Community Meeting #1

Henry Hansen Memorial Park
Somerville, MA

AGENDA

• Introductions
• Design Schedule
• History
• Existing Conditions & Site Analysis
• Possible Precedents
• Questions for Discussion

Monday March 26, 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
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 (Late April 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 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
HISTORY
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.
In 1900, the site was occupied by a residence facing Partridge Avenue at #72, with a low structure off the rear, possibly a home industry.
By 1950, the parcel was occupied by a retail block built out around the #72 Partridge Avenue House. (Retail has also developed further up Medford Street, forming the commercial core of Magoun Square).
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.
EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS
The existing park was built on limited resources with volunteer contributions, and was always viewed and intended by the City as a temporary first step.
Two memorial spaces are carved into and separated by a hillside that dominates the site.
From across Medford St, the spaces appear lost in the hillside. The fencing and street parking become additional visual barriers.
Utilizing the hillside could open opportunities for increasing visibility to the park...terracing, vertical elements/landmarks...
Tall fencing encloses almost the entire park with only two access points along Medford Street, making it very one-sided.
ACCESS & ENCLOSURE

EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS

Uphill along Partridge St.

6’ Ornamental Steel Fence encloses 3 sides of park

Chain-link Fence along Abutter’s side
Along Medford Street, facing eastwards; fencing seems more foreboding and appears to cage in the park, blocking spaces from view.
Along Medford Street, facing west: 2 separated points of entry
Inside southeast corner; spaces feel further enclosed by dense plantings.
Inside northwest corner of park.
PLANTINGS

EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS

**Evergreen Privacy Screen and Park Backdrop**

**Red Maple provides fall color**

**Dense shrub borders feel oversized around Memorial Spaces**

**Street Tree**

**Large evergreen dominates this corner, blocking park spaces and elements from view**
View from north corner of park, facing Medford St.
MEMORIAL SPACE 1

EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS

Radial arrangement of info panels feels awkward as there is little room to circulate around them. Narrative also feels fragmented.

Walls and 2 benches face out to fence and sidewalk with little connection with the memorials.
MEMORIAL SPACE 1

EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS

Signs and benches have weathered.

Overhanging shrubs
MEMORIAL SPACE 2

EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS

Flagpole is screened by evergreen.

Cracked Stone Memorial
MATERIALS

EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS

Stonedust Paving  Brick Paver Edging  Unit Block Walls  Metal Fencing in Asphalt
LIGHTING AND UTILITY

EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS

Hidden Bollard Light 1  Hidden Bollard Light 2  Uplight for Flag  Hidden Utility
POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS
FLAGPOLE INTEGRATION

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

Iwo Jima Memorial, DC

War Memorial, Greenwich CT
WALLS AND STONE

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN OF DESPAIR,
A STONE OF HOPE

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, DC

I HAVE SEEN WAR
I HAVE SEEN BLOOD RUNNING FROM THE WOUNDED...
I HAVE SEEN THE DEAD IN THE MUD...
I HAVE SEEN CHILDREN STARVING
I HAVE SEEN THE AGONY OF MOTHERS AND WIVES
I HATE WAR

Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, DC

Canadian Firefighter’s Memorial, Ottawa

Korean War Veterans Memorial, DC
WALLS AND STONE

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

Fallen Firefighters & Emergency Paramedics Memorial, Arizona

9/11 Memorial, NYC
WALLS AND STONE

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

Roemer Plaza, Boston

FDR Memorial, DC
LIGHT AND SHADOW

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, DC
LIGHT AND SHADOW

“Cloud” by Kumi Yamashita

Moving Memories Memorial, Phoenix AZ

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS
“Site Specific” by Scott Eunson & Marianne Loveink
SILHOUETTE CUTOUTS

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

Landsdowne Fence Streetscape
by Scott Eunson & Marianne Loveink

Alto del Perdon (Mountain of Forgiveness), Spain
PORTRAITURE & FRAMING

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

John Ruiz Park, Chelsea MA
PHOTO-IMAGERY

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

Korean War Veterans Memorial, DC

Concrete Photo Engraving (by Reckli)
WATER ELEMENT

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

Canada Memorial - Green Park, London
WATER ELEMENT

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

Southeastern Louisiana State University - Hammond LA

Waterwall Feature
SPACES FOR REFLECTION

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS

Garden of Remembrance, Germany

City Garden, St. Louis MO

Freeway Park, Seattle WA
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

• What concerns do you have about the site?

• What memorial features would you like for the site?

• What park elements would you like for the site?

• What elements or moments of the historical narrative do you feel are especially important to commemorate?
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!