



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: October 23, 2012

LOCATION: Nova Classical Academy – Great Room

ATTENDING: Steven Dahlke, Emily Shively, John Yust, Scott Olson, Gary Brueggemann, Liz McMann, Rory Stierler, Stephanie Vagle, Brian Bloomfield, Pete Regnier, Bob Fossum, Kent Petterson, Paula Faughender, Martin Schieckel, Dan Pederson, Bill Driver, Jennifer Verbrugge, Thomas Frawley, Manual Cervantes, JoAnna Craighead, Halle O’Falvey, Lucy Thompson, Dave Bredemus, Susan Sattler, Betty Moran, Jackie Brueggemann, Tonya Johnson- Nicholie, Alice Messer, Don Ganje

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Adam Robbins, Karin Misiewicz, John Bentfield, Marcus Young

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, October 30, 2012

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Tonya Nicholie welcomed committee to meeting and held brief introductions.

Alice Messer provided summary of meeting agenda with goals of:

- 1) Develop overall goals and objectives for Victoria Park – What do we want Victoria Park to accomplish?
- 2) Brainstorming potential programming elements – What needs can Victoria Park fulfill?

Alice Messer provided recap of Meeting #1.

- meet all committee members
- explain the structure of the committee
- explain the role of the committee
- explain the work that has occurred on site to date through a walking tour
- Meeting schedule discussed and it was decided to have a series of monthly meetings that conclude when an overall master plan for Victoria Park developed.

Alice Messer provided summary of Framework Plans

These included:

1) Saint Paul’s strategic goal to be – “The most livable City in America”.

2) City of Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan includes 6 components with *Parks and Recreation* chapter focusing on:

- Promote active lifestyles
- Create vibrant places

- Promote a vital environment
- Respond creatively to change
- Innovate with every decision
- Connect the entire city

3) Parks and Recreation Vision Plan creating strategies to create active lifestyles; create vibrant places; respond to change; and innovate with every decision

4) Parks and Recreation System Plan goal is to transform Saint Paul Parks and Recreation into a 21st Century Park and Recreation System. Provides recommendations on; community centers, trails, natural areas, parks, special facilities, outdoor athletics, play areas, and facilities.

5) Small Area Plans include the West 7th/Fort Road District 9 plan and Victoria Park Master Plan. These plans are neighborhood specific and set goals for the West 7th neighborhood as well as the Victoria Park development that surrounds the park.

- **Victoria Park Master Plan** implements design guidelines for a mixed-use urban village with a range of housing types and prices; a system of interconnected streets and open space network that takes advantage of the site's location next to the Mississippi River.
- **Fort Road District 9** plan has larger neighborhood goals of respecting the Mississippi River and promoting aesthetic values in rehabilitation and development efforts.

6) Great River Passage master plan uses the vision and guiding principles established in prior plans as a framework to develop specific goals and recommendations for future land uses and development in the river corridor.

7) Design Advisory Committee (current group) is an advisory committee to Parks and Recreation and is tasked with providing important information and input to Parks and Recreation on the development of a master plan for Victoria Park.

Regulations, permitting and ordinances all impact master plan.

Unmet system wide needs and current recreation trends explored as develop a master plan for Victoria Park. Examples of current trends include:

- active living
- focus on the river
- nature based play
- increasing diversity

Alice Messer presented preliminary mission statement and goals and objectives for

Victoria Park.

Draft mission statement: “To develop an overall master plan for Victoria Park that protects the unique natural environment of the river bluff, incorporates pedestrian friendly connections and provides for community wide recreational needs.”

Preliminary goals and objectives organized by:

Connect : provide attractive, safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle connections to the Mississippi River, Sam Morgan Regional trail, mixed use urban village and surrounding transit corridor along West 7th Street.

Enhance : Protect unique river bluff environment and Mississippi River through innovative storm water treatment

Activate: Provide a variety of recreational activities appropriate for a 40- acre park that encourage healthy and active lifestyles.

Committee broke out into three groups and added additional Goals and Objectives. See attachment for full summary of Goals and Objectives discussed.

Alice Messer facilitated brain storming session with discussion on possible programming ideas for Victoria Park.

See attachment for full list of programming ideas.

Questions/Comments from Committee:

1. Question in regards to available funding. Martin Schiekkel from PED clarified that funding availability is unknown until the site has completed environmental remediation work. Martin clarified that money available after cleanup will go to Parks with the intention of being put towards implementation of Victoria Park Master Plan. City Council will have final determination of funding approval.
2. Question in regards to “Friends Group” for maintenance and donations for Victoria Park. Any outside funding sources are welcome, but master plan for project to be completed first. Discussion on “Friends Group” providing a maintenance assistance for Victoria Park. Will be follow-up discussion at future meeting.
3. Question in regards to Mission Statement and concern about mission statement being too traditional for Victoria Park. Parks staff will relook at mission statement and provide revised version based on comments heard.
4. Question in regards to having community know about Design Advisory Committee Meetings. Responded that Committee obligation to reach out to larger interest group and let them know about meeting dates/times and information discussed. Information posted on project website as well.

Actions:

- o PowerPoint Presentation Posted on project website.
- o Parks to review full listing of Goals and Objectives and provide summary based on common themes discussed.
- o Parks to review Mission Statement and consider comments heard.
- o Presentation materials posted on project website at:
<http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4876>

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 6:00–8:00 pm

Please contact Alice Messer at 651-266-6412 if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly.