

Proposed Fan Pier park receives OK from Boston Civic Design Commission

By Patrick D. Rosso, Town Correspondent

As the Fallon Company works to complete its massive project at South Boston's Fan Pier parcel, a smaller portion of the project recently got the OK from the Boston Civic Design Commission.

A park proposed for in front of the development's new condominium complex and adjacent to the Fan Pier Marina was received warmly Tuesday by the commission, which helps guide development design.

The park, while the smallest portion of the massive development that will add hundreds of new offices, residents, and retail to the 21-acre site, is expected to bring a new life and green space to the shore, which was once home to a number of commercial/industrial uses.

It will feature grass, sitting areas, a tot-lot, tidal well, and planting boxes, and will be built after the construction of the new condo building. The park is expected to be completed in 2015.

Offering views of the city, harbor, and emerging Waterfront neighborhood, the project will also include the construction of a plaza between the condo building and the park, as well as some public realm improvements, including work on the HarborWalk and the installation of a lookout terrace over the water.

"We're trying to create nice, habitable spaces here," said Skip Burck, a landscape architect with Richard Burck Associates, the designer of the park.

Although the park is part of the much larger development envisioned for the site, many on the commission expressed a lot of interest in it, mostly critiquing small parts of the design including the need for more seating space and the use of certain materials.

"I walk by there every weekend and this will be a pleasure," said Andrea Leers, a member of the commission. "But having some seating would be welcome."

The park design was approved by the commission Tuesday, but discussions on its design are likely to continue as developers meet with the commission on the larger residential portion of the project.