

## **PARK DESIGN MEETING**

**3/27/07**

Chairman Dawn Barnhart, Jill Young, Colin Devonshire and Sheila Cheimets of the Parks Committee met with Icon Engineering, the firm that is translating the conceptual landscape design into engineering plans, and Angela Murray, the project manager for the parks from Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The meeting was called to consider the following details of the design:

**The Fountains** – The fountains specified in the landscaping plan were made of cement and were not in keeping with the Victorian style of the parks' surroundings. It was agreed that black cast iron fountains in a shape that echoed the shape of the original central fountain in the park were more suitable. These would be similar, but not identical, to fountains in other parks in the South End, such as the one in Worcester Square.

Sample fountains ranged from 3'8" to 11' in height with bases ranging from 10' in diameter to 33' in diameter. The tentative choice made was of a three-tiered fountain 7'11" high on a 12' diameter base as being best in scale with the park's dimensions.

**Base of Fountain** – It was agreed that a curving granite base about 14" high with a smooth, not rusticated finish, was most appropriate in style. This height would allow the base to be used for seating as well.

**Benches** – There was a good deal of discussion about the style and size of benches. Long, unobstructed benches can be used for sleeping; custom-made curved benches are very expensive; some cast iron benches are very modern in style. Tentative agreement was reached on 4' or 6' black metal benches with wooden slats and Victorian detail. The benches will not curve but they will be placed around the curved base of the fountains so as to make an arc. The committee members were asked to visit Copley Place which has very luxurious benches to see if they are enough more comfortable to warrant the price difference.

**Planter Wall** – The short section of wall behind the fountain in each park will be made of granite, will be a planter and will replace that section of park fence in order to provide some visual buffer from traffic for those sitting around the fountain.

**Bollards** – There will be granite bollards on each side of each entrance to the parks to make a handsome visual signal marking the entrances.

**Fence** – The caps on the top of the present fence sections must be replaced because leaking water is rotting out the fence in places.