

Maynard Veterans Memorial, Community Meeting #2, February 25, 2016

Maynard Public Library

Attendees:

Bill Nemser, Town Planner

Clara Batchelor, Principal at CBA Landscape Architects, LLC

Jessica Choi, Landscape Designer at CBA Landscape Architects, LLC

Several Selection Board Committee Members (Greg Tuluzzo)

Community Members – Band Leader and Members, Librarian, Various residents, see attached Sign up Sheet

Presentation:

Introduction by Bill Nemser – 2nd of 3 community meetings

Introduction by Clara – explained that this meeting will be about exploring several design options based off of feedback/ideas from the first meeting. The main take-aways from meeting 1:

1. memorial should stay generally in the same location
2. performance space should be away from corner of nason/summer st (too noisy)
3. park should not be a playground but defined more as a passive/memorial park.

Project Schedule

Meeting 1 Recap

4 Design Options

Community Feedback/Discussion

Community Feedback/Design Suggestions:

- overall consensus for Option 1 (but with stage shape of 2B)
- overall consensus to lowering wall along Nason St Parcel

Stage

- concern: performance stage shape doesn't seem to address both sides of park; concerned that "wings" won't be utilized (Clara: we will adjust size/shape to one that will be most effective)
- suggestion: a tiered stage, with the second level more in the middle?
- observation: likes how with option 1, the performance area stays where it is and a slight amphitheater lawn is formed
- suggestion: take shape of stage from option 2b and locate where we have stage in option 1
- other performers include high school band
- Suggestion/Concern: (Band Leader Michael) 2B stage shape is nice; could be 1/2 octagon; 35'x35' minimum for 45-55 people; (Option 3) Stage location will not work
- Question: can stage design work with multiple kinds of performances?

- Suggestion: consider a flat/at-grade stage for maximum flexibility. This was seconded by other people
- Suggestion/Observation: “Stage” should serve many activities i.e. dances, theater, rallies, etc.

Memorial

- “future memorial” - other options don't show where future memorials would be located (Clara: we will dot in at least 2 more future locations for next scheme to illustrate how there is space for growth)
- Observation/Suggestion: flag-raising is a key part of ceremony during veterans/memorial holidays. Flagpole should be in a more focal location
- Observation: Events that take place in the park: Memorial Day and Veterans' Day (during which performances are part of the memorial); other events include Maynard Fest and library events
- Suggestion: create a backdrop of flags behind main memorial

Circulation/Accessibility

- concern: loss of parking
- concern: safety in the basin with location of new stair; worried that it leads right into car traffic
- suggestion: rotate and position stair/ramp along Nason Street Parcel
- observation: entrance drive from Nason St – narrow and slippery access into Parking Lot
- suggestion: create a sidewalk along Nason St Parcel—this will necessitate a retaining wall
- question: is there a future desire to create an axis down the middle of the park into the Basin?
- Suggestion: if we remove access through the middle, we should definitely address accessibility and circulation on the east and west sides of the park
- question: no curving paths? (Clara: in a smaller park, straight/direct paths are more appropriate for the space)
- Suggestion: remove paths that lead to basin stair/ramp entry
- Concern: path that cuts right through middle might disrupt performances? (others responded saying that people can take the diagonal path)
- Suggestion: show plan in phases (and with more context?) to illustrate more clearly how this new central path will connect to the greater Maynard community (Phase 1 – park, Phase 2 – basin)
- Suggestion: shift car route through parking over so that it doesn't align with staircase
- Concern: regarding the new position of the traffic route, island of trees create a pinch point; traffic might not flow as smoothly
- Suggestion: central axis shouldn't be discounted; push for further study/exploration of park's connection to greater context and how the whole feel of k,the park could be transformed with this new path. Also, address accessibility and circulation along east and west sides of park.
- Suggestion: mirror ramp circulation (rotate 180 degrees) so that less bottlenecking in parking would occur
- Clara: for next meeting we will explore:
 - central axis, connecting to Basin and Main St beyond and with new sidewalk along driveway from Nason Street
 - ramp/stair pushed toward Nason Street “parcel” and with new sidewalk along driveway

Seating/Lighting/Planting/Materiality

- concern: twig seating – will this affect visibility and seating? (Clara: we will show how people can occupy this kind of seating and how many can utilize it at once)
- observation: lots of people bring blankets and chairs during holiday/events
- suggestion: place seating more along edges so kids don't run out into street (Clara



- encourage more running into street, or just bring kids closer to the street)
- suggestion: lighting should match what's existing – maintain “village feel”
- suggestion: add planting that's low-maintenance but colorful and seasonal like potentilla or easy-care roses
- Concern: musical fence will be too distracting during performances and conflicts with overall atmosphere of solemnity of the memorial park; any way to mute/muffle the sound as needed?
- Suggestion: others felt that musical fence adds a nice playful element to the park; if not the musical fence, any quieter objects?
- Suggestion: use brick material – works better with overall Town feel and refers back to Mill history/materiality

Notes by Jessica Choi

