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SITE PLANNING | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | OPEN SPACE PLANNING

MEMO

To: New Bedford Conservation Commission

Sarah Porter, Agent

From: Ben Gary, RLA

CC: Mary Rapoza, , Director

Park, Recreation & Beaches, NB

Date: March 8, 2017 Revised April 17, 2017

Project: NOAH'S Place Playground, New Bedford

The following **plans** are included in the **Notice of Intent** for the proposed public playground at Popes Island Marina:

EX-1 Existing Survey
L-1 Site Plan
USGS Survey 1990 (Site Location)

Project Description
The proposed, public playground is located at the east end of Popes Island off Route 6 where the Acushnet River flows into the New Bedford – Fairhaven Harbor. The primary facility currently located on the Island is the Popes Island Marina with associated docks and parking.

The site for the proposed playground is currently undeveloped except for a Quonset-type structure for storage of boats, benches and a small play area. The ground cover is grass with bare soil areas (Used by Contractor for recent repairs to the Fairhaven Bridge over the Acushnet River.). There are a few shade trees near Route 6. (See attached photographs.)

The NOAH Foundation is proposing to construct a public playground consisting of play equipment, memorial garden, picnic tables, trash receptacles, shade trees, lawn areas and a terrace with a sculpture in memory of Noah Fernandes. The playground will be enclosed by a wrought iron fence and there will be security lighting. The Foundation will have a license agreement for the land from the City and will be responsible for constructing and maintaining the playground facility.

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Coastal Bank and Coastal Storm Flowage

The site for the proposed playground is surrounded on two sides (east and south) by a stone rip rap Coastal Bank. Route 6 abuts the site to the north and the parking for the Popes Island Marina to the west.

A portion of the southeast corner the site adjacent to the Coastal Bank is below elevation 6.0. According to the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) this area is subject to coastal storm flowage.

Approximately 3500 square feet of the project are in the coastal storm flowage of which most is covered with a poured in place, pervious, rubber safety surface The proposed pavement for the playground is a poured in place, porous rubber safety surface 2-4 inches thick placed on a 6" deep compacted crushed stone base on a compacted subgrade. This surface allows storm water to percolate into the soil and not cause erosion. (See detail No. 4 on the Site Plan Drawing.) This surface is stable and can withstand flooding. The balance of this area will be lawn.

With respect to the project being in the Coastal Bank and Coastal Storm Flowage the objective is to construct and to maintain a project in a manner that protects the public interests having no adverse effect on the environment. To this end during construction a line of straw waddles will be installed and maintained around the entire construction site. (See detail No. 1 on the Site Plan drawing.)

Overall Design

The NOAH'S PLACE PLAYGROUND design begins with a walk from the existing parking through a gate in the perimeter fence to a gathering area which includes benches, memorial garden with raised beds for planting, picnic tables highlighted by a sculpture in memory of Noah Fernandes. (A 10' gate will be for emergency equipment and maintenance.) The playground itself has a wide range of play structures offering a great variety of play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities with special emphasis in providing equipment of physically and mentally challenged children. There is a special swing and carousal for children in wheelchairs.

Around the perimeter of the playground is a walk that is generally level with some slopes, corrugated sections and shallow bumps and dips. The entire playground including the entry is handicapped accessible.

Surface materials include lawns, porous rubber safety surface under the play equipment, a synthetic turf hill with slides, concrete unit pavers for the walk and entry terrace are proposed. The pavers will be set on a 6 inch thick crushed stone base with stone dust filled joints. Irrigated lawn areas will be constructed of a 6 inch depth of loam with sod.

Construction

The schedule for construction will begin with the installation of a temporary chain link fence and erosion controls (straw waddles) around the perimeter of the construction area. Loam will be stripped, screened and stockpiled. The subgrade of the site will be established with gravel borrow. The next step is to excavate for footings including playground equipment, fence and benches then assemble and place the equipment, followed by the pouring of concrete foundations.

Crushed stone will be placed over the area of the poured in place rubber surface, walks and terraces after which the surface will be installed. After loam for lawn area is spread and the irrigation installed the concrete unit pavers will be placed on the crushed stone base. The wrought iron fence will be installed followed by sodding and planting of trees. The temporary construction will be removed and after inspection of the site, the straw waddles can be removed.

Playground Equipment

The playground surface follows the existing ground surface sloping 1-2% across the site towards the Harbor. The play equipment and perimeter fence will be anchored in concrete footings. The concrete footings for the play equipment are generally 18" in diameter and a minimum of 34" deep and are designed for 90 mph winds. (See detail No. 2 on Site Plan drawing.) At the west end of the playground two paved, handicap parking spaces are added to the existing driveway. (See detail No. 3 on the Site Plan drawing.)