

The following is a status update on the Payne Maryland project from the City of Saint Paul in conjunction with the Payne Maryland Partnership:

Status

The Payne Maryland Project is about much more than a building. It's about a new vision for how diverse organizations can work together to make a positive change in the neighborhood, offering a wider array of cost effective programming and services than any individual organization could provide on its own. This new vision celebrates the heritage of the East Side and its values of innovation, cooperation and pride. And it is this vision that will be the foundation for a new building---a new place that has the potential to become the symbolic heart and soul of the Payne Maryland neighborhood for generations to come.

Support for the Payne Maryland vision is growing and progress is underway. The goal is to provide state of the art facilities and community programming at the earliest possible date. In pursuit of that goal, the City of Saint Paul has secured \$14 million in federal funding which will enable the City to move forward with phase one of the Payne Maryland project to include a new public library and recreation center. Phase two, which will house non profit organizations and private business, will be planned and designed cooperatively with phase one and will proceed as private financial support is confirmed through the major gifts campaign already in progress.

Community Process

The City and the Directors of the Payne Maryland Partnership Board are 100% committed to the vision and believe that this is the time for the Payne Maryland model of cooperative community building to be launched. All parties continue to work together in support of this transformational opportunity. We are especially appreciative of the ongoing input and participation of the community and the many residents who have been instrumental in developing the Payne Maryland vision. That dialogue will continue and expand in the coming months and as the Payne Maryland vision becomes reality.

Almost a year ago we had a community meeting hosted by the Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council to “kick-off” the schematic design process for the project. Our initial goal was to bring a draft back to the community this past summer, but due to the significant complexities involved in this project, we weren't ready this summer, and have had to make a number of adjustments prior to being ready. As we move forward, we will work with the Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council to develop a process that will help capture additional community feedback and establish a mechanism for continued input into the project.

Next Steps

Once a few additional adjustments have been made to the phase 1 schematic design, we will work with the Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council to help facilitate a community open house. The open house meeting date will be communicated through the District Council, project website and the Eastside Review.

The project website is the best resource for additional information and the District 5 Council will bring additional updates in future communications.