



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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Griggs Park – Play Area Replacement

January 23, 2013 6:00 p.m.

Minutes – Meeting One

In attendance:

Staff

Bryan Murphy
 Pat Voyda, Parks Operations
 Mary Ann Hagen, Rec Services

Public

Jessie McClary
 Larua Savolainen
 Faith Krogstad
 Mike Rausch
 Alicia Pursell

Ruth Ann Willard
 Benita Warns
 Sara Bogie
 Krista Hanson
 Steve Jevning

Meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

1) Project Introduction/Overview

- a) Primary focus of the project is to replace the play area. Other necessary park improvements around the play area, including items such as walkways, benches, landscaping, and/or signage provided as funding allows.
- b) Play area is small; The Parks Systems Plan indicates the single tennis court is ‘not recommended for replacement’ which would allow expansion of the play area. Survey feedback indicates a strong desire to have a larger play area with sufficient equipment for children of all ages.
- c) Bryan was given the direction to request ideas for site improvements across the entire Griggs Park

2) Play area design and construction process

- a) We should be able to accomplish the design of a new play area in four meetings. Those meetings would include the following:
 - i) Meeting #1 will cover introduction to the project, analysis, and programming
 - ii) Meeting #2 would cover review of play area concept design and play ‘equipment’ options
 - iii) Meeting #3 would get into more detail of the play equipment and site design elements
 - iv) Meeting #4 would cover a review and approval of the play area design
- b) Develop construction plans and specifications
- c) Bid – Mid-May
- d) Begin construction – Mid-June
- e) End construction – Mid-August



3) Analysis and Programming

a) Context

- i) Some apartments to north
- ii) Lots of single family homes
- iii) Churches on Lexington – Daycare at Central Lutheran visits play area frequently
- iv) Locations of parks with tennis courts
 - (1) West Minnehaha (four courts) – 1 mile east
 - (2) Orchard (two courts) – .75 miles NE
 - (3) Hamline Park (two courts) - .9 miles SW

b) Survey results

- i) Nearly 130 responded so the results are quite good
- ii) Most park visitors are within 5 minute walk...and some more than 5 minute walk
- iii) Most users visit with children...between the ages of 2 – 12
- iv) Play area is big draw of park users
- v) People prefer a combination of traditional and modern/net structure
- vi) A combination of Sand and turf/rubber surfacing is desired
- vii) Additional site improvements should include picnic space, landscaping, shade and seating

c) Site Analysis

- i) Good circulation...maybe need a walk through wooded area at front of building. There is a need for site access on east side of park (where tennis court is located)
- ii) Back edge of play area is dark – could use lighting
- iii) Play area and tennis court is in a low spot. Stormwater should be managed better on site to have less impact on play area
- iv) Grove of trees is nice shade cover...They are Ash trees...consider how to retain shade while transitioning away from Ash
- v) Tennis court fence provides nice protection from streets...consider maintaining a boundary to keep space secure
- vi) Relationship between private property and park/play area is fine. Homeowners seem understandable with play items migrating over fence. Someone has been observed toileting in their backyard...maybe too much screening will increase that tendency?
- vii) It is difficult to know if the basketball court is available for use with the skateboard ramps on the surface. Steve will relocate the ramps.
- viii) It was reported that not all the intersections have four-way stop signs. Some cars drive too fast through area...consider installation of four-way stops. Faith Krogstad added that traffic calming measures could be applied. Contact district council (Michael John) if someone at the city can't be reached. Bryan will follow up with Public Works department.
- ix) There is no place in Saint Paul for Roller Skating. The refrigerated Ice rink at Palace Recreation Center has been used in the summer for roller skating programs.
- x) A plea was made to save the tennis court. It would be nice to have a bang board at one end
- xi) Aldine Park has a shade structure and covered swing that is nice
- xii) If a restroom key was available, someone in the community would consider unlocking/locking the restrooms daily

d) Goals and Objectives

i) Enhance appearance/environment of park/play area

- (1) Remove/replace/repair dilapidated park features
- (2) Provide park elements in scale with park
- (3) Promote retention of existing vegetation
- (4) Encourage new planting (shrubs, trees, perennials)
- (5) Utilize 'Green'/sustainable products
- (6) Encourage infiltration of stormwater
- (7) Promote history of park
- (8) Provide public art at play area

ii) Enhance users health and well-being

- (1) Provide activities for all ages
- (2) Provide a balance of active and passive activities
- (3) Encourage parent interaction
- (4) Provide accessibility for all park users

iii) Enhance park safety and security

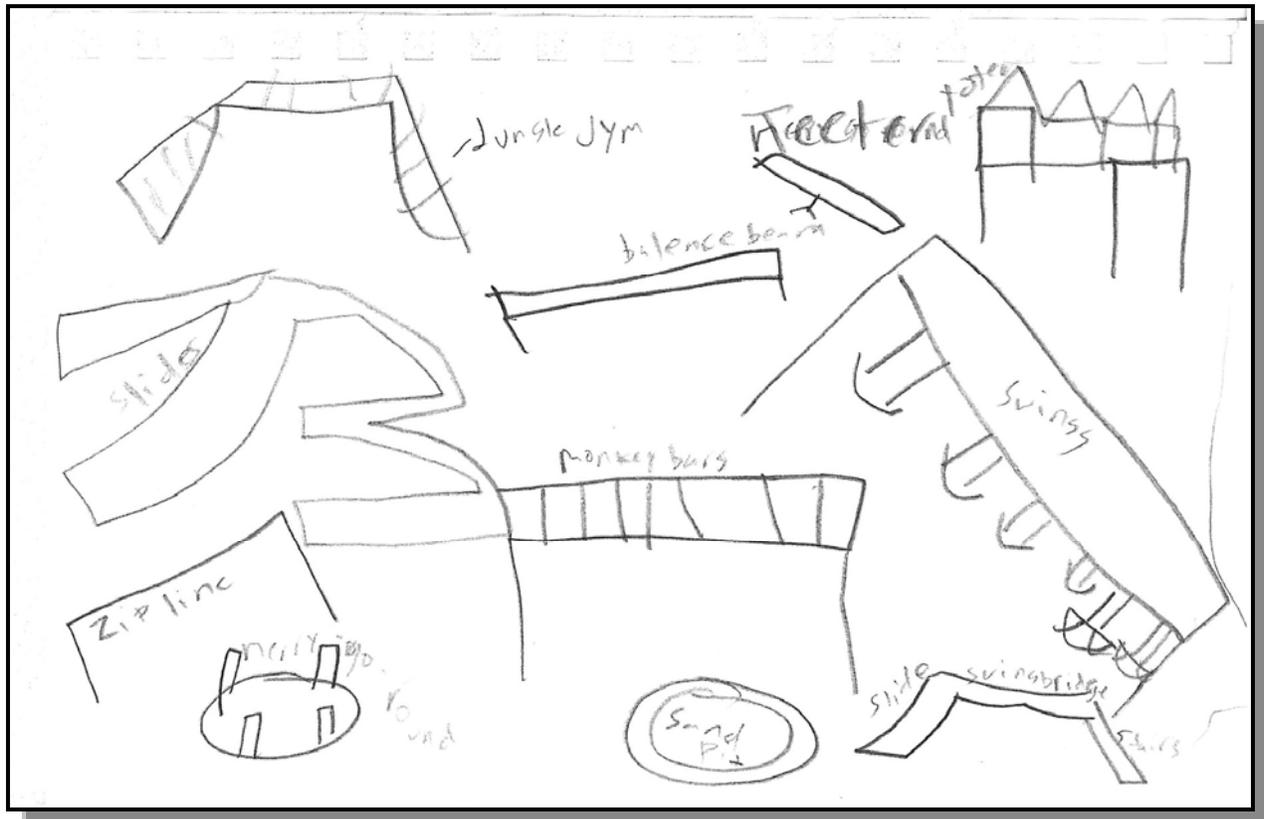
- (1) Utilize durable products
- (2) Retain sight lines
- (3) Employ CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines in development of play area

e) Needs/Wants

<u>Needs</u>	<u>Needs (cont.)</u>	<u>Wants</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address gap between concrete stairs and concrete block wall...children sneak through there. It is dangerous. Parks Operations has tried to fix but the repair has failed. • Improve worn and eroded park areas • Shade • Picnic Tables • Safety • Totlot – Bryan will get in touch with staff at Central Lutheran) • Equipment for people with disabilities...not just physical disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swings • Infant swings • Diversity...something for all ages • Diggers • Topography • Water feature (hand pump) • Sand • Rain garden • Edge protection along Griggs and Dunlap • Teeter Totter • Jungle Gym • Historic signage (Chauncy W. Griggs) • Slides • Lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skating surface • Picnic shelter • Restrooms • Drinking fountain (It's noted there is a seasonal fountain on the front of the building) • Water feature

f) Ten-year old Wyatt provided input to items the play area should include. These items

include lots of swings...especially for little kids, Slides (doesn't matter if they are straight or curved...just need slides), Teeter Totter, and a Jungle Gym. The following graphic was submitted by Wyatt.



4) Additional Park Needs

- Improve ballfield(s)
- Provide rain gardens so drainage doesn't flow across entrance walks
- 4-way stop signs at all corners of the park
- No removal of trees on the west side of park
- Improve access to sliding hill – fence doesn't have opening
- New tennis court
- Roller skating
- Gutters on the building
- Park has heavy dog use...need improvements for dog waste/education for leash law and picking up after pet...signage?
- Relocate the dumpsters
- Restroom access
- Improve storage method for ballfield aglime
- Better access between play area and ballfields south of building
- Basketball court use

The following item was also submitted about Chauncey W. Griggs, for whom the Park is named.

Recognizing this information outside should be considered.

**Hamline Midway Coalition
Annual Meeting 2006**

**For whom is
Griggs
Rec Center
named?**

**Griggs Recreation Center, and
Griggs Street, was named after
Chauncey W. Griggs.**

Griggs, born in Connecticut in 1832,
was a colonel during the Civil War and
commanded the 3rd Minnesota
Volunteers.

Griggs started a number of businesses
locally including lumber, development,
grocery wholesale, as well as a
partnership
with rail
baron J.J.
Hill, selling
coal and
freight
services.
Chauncey
Griggs also
served in the
Minnesota
State Senate.



His mansion,
at 476 Summit Avenue and built in
1883, has been called "the most
haunted house in Minnesota."

Griggs lived in this house for just a few
years before leaving Saint Paul to
settle in Tacoma, Washington.

**HAMLIN MIDWAY
HISTORY CORPS**
A NEIGHBORHOOD INTEREST GROUP

www.HamlineMidwayHistory.org

- 5) Next Steps
 - a) Meeting schedule
 - i) Meet every three weeks?
 - ii) next meeting – February 13th
 - b) Next meeting topics
 - i) Review 2 – 3 play area concept designs
 - ii) Review types of equipment/play features

7:55 p.m. Adjourn