

Meeting Notes



Project
Dudley Town Common

Client
Boston Parks and Recreation Dept.

Meeting Date
March 16, 2022

Issue Date
February 3, 2023

Attendees (Virtual)

Nathan Frazee (BPRD)

Naomi Cottrell (CC)

Jean-Paul Charboneau (CC)

Community Members

Representatives from Dudley Square Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), Dorchester Food Co-Op, and The Food Project

+ Open House Meeting - First Community Meeting

Crowley Cottrell prepared slides for a virtual, open-house style meeting. CC presented existing conditions drawings, site analysis, and their observation to start a dialog with the community about how the park is used and how they would like to see it improved. The zoom presentation was followed by a question and answer / feedback session. There were roughly 4 people in attendance.

+ Existing Conditions, Analysis, and Site Observations

Dudley Town Common ("DTC"), which was last renovated in 1996, consists of two disconnected sites: the "Northern Site" or "DTC North," located at the the intersection of Dudley and Hampden Streets and the "Southern Site" or "DTC South," located at the intersection of Blue Hill Avenue and Dudley Street. The two sites are located at the edge of a residential neighborhood in Roxbury, near commercial and light industry which is in the process of change and development. Both sites have a separate, distinct character.

DTC South is more frequented and visible and the site of the farmer's market during the summer. It was originally conceived and designed to be a stage, however the noise and traffic from adjacent streets have made hosting outdoor performances difficult and infrequent. The site feels chopped up into different zones, further amplified by its stepped condition. Most of the current activity and gatherings, including the farmer's market, occur in the central zone only, or "plaza level." There is very little activity outside the central zone. The site feels under-utilized with some trees removed and not replaced, interior pole lights and pergola powered off. However there are many notable features which give it a unique charm. Features include: pergola/shade structure, clock tower to silhouette figures, musical notes on perimeter fence, engraved bricks, and mosaic tile inlays.

Though slides were also prepared for DTC North, the attendees were especially focused on and intesteded in DTC South. In the interest of time and to have a more extensive conversation of the southern site, DTC North was not discussed.



+ Community Feedback

Comments, both positive and negative, included:

Site feels very small. The wait for farmer's market can be significant which further constricts movement.

Site feels exposed and there is a lack of shade.

Not enough trash receptacles or seating.

Vendors loading and unloading for farmer's market is difficult.

Desire for more comfort and lighting.

Small size of the site facilitates community engagement and outreach.

Close to neighborhood and pedestrian access.

Though next to a busy intersection, the site is a good place to promote future events with banners.

Ideas for future uses of DTC: art park or maker space.

Better highlight the history and showcase the neighborhood.

Desire for flexible and open space, updated with modern technology and materials.

Next Steps

CC and BPRD will continue outreach with the neighborhood and community organizations to raise awareness for the project. CC will illustrate and present conceptual site plan options and ideas for future improvements for Dudley Town Common for the next public meeting.