Designer Selection Committee (Interviews)

16 June 2020

City of Salem Participants: Jenna Ide, Mike Lutrzykowski, Elizabeth Peterson, Trish O’Brien, Esmerelda Bisono

Spencer Silver Vogt

Meeting began at 12noon

Participants:

Lynne Spencer, Principal for Preservation

Gerald Sullivan, Principal for architecture

Curtis Perrin, Project Manager

Bill Finch, Finch & Rose

Michael Burrey, Plymouth (experienced craftsman and educator)

John Wathne, local structural engineer

Tracy Adamski, T&B for civil

Chuck Kozlowski, Halvorson

Wozny Barber, MEP

Lynne: very forward-thinking project. Put together a broad team. Previously director of Historic New England when resources were slim. We have appreciation of Salem’s very rich history.

Lynne described the following Process:

1. Historical Precedents
2. Design Objectives
3. Operations plan
4. Charette with educators, city and local partners (added to City’s outline of requirements
5. Coordination with consultants in development of Core Ideas
6. Initial development of 3 design alternatives
7. Global Workshop
8. Public presentation of Design Alternatives
9. Acceptance of selected design & development of cost estimate schedule

Curtis talked about Performativity: shared photo of the original festivities. Theatrical.

John Wathne

Michael Burrey, was at Plymouth Plantation, rebuilding structures

Curtis spoke about Frameworks. Landscape as a framework for understanding.

Gerry: new site is tied in with Salem through Collins Cove and Memorial Drive. Need to make a threshold: visitor’s center.

Curtis: Strawberry Banke, Danvers wedding facility at Endicott Park.

Chuck Kozlowski of Halvorson: landscape design needs to provide universal access.

Tracy Adamski: looking at grading in partnership with landscape design

Curtis: shared photos of earlier Naumkeag buildings, built for a pandemic. Openness of these structures is a model.

Lynne spoke about Continuous Construction and handed off to John Wathne. Do a survey, prepare them for a move, proposed to ship by water.

Curtis: spoke about participation of Wozny Barbour. Also Hocus Pocus.

Lynne: what does it mean for different cultures to encounter each other. Displacement, integration.

Questions concluded at 12:39.

Elizabeth: does anyone from this team have experience working with the indigenous community at other sites? Curtis is a descendant of John Elliott, participates in indigenous meetings because of continued relationship between descendants of Elliott and indigenous descendants. Lynne chimed in that this was one of the reasons for the charrette to ensure their enclusion. Wish Donald Priory was able to participate. He was retained by the City to act as William Bentley.

Jenna: what are the implications of the ledge and underground conditions for the project? Chuck recommended working with the ledge and uneven site: access challenges, but can produce a much better final solution.

Jenna: importance of landscape architecture and preservationist is critical. Want to make sure that those members of the team will be engaged in the early design phase. Lynne described her work at the Wayside Inn.

Mike: good presentation. Appreciate that you want to work with the grade not fight it.

Jenna: hope to execute a contract in early July. May have follow up questions.

Lynne: what most excites Elizabeth about project? Elizabeth: correcting the missed opportunity and the missing voices of the indigenous population. Curtis: the encounter between two peoples. Photo show an openness which was later betrayed.

Oudens Ello Interview

Participants: Matt Oudens, Chris Genter, Virginia Adams, Matt Kirchman, Glen

Matt Oudens: principal, summarized team and background

Virginia: summarized PAL experience

Matt Kirchman: Based in Salem. Have been responsible for interacting with visitors on multiple sites. 3 recent projects: Plimoth Plantation (identifying voice of environment), House of the Seven Gables (visitor engagement plan), Bok Tower Gardens (exhibition planning and design).

Setting the Stage in Salem.

Glen showed historic aerial photos the Neck, described vegetation, explained diagrams of opportunities and challenges. Took a pass at a couple of site development strategies.

Chris discussed looking at use of local materials, and flexible uses. Noted sustainable approaches on the prior projects.

Matt: Why us? Collaborative team, good listeners. Process is not new to us, but projects for institutions like yours are a once in a lifetime opportunity. We are as invested in the projects as our clients are.

Jenna: did a study at Willows: site could be called the Norway Maples, rather than the Willows.

Elizabeth: really appreciate your ideas presented. My primary questions have been answered (experience with indigenous experience and visitor experience). As we approach quadricentennial, I feel the city has a responsibility and an opportunity to teach on an international level. Use the Pioneer Village and the coexistence of the European settlers and the Naumkeag indigenous people: probably not a perfect relationship. But it is an opportunity to reframe this discussion. You don’t want this to just be about this one period of time. Matt: origin of living history museum. The idea of redefining living and immersive history. Does get at the contemporary stewardship, tolerance of other views. Virginia: in terms of what we knew in 1926, and what we know now: a lot of it has come from archaeological work. We are uniquely able to assist with this. Would there have been a fence? PAL has access to answer these questions. We work with Wampanoags, Narragansetts, others. Glen: what really excites me about this project is our interest in creating a narrative connection to natural systems. The ability of have two different immersive experience: contemporary ecology and the way people had to depend on the environment then (had to depend) and now (learning that we must depend).

Mike: approach to creating an accessible site. Matt: we think topography will allow us to create a more interesting visitor experience. Much more immersive feel.

Jenna: want to make sure the critical consultants are involved at the very beginning. Matt confirmed, but everyone will be involved. Cost estimator will DEFINITELY be involved.

Bh+a Interview

Participants: Joel Bargmann, Tom Scarlata, Kyle Zick, Guy Hermann, Jason Thornton

Tom: Principal in Charge. Joel will be leading design and meetings.

Joel: walked through Minute Man Park and the similarities. Interpretation is out on the site and available year-round. People coming to Winter Island: enriching the value of your Pioneer Village assets.

Kyle: described Saugus Ironworks project. Integrated into a residential area.

Joel: Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site. How do you knit things together? Trail system was overlaid on a series of defense roads: pedestrians, bikes and electric trolley paths with markers.

Joel: Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. Maintenance shed was the original marker. Took maintenance shed, relocated it and created a small visitor’s center.

Tom: Net Zero. Plymouth Road Portico. Small solar panels on top of the portico provide electricity for lights for the structure.

Your project:

Context: off the beaten path. Camp Naumkeag is a great opportunity. Kyle spoke about it as a member of family of recreational and historic sites. Want you to be able to get maximum from Visitor’s building: how do you have an experience on this site. How you respect privacy and have buffer for residences.

Permitting. Tom reviewed. Working closely with Epsilon.

Why us? Experience with visitor experience, visitor centers, restoration of historic structures, Chapter 149a experience (exhibits will be Chapter 30B), National parks Service in Salem.

Elizabeth: how would you approach interpretation? Guy cut his teeth working at Mystic Seaport. What is the story you want to tell? Story telling potential. Who knows where it would go? All the good ideas are out there.

Elizabeth: does anyone have team working with the indigenous community? Tom described work at the Pleasant Point Reservation. Passamaquoddy group was able to fully fund the project.

Kyle did a master plan for the ??? in Rhode Island. Have also worked with Pequots and Mohegan at Mystic. Guy has worked with group in northern Connecticut as well as British Columbia.

Mike: what are your initial thoughts about entry off Memorial Drive? Kyle referenced diagram, talked about possibility of filling and using pervious pavement.

Jenna: talk about approach to process. Joel: it is grabbing on to what the asset is and developing the best visitor experience. One way to hold this altogether might be to resurrect play and bring it into visitor center. Came out of early 20th century romanticism and patriotism.

Jenna: want to ensure that all of consultants are included early. Tom talked about importance of Epsilon in early permitting discussions.

Elizabeth: what thoughts have you had about pedestrian connection. Kyle talked about strenuous hike to Fort Lee. Do I just want a foot trail? Or experience it as a defensive element? More of a back country foot trail. When you get to Memorial Drive, is there kind of signifiers of pedestrians or bikes. Joel noted attraction to Winter Island.

Jenna asked if they have questions.

Joel: asked about living history. Elizabeth noted it was important to have some kind of living history component in deference to George Dowd’s original vision. Putting panels in for the first time so that people can move around and augmenting with staff. 3rd person interpretation. Happy to explore what that could mean for the future. Kyle noted that part of the opportunity is to tell the story of preservation through the project. Elizabeth noted that they key players (including the landscape architect) will be honored.

Wrap up:

Need references, minimum of three.