

Park and Recreation Commission  
Emerson Garden  
Design Review Committee

Tuesday, September 6, 2016, 2016  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Town Hall  
School Committee Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Committee Members Present:** John Bain, Nancy O'Connor, Clara Batchelor and James Carroll, Joel Pedlikin, Stephen Burrington and Antonia Osborne

**Committee Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director, Kathleen Fasser, Landscape Architect, Jessica Zarni, Administrative Assistant

**Guests Present:** see attached

J. Bain opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

J. Carroll moved for approval of the minutes. Seconded by S. Burrington. N. O'Connor Abstained. All in favor.

E. Gallentine discussed the agenda for tonight. She knows that there have been concerns about the process. She stated it's your park, the heart of your neighborhood and we are all here to listen to you. E. Gallentine stated that all past minutes and presentations are available on the website and we have provided all the written comments here tonight that have been submitted to our office.

E. Gallentine described the make-up and process of the design review committee.

The Design Review Committee will vote on a preferred alternative and then that recommendation goes before the full Park and Recreation Commission, who then looks at the priorities and will vote on that recommendation.

E. Gallentine went over the budget and how it's placed in the CIP Capital Improvement Project.

In any of the preferred designs baseline improvement will be included in each. E. Gallentine discussed what is included in this baseline:

- Maintain the open lawn space, re-grade for stormwater and add adequate drainage
- Repair walkways to drain and be free of cracks and tripping hazards
- Replace/supplement entry planting and provide appropriate irrigation and drainage
- Replace play equipment with elements and surfacing that meets current regulations
- Succession planting for trees
- Repair and/or replace utilities as needed
- Supplement/replace site furnishings, keeping all memorial benches

E. Gallentine discussed past meeting overviews and a general overview of this meeting and future meeting dates.

E. Gallentine knows that the neighborhood loves Emerson Garden. She is hearing from the community that the current configuration of the park works well and that the community does not want any radical changes. There are some improvements that need to be made and some upgrades of infrastructure, but the balance between play space and passive space works well. There have been various opinions on gates and fences (different options will be shown tonight). She stated that we have heard we want beautiful garden entrances with three season colors and reusing plant material and granite. E. Gallentine will be looking to fix and replace irrigation in the ornamental beds (some have never functioned properly). She knows that trees and planting are a great and vital part of the park, taking care of the current trees is important as well as a plan to plant new ones. There was an idea of labeling trees. E. Gallentine stated that we will be paying attention to the fence line and edge conditions. The edge conditions have taken a beating. In terms of play, E. Gallentine stated that we have heard that the community wants challenging climbing structures, movement options, design components that encourage imaginative vs theme, the play should include land forms, naturalized play elements and maintain play among the trees. We heard a lot of being in amongst the trees as being desirable. We have heard folks who have the affinity for the ship and the sand pit. Tonight a little bit of both will be shown. One comment E. Gallentine received was a request for no massive structures and to keep open sight lines. There has been a little discussion about moving water play into the play area vs. keeping the water play in its current location and you will see both of those options tonight. E. Gallentine has heard a general appreciation for the open lawn and the need to refurbish the lawn. She has heard from one person the need for new irrigation and someone suggested no irrigation and no fertilization. E. Gallentine has heard a lot of different thoughts/ideas regarding seating and picnicking. There was a comment that wood was a good material. E. Gallentine stated that all donation benches will be repurposed. She stated that at the last meeting K. Fasser proposed a gazebo, some thought it would be a lovely community gathering addition, but others felt it would distract from the simplicity of the open lawn. E. Gallentine stated that we heard that loud and clear and you won't see an option with the gazebo tonight. She stated that we are really looking at the simplicity, clear lines and an overall upgrade to the aesthetics within the park. E. Gallentine stated that our goal tonight is to get input from public on three design alternatives that really look at the bones of the park. You will see modest options in terms of entrances, fencing, shape and layout of the play area. Kathleen

Fasser will walk us through all of these and then we will talk about those components of the park design, and then we will move into different play alternatives. She wants to make sure everyone feels their voice is heard tonight.

Kathleen Fasser thanked everyone for coming.

The project goals are as followed: to improve accessibility, improve safety, improve grading and drainage, upgrade infrastructure and to accommodate multiple generations.

K. Fasser went over the baseline improvements.

She went over a summary of public comments from the last meeting and public comments that she has received to date.

Kathleen went through the existing conditions.

Concept A looks at the entrances being very similar to the existing entrances. The curved entrance in each location utilizes and expands on existing curbing and they include garden plantings and a short 14" fence at each location. In this concept the direction of the entrance at Emerson and Waverly is shown in a new location and K. Fasser detailed that entrance. In moving that entrance, the layout of the entrance literally picks up and moves the granite curb in exactly the same configuration into the new location. We will be reusing the granite curb. At each location there are also areas for seating and signage. In this particular option the gathering and seating has two identified picnic areas, there is also additional picnicking in the playground area. The memorial bench locations were discussed. The plans also include the addition of bicycle racks. The approach to the play space as a whole in this particular alternative calls for a new spray pad within the playground area, there is a fence shown connecting to the existing fence wrapping around the edges and all the way back to connect again into the existing chain-link fence. There is a double swing 12 foot wide gate which is the one main entry point to the playground.

Concept B has entrances very similar to the last concept, but they are a little more articulated and curved in. In this concept there are slightly larger garden beds at each entry location as well. There is a similarity in A and B, at each entrance location with the granite curb there is also a proposed short 14 inch fence - small metal fencing to help protect the plantings at all of the entrances.. In Concept B all the picnic areas are gathered in one area, it is very central and there is more picnicking within the playground itself. The memorial benches are scattered along the walkway in 6 different locations. The approach to play and fencing in this concept shows the splash play in its general existing location, but in this proposal we are completely repaving the concrete along the central basin so that the grading in the seating area can be adjusted (pitching away from the drain). There are proposed three new jets that come out of the ground but there is no curbing in this alternative. At the playground itself we are showing a 3'- 4 ft. high fence, this height is proposed in each concept. The playground fence in Concept B was described. There is no fence in the center, between the two ends of the fence is a short

mounded area about 2 feet high that might discourage dogs from running but doesn't preclude children from moving in and out of the playground area. It does help to accentuate the space itself within the playground. There are two entrances, both single-leaf gates at 6 feet wide.

Concept C has very different entrances, it plays off the existing granite curb garden bed that is at the spray pool. At the two other entrances at each corner along Davis Avenue, there is a granite curb or a short wall not more than 12-18 inches and you can see over see it. At the entrance at Emerson and Waverly the walk is aligned with that plant bed and the spray pad. At this entrance a fence will be placed so a child cannot run directly into the street. That fence could be the existing playground fence relocated to this entrance. She stated that having these larger plant beds at each entrance means that there are two alternatives to walk into the park at each of the Davis Avenue entrances. At the plant bed there are proposed to be some boulders to soften the appearance and it plays into the overall design of this particular approach to concept C and its areas for seating and signage near each entrance. The seating and gathering spaces are scattered throughout the Emerson Garden in this alternative. There is picnicking near the playground area and scattered throughout the park as well as a variety of seating. This concept is seen as having a stabilized gravel surface with different types of seating and little nooks that you can sit alone and read. There are a number of them, different sizes and shapes along the edge. The play space has a different approach over all. the spray pad is exactly where it currently exists, she listed baseline upgrades that will be done. In the playground space the concept shows fencing that wraps around to two ends and there is a central space that is open that allows kids to run in an out. The edges are confined and connect into the chain link fence as to deter a child to dart straight out in either direction into the street. There are no gates in this alternative.

The floor was opened up for discussion and question.

N. O'Connor and K. Fasser pointed out that you can mix and match different features of each Concept. These are options and they can all be mixed together however the public and Design Review Committee want to see it, everything is up for discussion.

N. O'Connor and K. Fasser discussed accessibility/maintainability of the plant bed at the entrances. K. Fasser showed some examples and how you could access the beds for maintenance.

Richard Nasser addressed the committee. He wanted to clarify one thing, at last meeting someone mentioned that C plan might keep maintenance vehicles and snow removals from getting into the park. K. Fasser stated every alternative in the end will allow maintenance vehicle to enter and exit the park.

Nick Nixon addressed the committee. He stated that people come to visit him from all over the world, they walk to his house and state that Emerson is Paradise and they wonder how that can be done in the city. He thinks there should be option zero, which is do nothing, fix concrete and drainage and leave it alone because it is perfect. He stated that it is full of life and it's glorious.

He thinks it is so good and he is a little weary of a committee making things better, because they have the money and time. He thinks doing baseline improvements is fine and doing nothing more.

Annie Buchman addressed the Committee. She recalls from first meeting some people talking about the possibility of replacing chain link fence with wrought iron or something more handsome. She was wondering if that is still a possibility. K. Fasser discussed how that would eat up the budget.

Alton Hughes addressed the committee. He stated that maybe you could do cast aluminum, could do a town wide can collection and it could be done in house.

Jason Bowers addressed the Committee. He would like to hear K. Fasser's thoughts of having the splash pad separated from play area or integrated into it. He is curious how the spray pad would affect the wear on the grass/turf around it. She thinks it depends on what public wants. She has spoken with many people and some people want it where it is, they like the separation. On the other hand having it with all the rest of the play, you can have all your kids in one place and not be pulled in different locations. She has heard many pros and cons, she thinks they are all valid and in the end it depends on what the public and Design Review Committee wants and what the budget will allow. She stated that there will always be wear and tear on the grass from wetness.

E. Gallentine stated that the folks that herself and K. Fasser have spoken with out in the playground have split decisions regarding the movement of the water play. She stated that ultimately looking at the big picture budget we didn't plan for moving the water play, it was something that came out of our initial meeting and we were asked to explore it.

Charles Osbourne addressed the Committee. He isn't sure whether we leave the park the way it is or change it but the concept he we would like us to maintain and promote is that its Emerson Garden, and he feels that the garden aspect of it is what is overwhelming about it. If you step back and squint, there are some things that are primary, one is the primary trees around perimeter, the lawn there and path that mediates between the two. If he did the squint test for the concepts shown tonight it looks like an amusement park in some cases. He doesn't want to pick options, but he likes option A because its more park like, there is a purity on how the green and open space are. He thinks from that he would extrapolate how to handle a lot of the other pieces, let there be a hierarchy and organize them in a liner fashion so they don't compete.

John Bassett addressed the committee. He prefers little changes. There are two changes he likes. One is if there is a safety concerns about the play area, but he doesn't like relying on gates. He likes the open alternative in C where there is an opening in the middle. He likes the two Waverly entrances on option C.

Deidre Buckely addressed the committee. She lives on Waverly and has two kids. She thinks that Emerson is wonderful and she gets a sense that no one is trying to remake the entire garden and park. She thinks there are a few things that can be improved. You can see we love it to death and it is definitely getting a lot more use than it used to. She stated that there has been a big bump in the users. She stated with the splash pad and play area, she thinks they could be together or apart, they can work either way. She thinks it depends on what the public wants. She would prefer to have them together. She thinks with the play area, we can get a lot out of the play area with overwhelming the park. The design is critical and as you go along the design can evolve and change. She wanted to add a safety concern: the kids do use the path for roller blading and biking and those users almost colliding with kids coming out onto the path. She wonders if that is something to think about as the design develops.

Bill Anderson addressed the committee. He has heard some comments about Emerson being a paradise. He stated it's a local treasure for us. He asked if all the options are the same cost. K. Fasser stated that we will get into priorities relative to cost later in the process.

Antonia Bellalta addressed the committee. She agrees that this space is a paradise but we need to look at what this park needs for 20 years out and the condition of the plant material/trees and how much longer that will last. How will we mediate keeping the paradise for the next twenty years? She thinks that it is important, between irrigation, soil and trees there now are not in great health. She thinks that if we think about that and if we look at that and what we have left, she thinks it's important to think about our options. She wants people to see how we are reviving the paradise and having this 4 season interest in the park.

K. Fasser discussed the tree assessment that was provided by T. Brady, the Town Arborist. She discussed the plantings and the shrub plantings that are at the end of their best life span.

Tricia Marks addressed the Committee. She understands that the dedication benches would be incorporated, but she also knows that site selection is something that is very important in the donation process. She knows of one bench at Emerson that is in a specific spot looking at a specific tree and the woman whose bench this is would not want her bench to be moved elsewhere. She would like for the Committee to consider this. Secondly she would like to discuss trash barrels. She walks the park every day and she sees the trash every day. She stated that the round barrels are lovely but don't serve the purpose for the trash. She believes that having bigger square barrels that could fit the pizza boxes in it would help out. The big belly at the Emerson/Davis end is nice but once again the pizza boxes defeat it. She loves the paradise of the park. She worries about the trees a lot, she seems to water something every day of the week to keep them alive during the summer. She stated that the neighborhood loves their garden park.

E. Gallentine stated that in Concept A those entrances are exactly what we have today except that we are reusing existing granite and extending it further. The irrigation is upgraded and you have a 14 inch small fence. One of the things we heard is to protect those formal plantings from dogs and kids and the idea of the bed extended a little bit with that 14 inch fencing is to

protect that area. She stated that if you are looking to have it that way it is but to upgraded Concept A is the closest.

Brian Hocklittinher addressed the Committee. He finds it frustrating to try to weigh on comparing these options because you are seeing from 20 thousand feet and you can't see how it all falls into place on these options. He doesn't want to take away that garden feel, he likes that we preserved the lawn in all of these. All of these options in his opinion seemed to have tripled the size of playground and made it feel less garden like. He thinks the level is hard to weigh in one verses the other; they all seem to have interesting things that need to be developed.

Scott Englander addressed the Committee. He stated that it is great to see so much work and thought has been put into this. He stated that with regard to the entrances, he thinks one of the things that works well now is the flow from the crosswalks. He goes by Emerson every day and one thing he observed a lot is people choosing as an alternative to the sidewalk is choosing the path through the park. He thinks the problem in option C it looks like those desire lines are intentionally blocked, they have to enter in an unnatural way and it seems like it disrupts the flow. He stated that with regards to gathering spaces and picnic locations, he doesn't see heavy metal benches work well in this area. He thinks a good idea would be to have tables and chairs that people can move around where they want, having user configurable seating and see how it works out. He supports open ended play structure design, he supports imaginative play rather than scripted play. He stated that the space along the sidewalk along Davis there is a nice retaining wall there and he sees sometimes people sit on it. He thinks there is no reason why you couldn't address that space as part of design and make a feature instead of an obstacle. He stated that it could enhance the experience of the sidewalk along Davis.

Rhys Boyd addressed the committee. He stated that looking at the proposed designs; it seems that there is significantly less trees. E. Gallentine stated K. Fasser has't put that planting layer on yet. We imagine the end result would be healthier vegetation, more planting and that would be the goal. She is definitely hearing that from the folks here tonight, she hears it is critical and the foundation of the park. K. Fasser stated that the understory and shrub plantings are not shown at this time, to Rhys's and Brian's point she stated that from the beginning we made the assumption that we needed a larger play space and all alternatives examine that opportunity to expand the playground area. R. Boyd stated that he likes the entrances the way they are.

Bebe Nixon addressed the Committee. She stated that speaking to existing park and the feel of the park, she thinks there is serenity in this park. She likes how it is unstructured and it invites people to arrange themselves how they want to be in the park in the moment. She is seeing in all these designs are that they are trying to compartmentalize that takes away from that. She stated that there is tranquility in this space that does not exist on many places. She stated that it is her front yard. She stated that it is pitch dark at night and there are never issues in this park and there is a reason for that. She stated that there is a balance between trees, sand and water that works and keeps out danger. People look out for one another and ourselves and she doesn't feel that we need to be boxed. She feels oppressed by some of the changes being

proposed and she worries we try to fix something that is not broken. She doesn't want to lose the soul of this park, it would be just terrible.

Stephen Burrington stated that apart from the question how much play equipment will there be, he thinks there is a question on how to manage surface areas with the use that it has, so we can have the qualities we like there. He stated that something that has become noticeable, 10 years he would have called it paradise but he wouldn't call it paradise anymore. Partly because there are very large dirt areas that are compacted and it has become too shady. He stated that even if we reduce play equipment we have to figure out how to manage/space so you have something other than a lot of shady areas with compacted dirt. He thinks that maybe should speak to that question of whether if they want a smaller play area how do we make it green?

Claudine Bing addressed the Committee. She has lived here for 40 years. She wanted to speak to a problem that does not exist. She stated that we use to have to call the police nightly; she stated that kids hang out there because there were places to sit and be and she thinks that has not happened in the years because of the garden vs lots of play. She is a little reluctant to see the play area become such a big space. She stated that it's a great circuit for walking for those who are older and to preserve that is important.

Carin Aquiline addressed the committee. She wanted to second Scott's mention of the play structures that were part of the design museum. She discussed an interesting piece that kids would enjoy playing on. In terms of things we love about Emerson Park/ Garden is the way in which lots of different demographics use it. She was initially very concerned with the idea of gating off the playground area and she is trying to put herself in the shoes of people who have concerns for their younger kids. She discussed limited fencing, and one of the reasons for that is ages really mix well and play at Emerson that she doesn't see in other playgrounds. She stated that part of this is because games can flow in and out of areas and she would hate to lose that flow. She discussed how all the benches face into the field. She discussed open space areas where you could enhance the garden qualities and create passive area with planting that are not necessarily trees.

Jennifer Pieszak addressed the Committee. She noticed that if you move the splash pad over to the play area, you tip the balance of the kids to one side and it's close to the neighbors. She stated that once you move all the kids to that side it loses the balance to one side of the park.

Julie Bruno addressed the Committee. She very much agrees with Carin's comments with gating the playground and making that as minimal as possible. She stated that there is already a fence around that park. She stated that there are emails going around about gating/no gating and she doesn't want a fence around the park and then she went out and saw that there is a fence around the park. However, you don't see a fence at all and that would be her priority - an invisible fence.

Lynn Osbourne addressed the committee. She lives right across from the playground and she does not find the kid's noise a problem. She likes the idea of a separate spray pool area. She

agrees with Bebe's description of the tranquility and serenity. She raised 3 boys and there are certainly playgrounds around town that have more challenging play structures, but as a parent she always liked coming to Emerson Park because it has a positive feeling. She stated that it has something to do with the way it is set up and the balance with the big open green space and play structures.

Tara Rubenstein addressed the Committee. She has 3 kids and agrees with keeping play space open. She thinks having multiple ages it's easier having the space open, it is nice to go between. She thinks about one really great thing about Emerson is the general openness. She doesn't like the idea of a concentrated picnic area with concrete. She wonders if there is a way to do it with natural materials.

A resident addressed the Committee. His kids learned to ride bikes in Emerson and now as a much slower grandfather with two very fast grandsons we are using the park again. He stated that the idea of some enclosure /slight coral in the playground area seems like it makes sense to him as a slower grandparent. He stated that having the separate splash area makes it feel different. He stated that there is a different vibe between the splash pad vs play area. He loves having it separate.

Rhys Boyd asked that if in Design B is the hump constant or are there breaks in the hump. K. Fasser stated that the idea is that it is constant but it is not an accessible route. The only issue that he could possibly perceive is that some bikers will look to jump over it.

A resident discussed the fenced in playground at Lawrence. He stated that you could see the reasoning there, but here he wonders what is the reason for it being there? He stated that in Germany you never see fencing around a playground area. He would like to hear from the designers the playground that is included in the design - what is their thinking. E. Gallentine stated that in terms of the expanded play space, that came out of our first meeting where there was an idea that we don't want to have the play coming into the lawn and there was an opportunity to expand that area and use it more efficiently. She stated that doesn't mean that you need more play equipment, but could have more play space. The fencing itself is something that we hear in every design review that we go to. We often have parents especially under the age of 5 category that stated they want a fully fenced in play area. They want it fenced in for safety and that is the rational on why people ask for it. She stated that is what we heard at our first 2 meetings, we heard parents say that we would like the playground fenced off and it was safety reasons. She feels that we are hearing more than we have heard at any other playground about keeping it open and that is really interesting to her. She stated that there definitely seems to be much more of a sense of we're ok with this open and maybe fencing on edges but keeping that connection between play and lawn area open. She stated that is fine but we are just being responsive and that is why you are seeing both. The Green Dog Program was discussed.

Anne Trecker addressed the Committee. It can be tricky to keep dogs under control because of the smell of food. She likes it open better. She wanted to go on record to have the splash pad separated. She stated it's nicer to have it spread out.

A resident discussed the options of fully fenced in playground areas that are near Emerson.

E. Gallentine and a resident discussed different system for repurposing water.

A resident stated that he would feel more comfortable walking away tonight if the existing plus drainage and green was another option. He feels A, B and C are already too much change. He thinks leaving it alone but changing the physical things that need changes does not seem to be an option. K. Fasser stated that there are choices when replacing/upgrading existing conditions and we would like to know from the audience what you would like.

A resident stated that along those lines in sort of keeping the heart of the garden why not think with regards to benches, pool, play equipment instead of them being other elements in the park, why not think of it these are really landscape elements. The landscape is part of the playground sand so it's subdued in a way or more organic.

Stephen Burrington stated that spinning off of what Nick said, he thinks plans A and B do a lot to preserve the existing elements of the park and the things we love about it. The areas within the expanded play area where the red line is needs to be reworked. He likes A and B because of the overall elegance to the design. He thinks we can improve on Waverly/Thayer entrance. He is coming around to the idea of keeping the splash pad in its existing place. The fencing he thinks is an interesting challenge. There are a lot of things to accomplish here; he took the fencing around the play area as a way of keeping kids to bolt for entrances. A problem you create running a fence along this area is that you create a narrow corridor going into the park, and he would try to avoid that. He thinks that one thing the existing layout gets right is keeping the kids away from the path and if you have that open you will have toddlers being taken out by bicycles. He thinks that a conflict is to handle with some kind of fencing; he thinks it needs to be played with. He discussed bench layouts. He thinks creating an established place for picnic table like what you have in B is a good idea. He thinking having the only picnic area in the play area concentrates too much over in that part of park. He stated that the whole part of the park that is down towards the Emerson Entrance is too shady, its compacted and he would hate to see it all get paved over. He isn't sure what to do with it, he finds it to be a real design challenge.

Joel Pedlikin stated that he was very impressed with these three options. It's very concerning having multiple small kids in that playground right now because of the lower left corner of the park. He thinks you could get away with less fencing. He is in favor of more playground space; He does think that is a good part of the design. He was originally pushing to move the spray pad but now he is in favor of it staying where it is. The entrances and exits in C he does not like and thinks they should be taken completely off the table. In general as someone who has used this

park every day for year and half, he adores this park and nothing being proposed tonight feels like it is radically altering the feel of the park.

Antonia Osbourne stated that she likes the flow of the park and allowing people to enter the park as they choose. She doesn't think putting planting there would stop a kid from running out. She does feel that issue would be solved by maybe opening up and taking away blind spots from the entrances, maybe taking planting from entrances and moving planting into the park. This way you are walking in the park you get to walk by a big wide planting. She thinks you could enjoy plantings in park instead of being concentrated in the entrances. She thinks maybe a nice low seating wall would be nice. She discussed making bike friendly paths (widening the paths). She discussed making part of the path wider along Davis so it becomes a safe oasis in the park. She also thinks that water play where it seems to keep a nice balance to the park. She would vote to make it maybe visually appealing, because during the winters where its covered with snow something like that so that benches there will serve a purpose during the winter. She would like to eliminate the evergreens that are around the benches, she personally does not find them appealing. She thinks a nice passive seating area could be incorporated, she thinks a half circle wall could be a great place to sit with your friends and chat. She loves the checker board tables. She discussed different types of seating that she would like to see placed within the park. She stated that she likes keeping the entrances open, eliminating blind spots and enhancing the garden. This will allow you to enter and be walking down this path and be surrounded by nature.

Clara Batchleor thinks people have agreed on a lot of things. She stated that the entrances stay as they are and she likes that to. She thinks it works for the neighborhood and that's what they like. She thinks that water play area and picnic tables should be separated. She stated that scheme one that has two smaller picnic areas could accomplish that. She stated that someone mentioned movable furniture and she thinks that could be great. She thinks it would be a nice way to implement having an extra picnic table or few extra chairs, maybe have an experiment with this park. She hopes the next time we get together we can discussed play equipment and discussed the kind, placement and density of the equipment. =

Nancy O'Connor discussed fencing. She wanted to mention that she agrees that C, she feels like that it is too much for entrances and exits. She stated that picking up on Waverly and Thayer area having the entrance in the in center and having them line up with the crosswalk is important, she wonders if the entrance in the center of the intersection isn't such a great idea or lining it up with crosswalk might be safer. She stated that in terms of playground color, she doesn't think anyone in this room would put anything that would be in McDonalds put at this park. She stated that we need to keep coming, talking and seeing what our options are. This is a special place and she agrees with everything everyone says. She felt from the first meeting when the water play was discussed that we don't need a gazillion jets. She thinks the simplest water feature is fine and she agrees that the right spot for it is where it exists. She stated that we take this design process very seriously and it's a very dear and exciting project. The memorial benches were discussed. K. Fasser gave examples of alternative seating pieces that go with the current memorial benches.

James Carroll stated that he has been staring at these pictures all night and he finds this park to really be an island and it's completely segregated onto itself. He stated that it's not a standard park. He doesn't see a reason to do anything dramatic to this park. He stated from what he heard there is no reason to make any dramatic changes, he thinks the entrances work good and he likes option B. He thinks the splash pad works where it is. He would rather see any extra money go into the infrastructure/bones of that park. He agrees that the picnic area should not be with the splash pad. He would like to see the picnic tables spread out in the shade. He stated that one of the bigger concerns we heard originally is a lot of the daycare centers are coming down and he thinks it's important to have a playground destination. He thinks it is important to keep those kids in an area where they are well supervised and contained. He doesn't like a fenced-in area but a contained area is good so you don't have a lot of extra wear and tear on the rest of the park. He thinks it will be key to think about what kind of equipment can go there. He stated if it isn't broke don't fix it.

J. Bain is pleased to hear from everyone tonight. He stated that in looking at these schemes he doesn't see major change in the park itself with exception to maybe the playground area. He thinks the staff we have on board will preserve the integrity of the park itself, with the plantings and keep it the way it is. He grew up near Emerson Park and he hasn't seen much change over the years in terms as far as the layout and how the park is used. It is a great park and it is everyone's backyard. He agrees with comments tonight regarding the entrances, he is hearing they should remain as is. He is very cornered with the big intersection at the corner of Thayer and Waverly, he would like to see youngsters step onto the sidewalk and the first thing they see is a crosswalk. He would like to see a four way stop there and we can bring that idea to the Transportation Department. He is sure that Erin Gallentine and her team will maintain the integrity of the park.

The wall along Davis was discussed.

E. Gallentine wanted to thank everyone from coming and stated that we got a tremendous amount of feedback tonight. The majority of K. Fasser's time was spent on utilities, grading and figuring out what do we need to do to repair the lawns and the paths. She stated that we have a great grading plan and an approach for refurbishing the turf. She has heard loud and clear about the openness, about keeping the splash pad where it is, about having a meaningful planting plan that shows what we have for existing trees and shrubs and what is our strategy for infill planting and replacement planting. She thinks with that we can upgrade what we have and present that at next meeting with options for play. She stated that we can then get feedback and then have another meeting after that. She stated that we will have options for play and plantings and review it at the next meeting.

J. Bain moved to adjourn. Seconded by N. O'Connor. All in favor.

