

Presentation to Boston Arts Commission
April 2011
4:15-5:00

Alvah Kittredge Park

- Introductions: Sherri Geldersma from Parks (experience with Jeep Jones), Willie Brown (Community Member), Ruth Loetterle from Carol R. Johnson & Assoc., Artist Ross Miller, Proponent Chris McCarthy via teleconference
- Seat wall added to plan, lots of great design from Carol R. Johnson & Assoc. to work with as inspiration for artist
- Possibilities:
 - low granite wall with possible wrought iron top inspired by community history and cultural symbols
 - One large arcing community table, rather than separate tables
 - Walking tour, wayfinding to historical locations in area (instead of initial timeline idea -- timeline no longer linear, but within elements throughout park, overlays of time and activity, easier to point than to lay out in an exact order)
 - Historical stone pointing to Cambridge/Rhode Island as inspiration for large stone tiers for play and seating
 - Bronze pieces?
 - Seating clusters
 - Seat walls with fastened metal backs – mini outdoor living room moments
 - Interactive water feature – stainless steel polls with ground plane based on Louis Prang's color wheel, spray in and out. Discussion around bringing too much noise and activity in the park.
 - Instead of child-friendly water feature, levels of “contemplative” water flowing over layered stone as an alternative. Discussions around water flow, heaviness of stone, etc.
 - Alternatively, spiraling steel water feature like work on Greenway with possible LED lighting and granite base with integral scupper to collect water (so little waste, although no cost of recycling)
 - Nearby rain garden could manage this runoff (~1 gal./hr. in summer)
- Prataap asked if the intention is to develop all of these ideas. Yes, within budget. Some parts have line items within the park project as a whole that can be tweaked, rather than separate “art budget” facets
- Discussion with community member around current mural recreation, original result of process, thinks mural itself not as critical to save but what the mural creation did for the community is more critical
- Chris liked choice to move away from large kiddie water area and members agreed for use of park as tranquil, reading space, nooks, quieter
- Elevated lawn, but flush in two areas makes useable but durable and traffic controlling to T station.
- Cookout space (sunny area) on left, space for community gathering. Edward asked about community grill included, which Ruth will look into (probably not popular with Parks anymore)
- Design tends toward small gem space
- Acorn top lighting (10 total), possibly attached spotlighting. Artist also desires some LED lighting without being unrealistically grandiose

- Brick timeline and trellis chopped due to visibility and budget, fence simplification possible, if needed
- Carol commented that park is first to incorporate so much public art within the space – “art park”
- Prataap still has concerns about engineering chopping up continuity of art, suggests selling it as a whole space to Browne for maintenance purposes (for graffiti, surface damage, etc.)
- Bidding on construction in May, very quick timeline, potential for special BAC meeting
- Carol – small and animated rich space, seat backing stands out against low walls – pros and cons to this
- Prataap says he sees elements without knowing structure to bring elements together – how do these moments interact and what is space like in between?
 - Artist responds with transparency and contemporary material of water feature, as well as grade of landscape down to focal point of water feature
- Prataap asked if the water feature would be climbable. Carol suggested simplifying lower part to prevent as much climbing (spiraling could begin above child-height)