Community Meeting #2

Henry Hansen Memorial Park
Somerville, MA

AGENDA
• Project Overview & Update
• Review of Community Meeting 1
• Design Elements
• Schematic Design Possibilities
• Questions for Discussion

Tuesday May 1, 2018
PROJECT OVERVIEW
INTRODUCTIONS

City of Somerville
Bryan Bishop, Commissioner of Veterans’ Services

CBA Landscape Architects LLC
D.J. Chagnon, Principal-in-Charge & Project Manager
Jessica Choi & Liz Thompson, Staff Landscape Designers
**DESIGN SCHEDULE**

**Community Meeting 1 (March 26, 2018):** Present history, site analysis, and precedents. Gather community input, and develop wish list to guide Schematic Designs for future meetings.

**Community Meeting 2 (May 1, 2018):** Present Schematic Design Alternatives based on first meeting input. Community review and discussion, with the goal of developing a final Preferred Design Plan.

**Community Meeting 3 (Early June 2018):** Present Definitive Design for park construction, including features and site furnishings based on community discussion at Meeting 2. With community input, discuss project budget, bidding process, suggested Alternates, and prioritize strategy to maximize budget.

**Design Development (Summer 2018):** CBA will further develop and refine Definitive Design.

**Funding Application (Fall 2018):** City of Somerville will apply for Funding.

**Construction Documents (Winter - Spring 2019):** CBA will finalize Definitive Design and suggested Alternates into detailed Construction Documents suitable for bidding purposes.

**Construction Start (Late Spring - Summer 2019)**
To renovate Henry Hansen Park - a small gem of Somerville’s park system with an important story to tell in both local and national history.

The new design will honor an important local son and war veteran, Henry (“Hank”) Hansen, the national historic event in which he participated, and other Somerville veterans. The park is also intended to provide a calm respite from the surrounding city where visitors can have contact with nature and experience the qualities of the natural landscape.

Key Design Elements

- Quality, Sustainable Materials
- Thoughtful, Interpretive Signage / Features
- 100% ADA Compliance
- Safe and Attractive Entrances
- Imaginative Lighting
- Landscape Plantings
- Low-maintenance Design
REVIEW OF COMMUNITY MEETING 1
Henry Oliver “Hank” Hansen was born and raised near Magoun Square with one sister and three brothers. He graduated from Somerville High in 1938, and joined the US Marine Corps in 1939.

As Sergeant, he was one of six members of the combat patrol that climbed, captured, and helped raise the first of two US flags on top of Mt Suribachi on February 23, 1945.

The second flag raising happened shortly after on the same day. Though not featured in this famous photo by Joe Rosenthal, Hansen was there to witness this moment. He died in action during the Battle of Iwo Jima in WWII on March 1, 1945.
Henry Hansen Park was constructed, honoring a Somerville WWII veteran and serving as a place of pride for the Veterans community. It faced the home of H. Hansen’s last remaining relative in the neighborhood.
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

• The fencing along the street sides makes the park feel unwelcoming, but the fence along Partridge Ave. is important as an extra handhold when the sidewalk is icy.

• Fencing on the abutters’ sides is important to those abutters and should be kept or replaced.

• Paving materials should be easy to maintain, weed-free, and attractive. There was an interest in permeable paving if feasible and appropriate.

• The existing maple is possibly in decline and casts strong shadows; there are concerns that it has overgrown its space.

• The arborvitae are much taller than necessary - consider pruning or replacing them.

• Both of the street trees are in fairly poor condition.

• Concern about the idea of a water feature, particularly due to rodent issues.

• The site is already used both for school history classes (Winter Hill) and as a recreational space; consider incorporating elements accessible to children, and consider how the space will be played in.

• The current open lawn is nice for picnics; some accommodation of that should be in the design.

• Several neighbors expressed a preference for more traditional materials and memorial features.

• One option mentioned was a portrait bust similar to the one of George Dilboy at City Hall.
DESIGN ELEMENTS
“KIT OF PARTS”
BUBBLE DIAGRAMS

Combined Memorial / Gathering Space

MEDFORD STREET
WALL MATERIALS

- Cast-in-place Concrete
- Fieldstone

DESIGN ELEMENTS

- Stepped Stone Blocks
- Decorative Precast Block
PAVING MATERIALS

- Precast Brick-Style Pavers (possibly permeable)
- Exposed Aggregate or Decorative Concrete

DESIGN ELEMENTS

- Large-Format Stone or Precast Paving
- ... or a combination of materials?
MEMORIAL ELEMENTS

- Photo-Engraved Walls
- Cutout Sculpture (integrated flagpole)
- Portrait Busts or Sculpture
- Vertical Panel Elements

DESIGN ELEMENTS

- NPS-Style Infographics Panels
- Branches of Service Flagpoles
SITE FURNISHINGS

Somerville Standard Metal Ribbon Furniture

Stone Block Seating

DESIGN ELEMENTS

Contemporary Cafe-Style Seating

Linear Benches
LIGHTING OPTIONS

- Accent and Feature Lighting
- Post-Top Pedestrian Lights
- Traditional Bollard Lights
- Ribbon Lighting in Walls or Furnishings
- In-Grade Accent/Path Lighting
SCHEMATIC DESIGN POSSIBILITIES
CONCEPT 1 - DESIGN ELEMENTS

**Layout:** Larger Memorial area, on the right

**Design Concept:** Curvilinear spaces

**Wall Material:** Cast concrete walls

**Paving:** “Brick” with areas of stone or concrete

**Memorial Element:** Photo-concrete wall and NPS-style infographics panel

**Site Furniture:** Seat wall and circular tables

**Lighting:** Ribbon lighting integrated into wall
CONCEPT 2 - DESIGN ELEMENTS

**Layout:** Maple as backdrop, Memorial on left

**Design Concept:** Natural materials, stepped blocks

**Wall Material:** Large staggered granite blocks

**Paving:** Stone or large-format precast pavers

**Memorial Element:** Raised elements atop walls; integrate flagpole into flagraising scene

**Site Furniture:** Traditional metal ribbon style

**Lighting:** Bollard lighting and accent lights
**CONCEPT 3 - DESIGN ELEMENTS**

**Layout:** Unified single space, transplant maple

**Design Concept:** Memorial grove, angular space

**Wall Material:** Fieldstone or decorative precast

**Paving:** Ornamental concrete w/ accents

**Memorial Elements:** Vertical info panels, flags for branches of Armed Forces, portrait bust

**Site Furniture:** Large seat blocks or benches

**Lighting:** Accent lighting and in-grade lights
CONCEPT 3B - SCHEMATIC PLAN

- Prune Existing Arborvitae Hedge
- Refurbish/Replace Chain Link Fence Along Abutting Property
- Decorative Precast Block or Fieldstone Wall
- Five 15' Ht. Flagpoles with Top-Mounted Lighting (Branches of Service)
- New Ornamental Plantings (Perennials/Low Shrubs)
- New Utility Cabinets
- Colored/Exp. Aggregate Concrete Paving (Typ)
- New Shade Tree (Typ)
- Replace Precast Paver "Accent Strip" (Existing Pavers Are Not Level)
- Seat Block or Bench

New Ornamental Fence (4') Along Partridge Ave

Replace Declining Street Tree; New 3' x 6' Tree Grate

25' Main Flagpole (US Flag) With Top-Mounted Lighting (Central)

Info/Graphic Vertical Panel Element

Existing Utility Pole; New Security Camera?

Existing Drain; Connect Any New Park Drainage

New Streetlight (Typ)

Replace Declining Street Tree; New 3' x 6' Tree Grate

New Concrete Sidewalks Adjacent To Park

HENRY HANSEN MEMORIAL PARK - Somerville, MA | Community Meeting 2

CBA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS LLC
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

• Which general organization of the space do you prefer?
• Do you have a preference for the overall design style?
• What sort of memorial elements do you find most appropriate to the space and to the memory of Sgt. Hansen (and others if desired)?
• Do you have preferences between the various materials and furnishings choices discussed tonight?
• What is your preference regarding the existing maple - save it and have a smaller space, explore transplanting it, or consider replacing it? How about other plant materials?
• Any other topics or concerns?
THANK YOU

Other questions, concerns, and ideas? Interested in attending future public meetings and sending more feedback? Please contact:

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Be sure to sign up for the project email list to receive updates and meeting notices, on the sign-in sheet at the meeting or by emailing Bryan!