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MEETING MINUTES

Como Regional Park Pool Replacement

St. Paul, MN

MEETING: Task Force Design Workshop #4 **DATE**: February 9, 2009
LOCATION: Como Streetcar Station (Horton & Lexington) **TIME**: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *Chairperson – Therese Kelly*
    a. Review of Task Force Mission Statement
        i. To provide recommendations and guidance to Saint Paul Parks and Recreation for the design of the new Como Park Pool, which fairly reflect the needs and desires of each group the task force member represents, while also considering the needs of citizens of the greater Saint Paul region.
    b. Review of Design Team Mission Statement
        i. To provide design alternatives for Como pool to the Task Force for review, comment and input which respond to the project goals and objectives as determined by the Como Pool Design Task Force
    c. Thanks and acknowledgement to task force members.
    d. Review of revised schedule – *USAquatics / AKA*
        i. Rescheduled design charrette – March 18th & 19th – accepted by task force
        ii. Task Force Design Workshop #6 moved to March 26th – accepted by task force

2. Discussion on Natural Pools – *Director, Mike Hahm*
    a. Not the intent of the City to pursue at this time
    b. Worked w/consultants & had variety of discussions w/officials, committee members, & representative from natural pools
    c. Ultimate determining factors are timeline & money
        i. Timeline
            1. Programming needs – only 1 of 2 outdoor pools online this summer
            2. Process – Exploring regulation change, variance, exception, revisions to rules would take significant time & resources
                a. Would require taking this process through construction documents
        ii. Money
            1. Time, expense estimated @ $1.5-2.0 million or more
                a. Not in position to pursue due to economics
    d. Task force is being asked to continue on with the process without the natural pool option
    e. There has been a broad acceptance to the natural aesthetic features being talked about for the pool – staff is extremely supportive and excited about this
    f. There are alternatives for how this pool can still be "green" – other options
    g. It is important that we still continue to pursue other "green" elements within the design
    h. Questions
        i. There has been a fair amount of community enthusiasm for the idea. Aesthetics can replace some of that. Are there any other issues w/exception to

time & money.

1. Natural pools are a new technology, and will require pool users to think differently about how they use the pool (i.e. low water temp)
2. There are technical issues/concerns involved natural pools. There may be solutions, but we don't know at this point.
3. Water temperature is a major factor
4. Information from health officials supported that it would be a significant undertaking.
5. The city would be taking a substantial risk and liability with the new technology.

ii. At the Jan. 12th meeting, the natural pool idea was talked of being postponed until the end of the design process since it had to do with filtration. Now it is being removed entirely. Concerns about the short review process for natural pools, does not feel sufficient review was given.

1. We reached a point in the process that a decision had to be made.
2. Possibility for future conversion of standard pool or possible to have portion of pools as natural pools in the future if regulatory requirements change.
3. Portion of footprint as 2nd phase could possibly be a natural pool.
4. Only pursue in future if regulatory system becomes available to pursue the natural pools without any risk to the City.

iii. Can we imagine where the ability to swim in lakes is not what it is today?

1. Not likely, since lake/watershed treatment is going in the opposite direction with regards to water quality and treatment.

iv. How do we position ourselves to respond to green ideas? We can't write rules for radical change in a month, etc. How do we set ourselves up to be more able to accept innovative ideas like this & have 3-5 yrs foresight & opportunity?

3. Review of goals & objectives– *Don Ganje*
   a. Review of goals and objectives
   b. Open to comments
      i. Comment that some goals and objectives came from city staff w/out input & some came from this group. Task force input vs city staff input?
         1. Goals & objectives were created based on staff/consultants understanding
      ii. Discussion on extended use (skating, seasonal, etc.)
      iii. Discussion on design charrette process
         1. During day, taking identified site area and base program. Use as building blocks. Create graphical representation of how does it all fit.
         2. Minimum of 3 layouts, hopefully 4 or 5.
         3. At the end of the day, layouts are put up for discussion and dot voting
         4. Repeat the process the next day and hopefully at the end we have a feel for where this project can go.
      iv. Comment: Reiterate concerns of woodland w/relation to pool.
         1. Excessive noise
         2. Intrusion on boundaries of site
         3. Parking & traffic issues
         4. Possibility of shared restroom
      v. Goals & objectives are important because we have to go back and ensure the

end solution meets the goals & objectives that we established.

4. Preliminary site analysis – *Don Ganje*
    a. Review of existing conditions (diagram & discussion)
        i. Beulah & Como – impact plan for Como Woodland.
        ii. Existing renovated McMurray Field to be left alone
        iii. Softball fields not currently at regulation size, area needs to be reworked
        iv. Natural buffer exists between passive use of Como Woodland Classroom & active use of pool
        v. Existing tennis courts, pool footprint and related parking and service road is over 2.75 acres.
        vi. Existing vehicular & pedestrian traffic routes reviewed
            1. Intersection issue
    b. Review/discussion of site opportunities and constraints.
        i. East McMurray Fields
            1. Issue - Small fields too close together for adequate, safe play - require reconstruction
            2. Opportunity - Open up potential for re-routing of Jessamine and construction of new lighted regulation size fields.
        ii. Park's Central Maintenance/Operations
            1. Issue - Current access to Park's storage site requires Beulah Lane Improvements
            2. Opportunity - Changing access to storage area would allow removal of significant portion of Beulah Lane.
        iii. Como Woodland and Outdoor Classroom
            1. Issue - Approved Master Plan identifies removal of portion of Como and Beulah
            2. Opportunity - Removal of roadways results in ability to create larger "wetland study area", minimizes vehicular intrusion and removes substantial impermeable surface.
        iv. Natural Buffer Area
            1. Issue - Excellent tree cover and significant topography
            2. Opportunity - Maintain and reinforce area as a natural buffer between entire pool area and passive outdoor classroom.
        v. Aquatic Facility Study Area
            1. Issue - Pool parking used for picnic area visitors
            2. Opportunity - Relocate vehicular pool access to Como Ave.
            3. Issue - Existing tennis court location - passive activity in conflict with active pool use & minimizes opportunity to develop new aquatic facility site.
            4. Opportunity - Investigate relocating courts either on-site or to an adjacent park.
            5. Issue - On-site pool parking & access road uses valuable park space.
            6. Opportunity - Investigate joint-use on (& off) road parking for pool, fields, and outdoor classroom.
            7. Issue - Severe tree loss on current pool site.
            8. Opportunity - Much potential for increasing planting to provide screening of site and noise reduction from Lexington Parkway.
        vi. Vehicular Circulation

1. Issue - Lexington Parkway and Jessamine Ave. Intersection is dangerous
2. Opportunity - Investigate disconnecting Jessamine Ave. from Lexington Parkway and rerouting.
3. Issue - Como Ave. and Beulah Lane are severely deteriorated requiring complete reconstruction.
4. Opportunity - Opens opportunity for study of alternate road alignments with potential removal of significant impermeable surface.

vii. Pedestrian/Bicycle Circulation
1. Issue - Direct bicycle and pedestrian access to Como Woodland and Outdoor Classroom & McMurray Fields is incomplete
2. Opportunity - Removal/Re-alignment of old roadways provide new opportunities for additional bike/pedestrian connections.

viii. Discussion
1. Circulator stop on Horton w/access to pool is a possibility
2. Intersection at Horton & Lexington has poor traffic
   a. Makes more sense to utilize Como access
3. Corner of Jessemine & Lexington is bad intersection due to sight constraints and limitations.
4. Green space and pool development to work with regional watershed
   a. Stormwater treatment will enhance existing runoff which does not have any treatment.

5. Facility programming – *USAquatics / AKA*
   a. Review/discussions of existing programming
      i. McMurray Fields – *Kathy Korum*
         1. New turf fields
         2. Soccer activity has increased significantly
         3. Higher quality surface has increased the use
         4. Used by high school, community, etc.
         5. Baseball field – legion, older teenagers, etc.
            a. Used M-F & for bigger baseball tournaments
            b. Field not lighted
         6. Softball fields
            a. 6 present – challenge to use all 6 at once
            b. Usually use 4 fields at once
            c. M-F
            d. Old technology lighting
            e. Adult recreational softball
            f. Youth fast pitch
         7. During fall another soccer field is created in the softball area and the other fields are used for flag football
         8. Winter – broomball
         9. Parking is an issue
         10. Like elimination of Jessamine
         11. Soccer festival – July 4th – 2 day festival
      ii. Discussion
         1. Comment: Como Park, with the # of amenities it holds, is there appoint at which we say the park is at capacity to hold new event? Which

comes 1st, providing parking or limiting use? Other places in City available that are not @ capacity, w/out limited resources?

2. Response: McMurray fields historically used for athletics
    a. Planned conversion is to get better, not bigger
    b. Better lighting technology
    c. Reduction in # of people there @ peak times
    d. Negotiate w/railroad for additional space
    e. Compressing peak use, while increasing convenient access & parking is the goal
    f. Parks wants the fields to be better, not expand on volume
    g. New turf would not be conducive to winter ice
        i. Broomball could be relocated

iii. Como Pool – *Lynn Waldorf*
1. *See attached existing programming summary*.
2. Part of the time pressure for 2010 is the need to serve the swimmers since this facility is 1 of 2 outdoor facilities.
3. Question: Any other sites within park program that could potentially hold another outdoor pool?

b. Aquatic facility programming
i. Summary of programming methodology
ii. Discussions on night-time / extended use.
iii. Programming matrix to be filled out by task force members for compilation and review at next task force meeting

6. Review work goals and agenda for Task Force Design Workshop #5 – *USAquatics*
    a. Work goals
        i. Staff/consultant review of overall traffic/parking issues
    b. Task Force Design Workshop #5
        i. Establish consensus on facility programming
        ii. Continue site analysis
            1. Review preliminary circulation layouts and existing traffic information
            2. Review preliminary layouts for McMurray field area
            3. Discuss general location of pool, parking, and bathhouse facilities

7. Adjournment

Next Design Workshop meeting – Task Force Design Workshop #5, March 2nd, 2009
Rescheduled Design Charrette – March 18th & 19th, 2009