

**BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**  
**URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE ADVISORY PANEL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** September 14, 2023

**Meeting #82**

**Project:** Rash Field Phase #2

**Phase:** Design Development

---

**Location:** Inner Harbor

---

**CONTEXT/BACKGROUND:**

Peng Gu introduced the project, thanked the panel for their previous comments, and reviewed the comments received from the panel initially. The Pride of Baltimore has been removed from the presentation as the design team works with the Pride of Baltimore stakeholders. The team worked to develop a clear hierarchy within the pathway system with four tiers – promenade, major circulation with trees, secondary circulation all at elevation 12', and garden walk. Additionally, the team worked to refine the transition between spaces and to allow for the various spaces to breathe.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Panel thanked the team for the clear and easy to follow presentation. The Panel then moved into clarifying questions and comments.

**Clarification:**

- *Is your interpretation of universal access that this access is regulated to the pathways? That's part of it, correct – however, the 12' elevation is all open for everyone to enjoy, both at the paths and green space.*
- *Is there any opportunity for art display within the park? Yes, we are already engaging with an artist for one aspect, we anticipate many more opportunities throughout the site.*
- *Along Key Highway, can you show what is between the two entries? There is a multi-modal path that is separated from Key Highway by a slightly sloped green space.*
- *What is happening at the area at elevation between 15' and 18'? This is the garden space – pollinator and rock gardens with lots of nature and texture.*

**COMMENTS:**

- Thank you, this is such a beautiful response to the comments received at the previous meeting. Really appreciate all the effort from the team to advance the project in a clear methodical way. This is intentional for this site, belongs here. You acknowledge two major thoroughfares skillfully linked through the large grade change. Appreciate that you've paid attention to universal access.
-

- Previously the beach seemed wedged against the highway and not along the water – very positive change that it’s really addressing the water in a more deliberately along with a larger buffer against the highway.
- The pathway hierarchy is a significant improvement – the pathway system becomes an experience on its own. Love that they have different character providing unique experiences.
- Along with that, the refinement of the plant ecologies to create an immersive experience works well, allowing for passive learning along with the active learning component.
- The use of different edge conditions creates a tactile human experience for the areas of transition that will be welcoming to people of all ages and abilities. Make sure these blurred edges are retained as the project moves forward, and they don’t become too ordered or structured.
- The promenade celebrates the water’s edge in a more intentional way. Intuitively everyone can come and sit and look toward the water – no areas where there is conversational seating. Consider adding areas where seating faces each other. Should be some seating looking towards the field.
- The entrances create a more pronounced sense of arrival, and not just a pass-through space. Creating prospect points and allow glimpse views before moving into the park itself allow for more intentional experiences.
- Would love to see the opportunities for art. The current design doesn’t include many vertical elements, except for within the plaza area. Consider the use of art pieces and other vertical structures that can help guide visitors.
- The main circulation thoroughfare is such a great improvement through the park with two sided allee of trees is extremely important – it takes advantage of the way we’ve been conditioned to read cities, reminiscent of a boulevard. The narrower pathways are then matched with the appropriate scale and variety of planting, much like a neighborhood street.
- The soft geometry of the park edge signals a relationship to the water’s edge that is aspirational, suggesting a different experience than what is there now, such as a more natural harbor bulkhead, is possible. The design is allowing for future changes.
- Curious if you intend for the chaise lounges at the beach to be moveable or if they should be fixed? Consider something similar to the elements used along the Highline which are fixed in place and part of the deck.
- With respect to the shade structures throughout the park, they have the opportunity to read like follies and be strategically deployed to define space. Currently they appear to be either pergolas or tessellations – this project is iconic enough that it deserves to have its own language. Make these become the structures of Rash Field. They can change slightly based on their location, but are recognizable as part of the lore of the space. It’s good to have those elements that can bring the familiar no matter where you are in the park.

**Next Steps:**

Continue working with Planning staff to address the panel’s comments.

**Attending:**

Laurie Schwartz, Marco Greenberg – Waterfront Partnership  
Peng Gu, Michael Humes – Mahan Rykiel

Morgan Simpson, Kevin Lynch, Heidi Thomas, JP, BZ, Jeff LaNoue, Peter Smith - Attendees

Anthony Osbourne, Sharon Bradley and Pavlina Ilieva\* - UDAAP Panel  
Ren Southard, Caitlin Audette\*\*, Matt DeSantis, Eric Tiso - Planning

\* UDAAP Chairperson

\*\* Assigned Planning Staff