

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
June 24, 2013
Town Hall – Cahill Auditorium

Present: Elizabeth Mees (Chair) Kate Nedelman-Herbst
Paul Carr Al Varraso
Ron Frazier

Also Present: Gerard Timmons, Charlotte Rose Kelly Playground Committee
Laura Graziano, Charlotte Rose Kelly Playground Committee
Barbara Tennison, Commission on Disabilities

Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Charlotte Rose Playground – French’s Common: The Chair, Elizabeth Mees recapped from the June 3, 2013 meeting discussions and items the Historical Commission had discussed or asked for from the representatives of the committee. Gerard Timmons provided the commission with handouts and explained since the last meeting, the Town’s engineering department had gone out and plotted a plan of the existing playground structures and the proposed structures. He checked with the building department no permit is needed and according the building department there is an accessible route from Tremont Street. The new equipment will take less space than what exists out there today. He also provided pictures of the existing equipment for members to view. Mr. Timmons noted that the orange and purple is still desired as to the color of the equipment and brought with him paint chips to show the commission. He noted that a letter had been sent by the Mayor providing authorization for the Town land to be used for this project – members were provided with copies. He noted that the Disney Store has donated funds for a tree and the committee has a “memory board” that they wish to install as well. Looking at the handouts provided, the Chair questioned the orientation of the structures to the street and wanted confirmation that the pictures shown here tonight have gray on the façade is purple for the roof and purple plastic slides and orange climbing walls – seems colors were moved around from the last meeting handouts. Kate Nedelman Herbst questioned the colors and if there is a bench proposed? Mr. Timmons said there is existing benches and if good condition will stay if they raise additional funds they will consider more benches. Paul Carr commented that he was not at the last meeting and this is the first he has seen of this proposal – who do you propose will use this and is there parking for residents who want to visit and why this location. Mr. Timmons explained that initially they met with the Mayor on this and it was at his suggestion that this location be used to “clean it up” and parking is available at both Tremont Street and the Town Hall parking lot. Al Varraso noted that Tremont Street is very narrow. Laura Graziano questioned the committee as to what is historical in this playground area? Mr. Timmons added that it is a benefit to the Town at no cost. Paul Carr questioned who will maintain this play area and Mr. Timmons commented it should not require any maintenance and if it did he would be the responsible party.

The Chair commented that since there is no building permit or Zoning Board of Appeals permit are necessary for installation of the equipment the Historical Commission really has no jurisdiction however the commission is concern with the precedent that this type of structure presents to the local historic

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district. Barbara Tennison of the Commission of Disability commented that there is a lot of confusion in the Town departments as to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as to administration and accountability. She commented the Inspectional Services and the recreation department needs to verify this is accessible to all; there is an accessible route to the equipment and parking. The Chair commented that the Historical Commission are “stewards” for the district and explained that normally if a building permit is to be obtained the applicant comes before the commission to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness, however this is a different situation since no permits are required. The Chair suggested a draft letter with suggestions be developed and sent to the Mayor addressing issues such as; Use of subdued colors given its placement in the Local Historic District, We agree with the placement of reasonable plaque providing acknowledgment and a strong recommendation for consultation with the neighbors to educate what is going to be installed. Discussion as to the visibility from the street was raised and given its location it appears to be well behind the courts from Tremont and under the trees from JFK Memorial Drive. Members felt the accessibility is an issue that should be addressed.

Ron Frazier **MOTION** to send a letter to the Mayor, copied to the Charlotte Rose Committee, that explains since there is no building permit required that the Historical Commission can only make recommendations that the Mayor address the issues of use of subdued colors, consultation with the neighborhood, placement of a plaque, maintenance and ADA accessibility and regulatory requirements, seconded by Paul Carr – unanimously voted. Ms. Graziano and Mr. Timmons thanked the committee and departed the meeting.

Old Business:

Old Thayer Front Doors – At the last meeting Paul and Al were absent so the discussion of whether the doors should be painted or stained was continued. Members reviewed the conceptual renderings of the doors provided by BH+A. Elizabeth noted that heavy duty paint – “scuff master” is being used for these types of entries – to help with maintenance. Christine commented that the members should look at the front doors of Town Hall – those were stained – they get direct sunlight and are on a northeast face – maintenance of the doors has not been accomplished as to oil/stain. Paul Carr noted this is prominent entry and he feels that in the past they were probably stained. Discussion continued as to the pros and cons of each option. Christine commented that decisions need to be made in order to not lose this construction season. Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to approve the design of the doors as designed, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted. Ron Frazier commented that if stained the type of wood will be critical to the appearance – does anyone have an idea of what will be used. Elizabeth Mees suggested BH+A be asked about an “add/deduct” in the specifications for both options. Paul Carr **MOTION** to require a stain grade front door conditional on the appropriate wood stock is utilized, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Historic Inventory Project – Christine reported that the contract is at the Town awaiting endorsement of the Mayor should be done shortly.

RFQ/RFP Town Hall Assessment – The solicitation is out however an issue has arisen with a letter sent from the Boston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) challenging the Town’s solicitation for a price. The issue is being reviewed by the Town Solicitor and Procurement Officer and more than likely an addendum will be issued extending the time.

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Administrative:

Members agreed to set up a meeting for 8/12/13 to be determined by the chair if needed.

Ron Frazier **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 5/6/13 and 6/3/13, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paul Carr – unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney