

**Junction Village Open Space
Task Force
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2021
Online Zoom Video Session**

Pursuant to a notice and agenda filed with the Town Clerk, the Junction Village Open Space Task Force met at 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 15, 2021, and held a virtual online public meeting via <https://zoom.us>.

Members present: Harry Bartlett, Sue Felshin (clerk), Carlene Hempel, (chair).

Members absent: Christa Collins, Robert Hartman

Also present: Peter Lowitt, liaison from the Concord Housing Development Corporation (CHDC); Elizabeth Rust, Director, Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO); Linda Escobedo, Select Board liaison; William (Bill) Murray of PLACES.

The meeting was called to order by Carlene Hempel at 5:02 p.m.

Minutes:

The Task Force voted to approve the minutes of Sept. 2 and Sept. 8, as amended. The vote was: Harry Bartlett, yes; Sue Felshin, yes; Carlene Hempel, yes.

Planning:

Intro by Carlene Hempel discussed funding amounts and there will be at least 2 phases.

Moved on to a review of the design schemes. Carlene brought up Christa Collins's thoughts about the designs. Would like to see other park projects Bill has done. Concerns about the amphitheater. She'd like to see a 3d rendering. Likes scheme 2 and identifying trees. Scheme 3 - likes depressed circular lawn, not 'tombstone' shape, more stone dust, less pavement. Connect path to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at the south end rather than the road. Interested in branding.

Most attendees like designs 1 & 2 with adjustments. Sue likes a single path and the overall design simplified and not so busy. Keep the lookouts and side shoots but just one path.

Carlene doesn't want to de-emphasize the east natural side - likes having lookouts and some interpretive panels. Liz prefers the east path not connect to the driveway and scheme #1 how it connects to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at the south. She likes the bike rack on the South side as well but doesn't want this to be the principal entrance.

Keep the amphitheater, suggested by Carlene and others agree, but a more minimal approach. Bill said it could have a low seat wall, depressed lawn, and a simple stage, e.g., patio-like surface or lawn area. Liz likes the hard surface. Sue brought up handicap access - would need pavement around seat wall for handicap access. Sue recommends the theater only part handicap access or a way for people who aren't nimble to access easily, to balance access with minimal paving.

Positive response to the art exhibit area on the north side and the screening trees there. Places for art and benches on the east side as well as lookouts says Carlene. Sue likes keeping one 'fiddle head' side path. Preserve the sumac grove, keep a side path that dead-ends so people can gather there.

Liz asked, how will residents of assisted living access the park? Best to connect to the east side with a path and bench. Peter suggests access also on the north side to the park.

Peter/Linda/Sue like an informal theater, grassy area, depression. Liz likes the round one that is depressed as shown in scheme 2.

Consensus: show options - one with a formal performing space (round scheme 2) and one with the informal natural 'recessed' low impact space. One unified path. Preservation of trees and sumac is important. Keep the art displays, e.g., plinths. Two options for art - one with a central area and another with plinths spread throughout the park. Need for the curation of art, no shortage of artists interested.

Positive feedback for scheme 1 west side entranceway - most popular entrance with larger areas for people to gather with interpretive panels and benches and smaller 'cauliflower' personal spaces with a bench. Scheme 1 is more focused, less chaotic than scheme 2. Need for two options for the west more formal entrance to offer to the public. New option with less lawn and more organized space.

Harry mentioned that the "Strawberry Fields" memorial for John Lennon in Central Park New York could be a good inspiration for combining natural space and a thematic ideal. The focal point is a circular pathway mosaic of inlaid stones, with a single word, the title of Lennon's most famous song "Imagine." ([Wikipedia](#))



Maybe the Junction Village park could include a thematic focal point around social justice or another similar theme, e.g., Hope.

Bill will provide 2 plans for the next meeting. The committee will wordsmith. Bill thinks there will be one more round of revisions after the next meeting, then the presentation to the public 10/14 which is the main public hearing.

The Task Force voted to adjourn at 5:59 p.m. The vote was: Harry Bartlett, yes; Sue Felshin, yes; Carlene Hempel, yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry Bartlett