

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND
RECREATION



CITY OF SAINT
PAUL

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November 30, 2011

Pedro Park Meeting Notes (11/29/2011)

Meeting Location: Keys Café, Saint Paul, MN

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Attendees:

Design Advisory Committee: Julie Griffin, Tim Griffin, Marcus Young, Eric Anderson, Kisha Dixon, Bob Spaulding, Hayley Johnson, Carol Hunn, Kay Baker, Kate Swenson, Ken Peterson, Don Keefe, Karl Karlson,

Other: Greg Verley (Union Gospel Staff), Emily Hanson (Rossmor resident), Patricia Lindgren (City Council Staff), Dave Thune (City Council Member), Maureen Ramirez (Capital River Council), Lucy Thompson (Saint Paul PED), Don Ganje (Saint Paul Parks), Anne Gardner (Saint Paul Parks), Karin Misciewicz (Saint Paul Parks),

Meeting #2 Goal:

- *To review updated site analysis information and to brainstorm on the character and elements of Pedro Park*
 - *What are the elements that are important to include in the park design?*
- 1) Introductions and 1st meeting recap – Don Ganje welcomed the group and gave a brief recap from the first meeting held on October 25. Attendees introduced themselves and who they were representing.
 - a. Ken Peterson, director of the Union Gospel Mission, described the activity of both the childcare center and the Naomi center. He also stated that they do not have any plans, nor have they discussed an option to move or relocate from the current downtown location.
 - 2) Neighborhood Analysis- Anne Gardner presented information on the surrounding neighborhood and influences related to trail and path connections, vehicular traffic, land use, and population statistics.
 - a. A context map shows the Central Corridor Bike Walk plan and significant connections to regional and local trails and parks
 - b. A Traffic map shows that three of the four surrounding streets are classified as collector streets (9th Street, 10th street, and Minnesota). Robert is considered a minor arterial with ADT of 10,023. Vehicle counts

will increase by approximately 3,268 to the four adjacent streets with the addition of the Penfield site and Lunds store

- c. A diagram to show other types of movement (bus, light rail, bikes and pedestrian paths) represents the other way in which people move around and get to the proposed park site. This also influences the edge treatment and access points of the park site.
 - d. A map showing the zoning districts indicates that the proposed park site lies within the B4 district, adjacent to B5. Both zones are for central business service and allow for mixed use and dense development appropriate for an urban center.
 - e. A land use map shows the different types of buildings in the neighborhood surrounding the site. There is a significant variety of land uses and building types within the neighborhood
 - f. The daytime population increases due to the surrounding schools, businesses, institutions, and commercial activities. This is an important consideration when thinking of who will be using the park and what sort of activities take place throughout the day
 - g. 2010 Census data is now available and indicates interesting neighborhood facts about district 17
 - i. Household ownership in District 17 has doubled from 610 to 1,316
 - ii. Population has increased by 20% since 2000
 - iii. Ethnicity of the district: 70% White, 16% Black, 4.9% Asian, 4.7% Hispanic, etc.
 - iv. The biggest percentage of the population is in the 25-34 age group (25.9% or a total of 1,826)
 - v. 81.8% of the district's households are non-family households (without children)
 - h. There are nine blocks within the Fitzgerald Park Precinct that have residential buildings. The total population is 1811. Of that population, the largest group is in the age group of 50-59 (25.2% or 458). The second highest age group is 20-29 (18.6% or 338). Therefore, the population of the immediate neighborhood trends higher than the rest of District 17.
 - i. 2010 Census also indicates that the block with the Pointe and the Naomi center has the highest population of 442 (which is adjacent to the proposed park site)
 - j. The dog ownership policy in the surrounding residential units is also important to consider. The Pointe, Rossmor, and 10th and Jackson allow dogs with some restrictions.
 - k. A preliminary shadow study shows how the height of the buildings shade the proposed park site. The taller buildings (The Pointe and City Walk) contribute significant shadows primarily in the afternoon.
- 3) Site Issues and Constraints- Don Ganje presented a site diagram indicating site issues and opportunities highlighting key pedestrian areas and approach points on the surrounding streets.

- 4) Placemaking Discussion- The park site provides the opportunity to create a “place” that will give character and identity to the neighborhood.
 - a. Don Ganje reviewed a summary board on the four key qualities for creating a successful public space (sociable, active, accessible, and comfortable) based on research by Project for Public Spaces.
 - b. A summary board highlighted the individual components of a successful public space (edges, seating, trees, grass, water, food, triangulation, legibility, mystery)
 - c. Don reviewed image boards that highlight elements of a public space that will give the park character to see what the committee liked or did not like. The elements include (seating, recreation/play, kiosks/vendors, plant material, art, water).
 - d. Images representing three types of park ‘character’ were shown: formal, modern, or natural to see what type of character was desired by the committee for the park space.

- 5) Brainstorming: A list of the park program ideas was created at the previous committee meeting on Oct 25. The committee then commented on this list and also made suggestions for additions to the program list which will then be used to create a neighborhood survey to create a better understanding of the community’s vision for the new park. The list (and some discussion points) is below:
 - a. Indoor recreation space- consider adding an indoor recreation space to the childcare center
 - b. Multiuse elements- (i.e. seating and play elements that are sculptural)
 - c. Bathrooms on the park site (or will surrounding businesses provide?)
 - d. Amphitheater and performance space
 - i. Currently, music students use Landmark Plaza. They need flexible space and areas where they can play individually and within a small group
 - ii. Consider acoustics of the space
 - e. A transitional ice skating/ roller skating rink
 - f. Art- Include sculpture or something to make the space interesting. Art can also relate to that which is planned for the Penfield (light wall, birches, raingarden)
 - g. Trees
 - h. 10th street- think about both sides of the street since the Penfield/Lunds development will have a generous setback.
 - i. Include bump-outs for easier pedestrian crossing (though this can be difficult to plow around)
 - j. There is an additional foundation wall along the existing police operations building- what is it from and can it be incorporated into the site design as a ‘relic’ wall? Use the arched openings for doors or windows
 - k. If the site is designed for large events, create areas for truck traffic and set up space
 - l. How active will the recreation be? There is a concern of the noise factor created by basketball or tennis courts. Is there enough of a need for courts?

- m. What type of park will this be? Will it be like Mears, Wacouta, or Rice park? In the survey, use descriptive words to see what people prefer
 - n. What type of greenery will people want? (i.e formal, modern, natural) Include this question in the survey
 - o. Do we need additional tennis courts? They are usually built in pairs: the site may not be big enough to accommodate
 - p. The park site is not very big to accommodate the entire list so the program program ideas will need to be prioritized
- 6) Other comments and suggestions made during the discussion:
- a. Has there been a parking study completed that will address the lost parking (with the assumption parking on the block site will be reduced or eliminated). Union Gospel uses 25 spaces for staff parking
 - b. Donerly, Inc stated that they do not have plans to leave the site or sell the land. They have not yet been approached by any city staff to discuss plans or options. They would need to be removed by eminent domain as they have not given any indication of moving.
- 7) Next steps: Design staff will create a survey that can be sent out via email and also pass out paper copies of the survey to reach the greatest number of people in the neighborhood.
- a. Capital River Council has an email distribution list of business owners in the area that can be used to distribute the survey
 - b. Design staff will send out a draft survey to the committee for review/comment prior to sending to the broader community.
 - c. Tentative date for the next meeting: January 31, 2012