphitheater.

3.1 Stakeholder Input

- a. The questions we asked the Stakeholders to elaborate on:
 - What is your organization’s role connection with Herter Park
 - What about Herter Park works now for your organization
 - What are the challenges that Herter existing conditions present
 - What is on your wish list

3.2 Charles River Conservancy (CRC): Laura Jasinski, Sasha Vallieres

- a. Role of CRC: coordinates volunteer programs, engaging in the care of the park: school group cleanups of park, upkeep of amphitheater, some invasives clearing.
- b. What Works:
 - Open space valuable to large groups for picknicking, family gatherings
 - Presence of large shade trees.
 - People doing Tai Chi in the morning
 - Casual open space accessible to people from the community.
 - Celebrate the diversity of park for all seasons and users.
- c. Challenges and opportunities:
 - Woodland area where Illicit things going on, huge monocultures of invasive plants. This could be a wildlife viewing area
 - Moat: stagnant and “icky”, should have enhanced value
 - Seasonal flooding, would be good to see green infrastructure
 - Artesani serves as a personal parking lot for commuters and high school students
 - Access to park –dearth of safe N-S connections
- d. Wish List:
 - Herter Center rehabilitated
 - “2 dozen at grade crossings” - safer crossings traffic calming on SFR.
 - More amenities: public restrooms, water fountains
 - Invasive plants replacement with native vegetation

3.3 Charles River Watershed Association: (absent)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING + URBAN DESIGN

3.4 Friends of Herter Park (FOPH): Peggy lafrate

- a. Role of FOHP: The Friends have transformed the amphitheater over the last five years. It was underused and neglected before. They have a 3-year MOU with DCR. Friends are the custodians/curators of the amphitheater, they pay for the power, bathrooms, etc. They try to work with others who want to use it when we can, try to accommodate those other uses. All programming is free.
- b. What Works:
 - The space works for them now, is alive.
 - The neighborhood is grateful, they can't believe all programming is free
 - Diverse programming: jazz, spoken word, theater, children's programming
- c. Challenges
 - Entertainment in outdoor weather/elements. Friends are super vigilant about safety - cannot have electrical equipment on stage when it's sprinkling, they cancel the event.
 - April to Halloween programming
 - Have to bring in temporary bathrooms
 - No office space, no storage space
 - Mosquitoes. They reached to Disney World for ideas – they will try garlic oil spray.
 - "Bootstrapping it" – worries that Live Nation swoops in and then it's another commercial enterprise.
- d. Wish List
 - What are we doing with the Herter Center? Can we participate in the use of this structure? Maybe have restrooms in there.
 - They have zero storage. We have to load/pack everything up and take it away. It would be great to have access to day-to-day storage that is safe and secure.

3.5 Harvard University: Kendyl Maher

- a. Role of Harvard: So many members of our community use the park, including herself for running. Hoping to continue Harvard's commitment to open space.
 - They want to hear how we can work with our neighbors to be the most supportive stakeholder. Looking to put our support behind what is needed.
 - Public Realm Flex Fund for improvements

3.6 Harvard Allston Initiative (absent)

3.7 Head of the Charles Regatta (HOTC): Fred Schoch, Mason Cox

- a. Role of HOCR: Regatta is in its 58th year this year. 11,000 competitors from world-wide, \$60M in economic impact to the region.
 - Herter Park is the epicenter of the Regatta (moved from Magazine Beach about 12-15 years ago).
 - They did a design study for the Herter Center as their HQ (\$150K investment) – they are happy to share their study with us. Intended use of the Herter Center: It was going

- to be a shared use facility – upstairs Head of the Charles offices; multi-use space on the ground floor.
- \$7M project for Herter Center reno was a "bridge too far for us to tackle". It was going to take a full rehab, mold remediation, new utilities, elevator, would cost less to build new.
- HOTC currently resides at the Cambridge Boat club.
- 2nd to last full weekend in October is when event is held. They restore the grass after.
- Buildout and breakdown for the event takes about two and a half weeks, managed process.
- b. What Works:
 - From a big-event perspective, they covet open space above all else. Herter is the last big open space on Charles River, if the Park gets chopped up too much, or there are too many trees, it's not going to work for HOCR but also for people playing frisbee, picnicking etc. (Had to fight a person at some point who wanted to plant 150 trees near Anderson Bridge).
 - The large parking lot right now also works for them. They put 70-90 trailers at parking lot # 4 (Artesani); annually they park 120-125 trailers total, so there are other places along Herter that accommodate the rest (e.g., east of the parking lot and near the NU boathouse). If we put landscaping at Artesani "we are done" unless we can close SFR and park the trailers there -they did that one year and Mitt Romney reopened it.
- c. Challenges:
 - Drainage. It gets really wet there in the fall. They put up a number of tents east of the Herter Center. They've talked about partnering with DCR to raise the level of the land up with 1.5' of gravel underneath to help with drainage. They used to park boat trailers on the large lawn, but the ground is too soggy.
 - They've been putting down flooring in areas that they know are soggy.
 - Shoreline is eroding. They're committed to shoreline restoration, they think it needs rip rap, massive boulders like a project near MIT. They've collaborated with Weston & Sampson on a project near Anderson Bridge.
 - They put in 7 or 8 docks or piers for athletes to get on the water sheet, need this access.
- d. Wish List:
 - Access to potable water is important – currently there's only a drinking fountain at the playground.
 - They bring in about 24 generators (12015 at Herter). With respect to sustainability, it would be great to install electrical substations throughout the staging area to reduce reliance on diesel-powered generators.
 - Area past Elliot bridge – they've used it in the past but not anymore – hard to see the water as the vegetation is not cut down; would like to expand there.

3.8 Northeastern University (absent)

3.9 Paddle Boston (absent)

- 3.10 Rep Moran’s Office (Jen Migliore)

a. Rep. Mike Moran is really excited about this process. Has been a supporter of this park for a long time.
- 3.11 Discussion

a. Jenny Norwood (DCR) wanted more input from all on the Moat.

• CRC: it is a real habitat for heron, muskrat / ducks but also for mosquitoes. The silted up channel and vegetation catch trash and sediment and make things worse over time.

• FOHP: The moat creates a controllable environment for rehearsals and performances, with the bridge as the single point of entry. They drive over the bridge in an SUV / pickup truck to prepare for events – everything needs to be loaded, packed and taken away as there is no storage.

• FOHP: mosquitoes are a real problem, the State did some spraying last year and it seemed to help. They want to try garlic oil spray this year.

• Rob Adams asked what if there is no moat? FOHP prefers it as a means of controlling access / existing topography in most of the perimeter would help with that. The moat value as a habitat for turtles etc should not be overlooked.
- 4.1 Next Steps

a. Stakeholder group should submit written comments to Dan Cushing via email at Daniel.Cushing @mass.gov.

b. Public meeting invite for June 10 – feature opportunities and constraints.

c. Rob Adams – schedule going forward:

• End of the summer / early fall – design discussion

• Fall – wrap up with operations and maintenance

NOTE: The foregoing represents Halvorson’s understanding of the discussions and decisions made during this meeting. If anyone has any changes or comments, please notify the author within five business days of receipt.

MEETING NOTES

project	DCR Herter Park Masterplan
date	06.10.2021
subject	Public Meeting # 1 Summary
present	
copy	Halvorson Tighe & Bond team, DCR team

Meeting #3: Public Meeting #1 - June 10, 2021—ZOOM Meeting

Note: Tonight’s meeting was recorded

DCR Attendees:

Ginna Johnson (GINNA) – Deputy Chief, Design and Project Management; PM for the Herter Park MP

Ruth Helfeld – Director of Landscape Architecture; Co-PM for the Herter Park MP

Jenny Norwood – Director of External Affairs and Partnerships

Daniel Cushing – Director of Public Engagement

Rep. Moran’s office:

Jen Migliore

Sen. Brownsberger’s office:

Arianna Turner

Design Team Attendees:

Rob Adams (ROB), Vesna Maneva, Cynthia Smith - Halvorson | Tighe&Bond Studio (HTB)

Amanda Houle, Joe Persechino - Tighe & Bond

Conrad Ello - Oudens Ello Architects

Karen Stein, - Goodgood Graphic Design

Public Attendees:

See attached ‘List of Participants’ exported from ZOOM

- 1.1 Introductions

a. Ginna Johnson - DCR:

• Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Legislators and DCR Team.

• Overview of Master Plan goals and process to date.

b. Rob Adams - HTB: Introductions to HTB team.

- 2.1 Overview of Herter Park site analysis

a. Rob Adams (HTB) Presentation of Master Plan objectives – circulation, programming, environmental stewardship, visitor experience, operations, utilities and stormwater.

b. Overview of site analysis “silos” – various topics, along with “What we learned” and “Opportunities & Constraints” summaries for each:

- Site Background (history)
- Planning & development context
- Circulation: arrival, pedestrian / bicycle issues
- Parking
- Vegetation
- Program activities: visitor, recreational, and permitted Uses
- Herter Amphitheater
- Herter Center
- Visitor Experience
- Signage & Wayfinding
- Stormwater & Drainage

3.1 Community Input:

a. The questions we asked the participants to elaborate on:

- What do you love about Herter Park and wouldn't want to change
- What is the #1 issue that needs improvement
- What is missing from the park program
- Other ideas / feedback

b. **Jasmine Howard** - Program Director of BLS Crew

- The BLS Crew program is in its 20th year, serving 120 students per year. They've been using the Herter Park "garage" since 2010, as they were priced out of community rowing. They want the program to be accessible to any BLS student regardless of socio-economic background.
- BLS wants to be viewed as a Stakeholder in this process.
- The facilities at Herter are inadequate, but they were told they could make no improvements until they have a lease. They've done minor improvements: removed some dead trees.
- Claims that Legislation was created in 2014 but no lease has been executed with DCAMM and DCR, this despite the Massachusetts State Legislature mandate. She urges DCAM / DCR to execute the lease.
- What needs improvement: more user-friendly boathouse, access to water, restrooms, bike racks; a huge mosquito problem.
 - ROB: access to water, public bathrooms, bike racks are at top of list

c. **Aaron Ellison** - Resident at Telford 180 Condos; member of Working Group; also is on advisory group for the former skating club parcel. He took poll of residents at condos: "What do you like /not like the most?"

- Things that people like best are about user experience: being surrounded by open space, near the river.
- Things that need improvement:
 - More lights at night to increase the safety
 - Fenced area to have dogs off leash, and otherwise, leash laws to be enforced
 - More picnic tables
 - Basketball court – or provide a connection to Smith Playground
 - Drum circles: positive (culturally diverse) and negative (noise) comments
 - Better crossing at Telford and Everett St.
 - ROB adds previous comments: Watersheet access and better drainage

d. **Alain Ferry** - founder of Race Cancer Foundation, former daily user of Herter Park for running or biking (recently moved to Cape Cod). He has helped organize over 100 races on properties along Charles River He is aware of 10 running events starting and ending at Herter.

- Greatest concern: Issues crossing Elliot and Arsenal Bridges. Turns along the paths that are safe if running in one direction but not safe in the other direction. He suggests engaging w/ running event organizations to figure out these turns.
- Suggests creating marked courses with minimal signage, to avoid informal course markings for every race which are often done with spray paint, leaving behind visual pollution.
 - ROB: signage is a good idea. Bridge: scope of this project is to figure out how to get there, not coming up with construction documents, but importance of connection
 - GINNA: Bridges are property of MASSDOT. Improving connections to the bridge are part of the study; the bridges themselves are not, but we have good relationships with MassDOT.

e. **Alexander Packard** - Friends of Brookline High School Rowing.

- Boston/Cambridge / Charles River thought of as Epicenter for rowing. 12 of the 13 boathouses along Charles River are owned and operated by private organizations; but there is little access for students who go to public schools. Only at Community Rowing, but only for 50-60 students / year.
- Brookline High school Rowing shares the rowing setup at Herter w/ Boston Latin. The program has 120 students, plus the 120 rowers from BLS they share space without running water, and with no access to public facilities.
- He believes there's a huge opportunity the Herter Park Master Plan to accommodate a public rowing facility. Not just for BLS and Brookline High, but for all the 15,000 public high school students.
 - GINNA: Thanks to Alexander and Jasmine. There is no simple DCR project, there are permitting challenges, looking forward to continuing the conversation.

f. **Bruce Kline** -Working Group member

- Things that need improvement
 - From Eliot bridge to boat rental is becoming a marsh
 - Moat – need to get rid of mosquitos, needs a serious clean-up
 - Parking lots flood frequently with heavy rain - need to have better drainage
 - Greatly supports the HS rowing
 - Trails between Henderson and Arsenal St. Bridge - serious improvements needed; exposed tree roots make the trails dangerous for bikes and peds
- Likes Artesani playground as is, maybe access to water’s edge / wading area into river (w/ lifeguard)
- Area east of Eliot Bridge – could be good spectator area for HOOCR
- Would like to see widening of pathways, to allow bikes, strollers and pedestrians to coexist.
- Concern: incredible amount of development on other side of road. Density and heights of buildings may turn area into swamp - seriously concerned about drainage.
 - ROB: New development might create better stormwater management.

g. **Jean Powers** - Allston resident, has little kids.

- Supports BLS on the boathouse issue. States that crew is one of best ways to get college scholarships and should be accessible to public school students.
- Invasive species: bittersweet, black swallowwort, knotweed, make sure maintenance is part of the plan.
 - GINNA: Phase 3 includes site management plan. Will coordinate partner with CR Conservancy, create test plots.
- Advocates for the “Wild” between Henderson and Arsenal St. Bridge. Clean up but keep the area wild as a “backwoods adventure” area.
- Get Mitch Ryerson to design a playground sculpture. Local artist, world-famous, has an Allston studio but doesn’t have a playground in Allston.
- When talking about nuisance wildlife, beavers have been noted on the Charles in Watertown, it is a matter of time that they will arrive at Herter, let’s leave them alone.

h. **Paul Creighton** – Local resident, Working Group member

- He has been going down to river back when it was a trotting horse activity. He remembers when ICA got that building built, they had grandiose plans, tried to work with MDC, ran into money issues.
- Adele Seronde, Christian Herter’s daughter, was an arts aficionado - she brought such energy to the park in the early 1970s, parties in the evening, day camp. She was able to make lots of things happen using her political connections.
- The park east of Herter Center has been a swamp as long as he can remember, hard to fight nature.
- That moat “has to go”. You get eaten alive by mosquitos - if you are there in summer when sun goes down “you might as well be on the African Queen.” The moat is “the loser.”
- The dock where people fish off is “the winner.” Develop more fishing opportunities.
- For the Herter Center, combine what goes on with theatre with the vision of Adele Seronde. Connect theater program with the building.
- The area east of Herter Center is full of tremendous activity, feels like a “Parisian impressionist painting”.
- Bikes can be very dangerous flying by 40 miles per hour
- Focus on the people that use it, that live around here, for their quiet enjoyment and recreation and not just for the Regatta folks.

i. **Tim McHale** - Friends of Herter Park

- Billions of dollars of development happening in the neighborhood. This park is a top priority for the community.
- Multi-acre “bulge” to the west of Henderson Boathouse – “illicit behavior” present - maybe change to a big lawn or arboretum. “Dream Big”: a pedestrian bridge to connect to Mt. Auburn Cemetery.
- Would like to see a bike path on the south side of the park for riding for speed.
- A water taxi – park at Artesani parking lot and take a boat downtown.
 - ROB: opportunity for water sheet / various modes of transportation

j. **Jen Migliore** - Rep. Moran’s office

- Accessibility for High schoolers to rowing: Community Rowing is doing this work.

k. **Tom Meier** - HOOCR regatta dock operations volunteer for 14 years

- Concern about drainage and grading where they normally put mobile docks for HOOCR; when it rains it’s an “athlete’s nightmare” to get from parking lot to the docks.

- Shoreline to set up these docks is a challenge. Gap between shoreline and docks is dangerous.
- The Moat - he seconds Paul's commentary. Maybe recast as a Koi pond instead of getting rid of it.
- Herter Theater: his preference is to keep it as an enclave, intimate setting.
- Herter Theater: low key commerce in there to help activate the space and to make it a "full destination." Food or art perhaps.

3.2 Public Chat Comments

- a. Public Chat comments read and responded to by Jenny Norwood
- b. Transcript of Public Chat is attached.

4.1 Next Steps

- a. GINNA: comments will be absorbed into "big thinking"; synthesized into a park design for the next generation.
 - Public Comment deadline is June 24th, 2021
 - Written comments can be submitted at www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment
- b. Over the summer working on Phase 2 of Master Plan - share progress with you in the fall; then make refinements.
- c. Project to be wrapped up by June 30th 2022.

Attachments:

- List of Meeting Participants exported from ZOOM
- Transcript of Meeting Chat

Cc. Ginna Johnson, Ruth Helfeld, Jenny Norwood, Daniel Cushing, Rob Adams

NOTE: These minutes are a summary and the writer's interpretation of the proceeding and are not a transcript. Any changes or clarifications shall be forwarded to the writer within 2 days of issue. Unless changes are forwarded, we must assume that all participants are in basic agreement with the above minutes and they will be recorded in the official record.

DCR Herter Park Master Plan
21.06.10 Public Meeting # 1 Chat Transcript

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 06:07 PM
Someone from Sen. Brownsberger's office

From Jennifer Migliore to Everyone: 06:21 PM
Hi All - great to be here tonight! Jen from Rep Moran's

From Cynthia Smith to Everyone: 06:22 PM
Glad you are here!

From Jean Powers to Everyone: 06:25 PM
What are the plans for the building? I believe it was designed by Nathaniel Saltonstall.

From Jennifer Migliore to Everyone: 06:28 PM
I'm pretty sure there was a Jennifer Lawrence Netflix movie filming staging area that happened only a few months ago! I remember folks called the office to see what was up. Pretty cool

From Jean Powers to Everyone: 06:31 PM
The amphitheater should stay hidden. It feels magical to watch a play there.
The architect of Herter Center designed the famous Wellfleet colony
<https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/14000020.pdf>

From Anthony D'Isidoro to Everyone: 06:36 PM
National Development has pledged \$25,000 to the Friends of Herter Park as part of the WBZ-TV/CBS Replacement Station Project.

From Jenny norwood to Everyone: 06:37 PM
Tony, send me the info on National Development so I can connect with them

From Daniel Cushing to Everyone: 06:37 PM
<https://www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings>
<https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>
daniel.cushing@mass.gov

From Anthony D'Isidoro to Everyone: 06:40 PM
National Development: Ted Tye Tye@NatDev.com

From Anne McKinnon to Everyone: 06:42 PM
Plaque with information on Christian Herter

From Kristina Martin to Everyone: 06:45 PM

DCAMM and DCR are required by law, through ch. 65 of the acts of 2010, as amended by ch. 282 of the acts of 2014, to enter into a lease with Friends of Boston Latin School Crew for a boathouse on the Charles River (as DCR was already required to do for many universities, private schools, yacht clubs and boat clubs).

From Jenny norwood to Everyone: 06:47 PM
Thanks Kristina

From Christie Getto Young (Sen. DiDomenico's office) to Everyone: 06:47 PM
I remember this (I've worked for Sen. DiDomenico since 2010)- I believe we did it in the state budget that year. I'm sure my fellow staffers on this call would agree with me that we'd take this back to the State House and advocate on your behalf. I had no idea that the lease never happened. Jasmine - if you leave an email address, I will contact you. Thanks!

From paul creighton to Everyone: 06:50 PM
how do I get to speak?

From Jenny norwood to Everyone: 06:50 PM
Elther enter your question/comment it tweet OR raise your hand

From paul creighton to Everyone: 06:51 PM
how do I raise my hand?

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 06:51 PM
@Paul, click "reactions" in the lower right

From paul creighton to Everyone: 06:52 PM
Thanks

From Joy Arcolano, Friends of Herter Park to Everyone: 06:52 PM
So glad it you feel the Amp is magical as well! We agree!

From Janelle Mills to Everyone: 06:54 PM
+1 Joy and Jean

From Carl Zimba to Everyone: 06:54 PM
Many people use Herter Park to launch their human-powered boats. It would be useful to have some signage to inform people about the river and water sheet. CRAB would be very interested in working with DCR to develop such signage.

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 06:55 PM
Hat tip, Alexander—well said!

From Gretchen Thompson to Everyone: 06:55 PM
By some estimates, less than 5% of the available assets on the river (boats, coaching, water time, dock access) is truly available for public access.
What are the plans to increase access to the river for local public school students in the community?

From Dan Beckham to Everyone: 06:56 PM
Good to know that bridges are MDOT property and that the two organizations work so closely together. It would be great to see repair to the interior brick work of Eliot bridge. At the moment a large number of bricks are dislodged and the finish looks quite ugly. Bricks along the sidewalk of Eliot bridge could also be a hazard to pedestrians. Thanks!
What is the timeline and events for this Master Planning process? Who are considered the stakeholders in this process, and what can organizations do to participate in this process more fully?

From Paddle Boston Mark Jacobson to Everyone: 06:57 PM
Please contact me at mark@paddleboston.com if you have questions or comments about the the canoe, kayak, and paddleboarding operation. I have another meeting right now.

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 06:58 PM
Hi Mark!

From Stefan P to Everyone: 06:58 PM
#1 problem with Herter Park for me is mosquitos

From Daniel Cushing to Everyone: 07:01 PM
<https://www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings>
<https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>
daniel.cushing@mass.gov

From Aaron Ellison to Everyone: 07:03 PM
+1 Carl Zimba - better access and signage for individuals with their own kayaks or rowing shells to launch.
Although it is good we can use PaddleBoston's/DCR's dock

From Jennifer Migliore to Everyone: 07:03 PM
If anybody wants to reach out to Rep Morans office directly feel free to call/text 339-293-3087 or email Jennifer.migliore@mahouse.gov

From Sasha Vallieres-Charles River Conserancy to Everyone: 07:06 PM
The Charles River Conservancy looks forward to helping with the Vegetation Management Plan

From A. McRae, Esplanade Association to Everyone: 07:06 PM
As does the Esplanade Association :)

From Joy Arcolano, Friends of Herter Park to Everyone: 07:07 PM
We have a terrific potential location for that near the Herter Center and the Amp

From Jenny norwood to Everyone: 07:07 PM
Hi Alison! Yes, EA is also on the Vegetation Management Team :)

From A. McRae, Esplanade Association to Everyone: 07:08 PM
hi jenny! thank you all for hosting this great meeting!

From Gretchen Thompson to Everyone: 07:09 PM
A loose-parts playground area would also be well-used. Boston Nature Center incorporated one.

From Jean Powers to Everyone: 07:12 PM
<https://www.wbur.org/artery/2014/04/07/mitch-ryerson-playgrounds>

From Jean Powers to Everyone: 07:14 PM
I don't want to rant about this and waste everyone's time but it seems wrong that Northeastern uses the public parking for their fleet of trucks. They should have to pay back into the park if they want to use the lot. At the very least they could help the BPS boat house.
Also, the Herter Community Garden could use some improvements. The Charles River garden is in better shape.

From Joy Arcolano, Friends of Herter Park to Everyone: 07:16 PM
Are the e-bikes going to be approved for these trails? The speed is really worrying with the sight lines.

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 07:17 PM
Thanks for sharing, Paul!

From Jean Powers to Everyone: 07:21 PM
It would be nice to have the Herter Center used for artist space. W
Tim has big dreams!
How about a gondola?

From Gretchen Thompson to Everyone: 07:21 PM
What is the timeline and events for this Master Planning process? Who are considered the stakeholders in this process, and what can organizations do to participate in this process more fully?

From Aaron Ellison to Everyone: 07:21 PM
It would be nice to separate pedestrian from bike paths wherever possible

From Joy Arcolano, Friends of Herter Park to Everyone: 07:21 PM
The gondola's might need to move up river - getting hard to get under the bridges on the esplanade

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 07:22 PM
Thanks, Tim!

From Jean Powers to Everyone: 07:22 PM
We should have horseback riding stables too

From Joy Arcolano, Friends of Herter Park to Everyone: 07:22 PM
Love these Tim

From Jean Powers to Everyone: 07:22 PM
Tim is a visionary
we are limited only by our own imagination
and money

From Larry Smith to Everyone: 07:23 PM
Perhaps a waterfall on the back side of the amphitheater to flush out the moat. Pump water from the river.

From Joy Arcolano, Friends of Herter Park to Everyone: 07:24 PM
Larry - we love the idea of moving that water for the health of the Moat... we've been looking at how Disney uses moving water to mitigate mosquitos
there are several fountain systems that are really intriguing

From Jennifer Migliore to Everyone: 07:25 PM
More on community rowing: <https://www.communityrowing.org/programs/let-s-row-boston-2/141-middle-school>

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 07:26 PM
Is Nightshift contributing financially beyond permit fees?

From Joy Arcolano, Friends of Herter Park to Everyone: 07:26 PM
thanks Jenny

From Andrew Torchia to Everyone: 07:26 PM
Eliminating/reducing geese population needs to be a priority.

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 07:27 PM
The suggestion for a dedicated "high speed" bike path is interesting.
Cyclists are crazy down there.

From Aaron Ellison to Everyone: 07:27 PM
@Andrew good luck with the geese!

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 07:27 PM
Thank you, Jenny.

From Aaron Ellison to Everyone: 07:28 PM
Thanks Jenny, Ginna, Dan, Rob et al. for pulling this all together!

From paul creighton to Everyone: 07:29 PM
What is the canoe/kayak operation financial arrangement with DCR?
Good discussion hopefully next time in person

From Jenny norwood to Everyone: 07:29 PM
Paul, they respond to DCR Concession RFPs for their operation. I don't know the details of their permit, but they too are a wonderful partner

From paul creighton to Everyone: 07:30 PM
more detail thanks

From Drew Chamberlin to Everyone: 07:30 PM
Is this presentation shared somewhere?

From J. Alain Ferry to Everyone: 07:30 PM
Re: my comment that cyclists are crazy down there, it was somewhat tongue-in-cheek. I've been an avid cyclist for 35+ years, and am embarrassed at how fellow cyclists go speeding through Herter.

From Aaron Ellison to Everyone: 07:30 PM
Snapping turtles have been near the amphitheater this past week
One other observation: what's with DCR's temporary salt/sand depot in the Artesani parking lot over the winter that can persist well into the spring?
From Jenny norwood to Everyone: 07:33 PM
All who registered will get an email hopefully tomorrow when the presentation and recording are posted, and a link to the postings. Dan has provided the link to the presentation webpage earlier in the chat as well.
Aaron, the salt/sand shed is gone forever! It was temporary until the Northpoint facility was finished.

From Aaron Ellison to Everyone: 07:34 PM
Thanks Jenny! Good riddance to it?
!

From Daniel Cushing to Everyone: 07:35 PM
<https://www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings>

From Stefan P to Everyone: 07:35 PM
Thank you everyone and thank you especially to Dan for running the meeting so smoothly! Great job!

From Jennifer Migliore to Everyone: 07:35 PM
Yes kudos to DCR!

From Daniel Cushing to Everyone: 07:36 PM
Thanks!!
<https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>

From Joy Arcolano, Friends of Herter Park to Everyone: 07:36 PM
Thank you everyone!

From Alexander Packard to Everyone: 07:37 PM
Thank you all.

Meeting ID	Topic	Start Time	End Time	User Email	Duration (Minutes)	Participants
96159706101	Herter Park Master Plan Public Meeting #1	6/10/2021 17:41	6/10/2021 19:37	itadmin@tighebond.com	117	93
Name (Original Name)	User Email	Total Duration	Guest			
16172165760		16	Yes			
16176941988		85	Yes			
16177971859		85	Yes			
A. McRae (Alison McRae)	amcrae@esplanade.org	95	Yes			
Aaron Ellison	telford180trustees@gmail.com	99	Yes			
Alexander Packard	alexanderpackard1@gmail.com	98	Yes			
Amanda Houle	ajhoule@tighebond.com	112	Yes			
Andrew Torchia	andrewtorchia@gmail.com	142	Yes			
Anne McKinnon	am103477556@cs.com	64	Yes			
Anthony D'Isidoro	anthonydisidoro@msn.com	95	Yes			
Arianna (Brownsberger Office)						
(Arianna Turner)	arianna.turner@masenate.gov	98	Yes			
Audrey Richardson	audreyrr23@gmail.com	70	Yes			
Bruce Kline	bklineloma@gmail.com	99	Yes			
Carl Zimba	zimba.carl@gmail.com	100	Yes			
Catherine Zusy	czusy@magazinebeach.org	44	Yes			
Christie Getto Young (Sen. DiDomenico's office) (Christie Getto Young)	christie.young@masenate.gov	92	Yes			
Conrad Ello	conrad@oudens-ello.com	110	Yes			
Cynthia Smith	cynthia@halvorsondesign.com	107	Yes			
Cynthia Westerman	cynthiawesterman@verizon.net	92	Yes			
Dan Beckham	beckham@hocr.org	98	Yes			
Daniel Cushing	daniel.cushing@mass.gov	117	Yes			
Drew Chamberlin	ddc@wilsonbutler.com	35	Yes			
frederick schoch	fschoch@hocr.org	65	Yes			
Gerald Autler	autler.gerald@gmail.com	77	Yes			
Ginna Johnson	ginna.johnson@mass.gov	114	Yes			
Gretchen Thompson	fngthompson@comcast.net	98	Yes			
Herter Park Master Plan (IT)	itadmin@tighebond.com	117	No			
J. Alain Ferry	alain@racecancer.org	100	Yes			
Janelle Mills	janelle.mills@gmail.com	65	Yes			
Janet Moonan (Janet Moonan)	jmoonan@crwa.org	95	Yes			
Janice Parlon	janice.parlon@mass.gov	71	Yes			
Jasmine Howard	howardjm18@gmail.com	100	Yes			
Jean Powers	jean.powers@gmail.com	89	Yes			
Jennifer Migliore	jemigliore91@gmail.com	80	Yes			
Jenny norwood	jennifer.norwood@mass.gov	107	Yes			
Jessica Mink	jessica@masspaths.net	51	Yes			
Joan Hewson	emievents@juno.com	87	Yes			
Joe Persechino	jmpersechino@tighebond.com	114	Yes			
John Quatrale (John Quatrale)	john.quatrale@unboundvisualarts.org	85	Yes			
John Tobin	j.tobin@northeastern.edu	50	Yes			
Jon Brown-Dog	nonobaddropit@gmail.com	89	Yes			
Joy Arcolano (joy arcolano)	joylamb@gmail.com	51	Yes			
Kara White	kara.m.white@gmail.com	70	Yes			
Karen Stein	karen@goodgoodland.com	102	Yes			
Kathleen Murphy	kmurphy@bbns.org	58	Yes			
Kelly Govoni	kelly.k.govoni@mass.gov	138	Yes			
Kendyl Maher-Trumble	kendyl_maher-trumble@harvard.edu	57	Yes			
Kristina Martin	kristinaemartin@gmail.com	96	Yes			
Larry Smith	larry@paddleboston.com	88	Yes			
Margaret Wood	margaretminorwood@gmail.com	47	Yes			
Mary Jo Meisner	maryjomeisner@gmail.com	10	Yes			
Mary LaRosee	marylarosee@gmail.com	83	Yes			
Mason Cox	mcox@hocr.org	98	Yes			
naomi Mayeux	nmayeux@natdev.com	74	Yes			

Name (Original Name)	User Email	Total Duration	Guest
Oscar López	olopez07@gmail.com	91	Yes
Paddle Boston Mark Jacobson (Mark Jacobson)	mark@paddleboston.com	60	Yes
Patricia Centola	patricia.centola@gmail.com	51	Yes
paul creighton	creighton02134@gmail.com	69	Yes
Paula Alexander	rnina3344@hotmail.com	78	Yes
Peggy lafrate	peggy@stregagroup.com	83	Yes
Priscilla Livingston	livingston@hocr.org	97	Yes
Rick Broberg	rhbrogberg@yahoo.com	74	Yes
rob adams - Halvorson Design (rob adams)	roba@halvorsondesign.com	110	Yes
Robert Uhlig	bobu@halvorsondesign.com	87	Yes
Ruth Helfeld	ruth.helfeld@mass.gov	112	Yes
Sasha Vallieres-Charles River Conserancy (Sasha Vallieres)	svallieres@thecharles.org	75	Yes
Shannon Slade	shannonaslade@gmail.com	64	Yes
Sherry Clancy	sclancy@natdev.com	81	Yes
Stefan P	mrpoltorzycki@gmail.com	96	Yes
tim mchale	bostonminstrel@aol.com	99	Yes
Tom Martin	martinisl@comcast.net	101	Yes
Tom Meier	wtom.meier@gmail.com	72	Yes

MEETING NOTES

project	DCR Herter Park Masterplan
date	09.15.2021
subject	Working Group Meeting # 2 Summary
present	See list below
copy	Halvorson Tighe & Bond team, DCR team

Meeting #4: Working Group Meeting #2 – 09.15. 2021—ZOOM Meeting

Note: Tonight’s meeting not recorded

DCR Attendees:

Ginna Johnson – Deputy Chief, Design and Project Management; PM for the Herter Park MP
Ruth Helfeld – Director of Landscape Architecture; Co-PM for the Herter Park MP
Jenny Norwood – Director of External Affairs and Partnerships
Daniel Cushing – Director of Public Engagement

Rep. Moran’s office:

Jennifer Migliore

Design Team Attendees:

Rob Adams, Vesna Maneva - Halvorson | Tighe&Bond Studio (HTB)
Amanda Houle, Joe Persechino - Tighe & Bond
Conrad Ello - Oudens Ello Architects
Karen Stein, - Goodgood Graphic Design

Working Group Attendees:

Bruce Kline (kayaker)
Aaron Ellison (Telford 180 Condominums resident; kayaker and biker)
Jane McHale, Litchfield Street (kayaker, user of the amphitheater)
Tim McHale, Amphitheater Board, lover of water and rivers.
Jessica Mook
Galen Mook

1.1 Introductions

- a. Ginna Johnson - DCR: Welcome Remarks and Introduction DCR Team.
- b. Rob Adams - HTB: Introductions to HTB team.

2.1 Draft Master Plan Overview (Rob Adams – HTB):

- a. Purpose of the meeting: to solicit the Working Group’s feedback on some visionary concepts to achieve project goals, including:
 - Public Access and Circulation: Provide accessible, safe, and efficient circulation to and within the park.

- Programming: Propose vital programs for Herter Park signature facilities.
- Visitor Experience: Improve views, wayfinding, interpretive signage.

b. Concepts for Review and Comment

- Vehicular Circulation: SFR Road Diet
 - o SFR Crosswalk Locations
 - o Eliot Bridge Approach Intersection
- Herter Center Adaptive Reuse: High School Rowing
- Community Garden Consolidation
- Park Concepts: Enlarged Plans

3.1 Working Group Input

a. Tim McHale:

- Blown away. Amazing work. “I’m very grateful; it’s a project ‘for the people.’”
- Herter Center - prefers Alt. 2 (two separated buildings); love the 2nd floor (multi-purpose room) and plaza hardscapes, this proposal dignifies HS rowing. He sees the stone circle as a Peace Garden.
- West End Woodland – he sees it as an arboretum not a “wild”.
- Bikeways along Soldiers Field Road – brilliant.
- Connections across Soldiers Field Road:
 - o Why no access from the Speedway to Park. *Ginna: Halvorson proposed this, and we are thinking about it, but the retaining walls are going to be there for a long time.*
 - o Telford Street Crossing: one idea is to turn Telford into a promenade; half want a bridge and half want an at-grade crossing.
 - o At Smith Playground: connection at Smith’s dog park, that’s where National Development has proposed it

b. Jane McHale:

- Blown away too - So many things that are just perfect.
- Community Gardens: loves the joining of the gardens and locating in a less busy place.
- Bike Path along Soldiers Field Road - how will cyclists get to the city near Elliot Street bridge? Discussion ensued about crossing at SFR – Eliot Bridge intersection.
- Herter Center
 - o Loves the idea of moving the rowing facility there. To expand it to all City of Boston High Schools that want to start rowing is good. Prefers Alt. 2 as well.
 - o As a former rower she knows that crossing of the park path by the rowers will have to be managed by the schools.
 - o Great to earmarking some of the upstairs for Amphitheater use, as well as an events space that can be used by the community.
- West Area of park – she likes that it is quiet-ish to balance the eastern area that is more active and dynamic.
- Site Lighting – it’s a big deal.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING + URBAN DESIGN

c. **Jessica Mook:**

- Very exciting – lots of cool things.
- Road Diet – amazing. She likes that bike paths are incorporated on roadway but minimum bike lane is 5 feet, suggests to repropotion the 3’ buffer to allow this.
- Herter Center:
 - How did this use and program come about, and, did we think of anything else?
Ginna reply: Commissioner requested HS rowing as there was a site program that needed a facility, and there was a vacant facility than needed a program. Curatorship was looked at as another option, but historically there have not been much interest in Herter Center. We have not talked to any rowing program – wanted to talk to you first. Ruth reply: Boston Latin and Brookline HS are currently inhabiting an area that is not ideal and not properly permitted. They will need a proper space. And we hear from other schools that there is not enough access to the water.
 - Wants the team to look at the Herter Center more carefully: ideally there will be public access to the building. How much time will the multi-purpose space be available for community use?
 - Wants us to look carefully at boat conflicts with pedestrians.

d. **Aaron Ellison:**

- It’s a great vision, hopes it does not sit on a shelfe.
- Road Diet - as a cyclist, he loves the road diet along Soldier’s Field road. Opportunities for pedestrian / cyclist conflict are large, however. Likes that there are commuter bike lanes on road but worries about very little buffer between cars and bikes. *Rob reply: existing curb line may need to adjust; we tried to hold the existing to see if it works. Clearly having buffered bike lanes is the preferred direction.*
- HS Rowing; Prefers Alt. 2. Regarding public boat access.
- Boat access for private boaters / kayakers - it’s difficult to get your boat on the water and there are no storage options. If you’re not using a rowing shell, you’re “a third class citizen”. Notion of increased public access to get boats in the water would be nice. *Rob reply: he is aware of developments that have accommodated public boat storage, perhaps getting developers to include in their program might be a solution.*
- Restrooms at Herter Center: he hopes they are four-season. Currently locked from Columbus Day to Memorial Day. Think of the park as a four-season use.
- Access across Soldiers Field Road: community envisions Telford St. as a pedestrian promenade, and visually open / connected to the river.

e. **Bruce Kline:**

- He has a couple of problems that are hopefully solvable.
- Parking Lots
 - Every parking space is taken on weekends. How many spots will be lost? *Ginna response: there will be no net loss, some parking lots will be expanded.*
 - No way to access the smaller lots if heading East. Currently there’s a U-Turn at Elliot Street bridge (Halvorson note: this is not accurate – parking lots will be accessible from both directions as there’s no longer a median)

- HS Rowing: He feels torn: likes Alternate 2, but, in terms of direct water access, prefers the layout of Alt. 1 which is easier for unskilled HS rowers to maneuver. Maybe there is a compromise.
- Shared Bike Paths – he frequently curses out fast cyclists on pedestrian paths. Separation of cyclists and pedestrians is critical. *Ginna reply: its all about creating opportunities for those who want to go fast and those who want to go slow.*
- Road Diet - consider adjacent developments and the inevitable increases in car activity and number of people.

f. **Jennifer Migliore** (from Rep. Moran’s office)

- Site Parking: constituents are concerned that BB&N buses contribute to parking shortage. *Jenny reply: DCR is working on a different parking solution with BB&N.*

g. **Galen Mook**

- Chiming in as a resident. Inspired by the great plan but has serious concerns about ongoing development in the area (he is involved in ongoing reviews of developments with the IAG). Are the 1000s new trips being taken into consideration?
- Access across Soldiers Field Road:
 - Appreciate the fact that there’s more porosity from the neighborhood.
 - 1170 Soldiers Field WBZ / National Development is proposing 700,000 Sq Ft lab; and proposes connection of Smith Field to the river, now being reviewed by the public. Public boat storage is a great suggestion as a community benefit for that enormous project. – this may need to be taken into consideration.
 - Telford Street crossing – wants to maintain an above-grade crossing here because of little kids from the Charlesview development for which this would be a safer option.
- HS Rowing: concerned about rowers carrying boats crossing a bike path. Small point, but important.

4.1 **Next Steps**

- a. Stakeholder Meeting #2 on 9/23/2021
- b. Public meeting #2 on 9/29/2021
- c. Final Master Plan December 2021

NOTE: The foregoing represents Halvorson’s understanding of the discussions and decisions made during this meeting. If anyone has any changes or comments, please notify the author within five business days of receipt.

MEETING NOTES

project	DCR Herter Park Masterplan
date	09.23.2021
subject	Stakeholders Meeting # 2 Summary
present	See list below
copy	Halvorson Tighe & Bond team, DCR team

Meeting #5: Stakeholders Meeting #2 – September 23, 2021—ZOOM Meeting

Note: Tonight’s meeting not recorded

DCR Attendees:

Ginna Johnson – Deputy Chief, Design and Project Management; PM for the Herter Park MP
Ruth Helfeld – Director of Landscape Architecture; Co-PM for the Herter Park MP
Jenny Norwood – Director of External Affairs and Partnerships
Daniel Cushing – Director of Public Engagement

Rep. Moran’s office:

Jen Migliore

Design Team Attendees:

Rob Adams, Vesna Maneva- Halvorson | Tighe&Bond Studio (HTB)
Richard Canavan - Tighe & Bond
Conrad Ello - Oudens Ello Architects

Stakeholder Attendees:

Charles River Conservancy- absent
Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) – Janet Moonan, Dira Johanif
Friends of Herter Park – Joy Arcolano
Harvard University – absent
Harvard Allston Initiatives – absent
Head of the Charles Regatta –Mason Cox, Tom Martin
Northeastern University – absent
Paddle Boston (Charles River Canoe & Kayak) – Lawrence Smith
Friends of Boston Latin School (BLS) Crew – Audrie Richardson, Jasmine Howard, Terry Dougherty,
Gretchen Moran Thompson
Friends of Brookline Rowing – Alexander Packard
BB&N – Cynthia Westerman

1.1 Introductions

- a. Ginna Johnson - DCR: Welcome Remarks and Introduction DCR Team.
- b. Rob Adams - HTB: Introductions to HTB team.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING + URBAN DESIGN

2.1 Draft Master Plan Overview (Rob Adams – HTB)

- a. Purpose of the meeting: to solicit the Stakeholders feedback on some visionary concepts to achieve project goals, including:
 - Public Access and Circulation: Provide accessible, safe, and efficient circulation to and within the park.
 - Programming: Propose vital programs for Herter Park signature facilities.
 - Visitor Experience: Improve views, wayfinding, interpretive signage.
- b. Concepts for Review and Comment
 - Vehicular Circulation: SFR Road Diet
 - o SFR Crosswalk Locations
 - o Eliot Bridge Approach Intersection
 - Herter Center Adaptive Reuse: High School Rowing
 - Community Garden Consolidation
 - Park Concepts: Enlarged Plans

3.1 Stakeholders Input (in chronological order of speakers)

- a. Alexander Packard – Friends of Brookline Rowing
 - Congratulations on the courage to propose something so transformative. Very exciting to create a community of HS rowing.
- b. Terry Dougherty – Friends of BLS Crew
 - At BLS crew they like to teach kids not only about the sport but also the importance of the environment.
 - Congrats on restoring the “ties” to the Speedway.
 - HS Rowing: likes the idea of smaller campus (Alt #2). Rowers don’t like 90-degree turns.
- c. Tom Martin – HOCR
 - From HOCR perspective at first glance it appears devastating to the ability to run the event (this was corrected by Mason Cox as he saw great potential in the improvements). Difficult to enter Artesani and park the long boat trailers, and the secondary exit which they relied on has been taken out.
 - The area where HS Rowing is proposed is their secondary location for trailer parking (in the tree grove). He’s very much in favor of HS Rowing but not where it impact HOCR trailer parking.
 - HS rowing: boathouse orientation is typically perpendicular to water, Community Rowing has it sideways.
 - Don’t “underbuild” make sure the HS rowing facility meets present and future needs.

- d. **Mason Cox** – HOCR
- Fantastic elements in this plan. Renovated event lawn, relocated community garden, he’s extremely excited about the possibilities of these areas that will have better drainage and soils where currently ponding is an issue in the event setup area.
 - Rowing facility is stunning and he’s blown away. Concept of 7 shells stacked is not realistic for day-to-day rowing operations, there’s a limit to how high you can stack, probably 4 is max. Belmont High has a good program, Chris Richards is the contact.
 - Parking lot / turning radius is a big issue, trailer access needs to be confirmed.
- e. **Janet Moonan** – CRWA
- Super pleased that we have given so much thought to storm water. Did the team look at impervious surface creation as it looks there’s quite a bit around proposed HS rowing. *(Vesna replied that SFR road diet provides a huge amount of impervious surface reduction so that any new addition will be very much offset by it).*
- f. **Audrey Richardson** - Friends of BLS Crew
- Incredibly appreciative of the effort to meet their wishes, it seems amazing.
- g. **Cynthia Westerman** – BB&N
- Concerned about the impact of Eliot Bridge intersection and any parking reductions. *(Ginna replied that DCR’s Jeffe Parenti is very comfortable with the proposed SFR road diet and Eliot Bridge intersection, has analyzed the counts and there will be new counts done this fall. There will be no net loss of parking; additionally the bike path and shoulder could be used for emergency / large events.)*
- h. **Dira Johanif** – CRWA
- Excited and kudos on the plan.
- i. **Gretchen Moran Thompson** - Friends of BLS Crew
- She will leave the meeting optimistic and appreciative.
- j. **Jasmine Howard** – Friends of BLS Crew
- Absolutely loves the plan, loves the pop-outs to get close to the water.
 - The HS boathouse is more than expected. Aesthetically she prefers Alt #2, while Alt #1 is more practical.
 - Will grading of areas that are swampy reduce mosquitoes? *(Ginna replied that the moat improvements will help).*
- k. **Jen Migliore** – Rep. Moran’s office
- You are doing great.

- l. **Joy Arcolano** – Friends of Herter Park
- So impressed that plan considered stormwater, erosion, access for kids closer to the water. Excited about the additional access points across SFR.
 - Herter Center: lost opportunity on arts events, poetry circle, fundraisers, etc. by giving the facility to HS rowing *(Ginna replied: HS Rowing is a seasonal use, the concept is to use the multi-purpose space for just such events. Conrad confirmed that the upstairs will be open to the views of the river.)* Joy agreed it’s a good concept.
- m. **Kristina Martin** – Friends of BLS Crew
- Appreciates the consideration given to listening and accommodating their issues.
 - As a person from the public, she loves the consolidation of the community gardens near Henderson Boathouse.
- n. **Lawrence Smith** - Paddle Boston
- He runs the canoe rental and is pleased that his business is not affected by this plan.
 - Loves the idea of public restrooms at Herter Center to avoid porta-potties which they currently provide.
- o. **Margaret Wood** – affiliation not stated – Nothing to add.

- 4.1 Next Steps**
- a. Public meeting #2 on 9/29/2021
 - b. Final Master Plan December 2021
 - c. Implementation: this is a huge investment for the State , implementation will be phased over several years. We will talk about this in the next round of meetings.

NOTE: The foregoing represents Halvorson’s understanding of the discussions and decisions made during this meeting. If anyone has any changes or comments, please notify the author within five business days of receipt.