



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: January 22, 2013

LOCATION: Nova Classical Academy

ATTENDING: Emily Shively, John Yust, Gary Brueggemann, Liz McMann, Pete Regnier, Kent Petterson, Paula Faughender, Martin Schieckel, Dan Pederson, Bill Driver, Jennifer Verbrugge, Tom Frawley, JoAnna Craighead, Lucy Thompson, Tonya Johnson- Nicholie, Alice Messer, Don Ganje, Adam Robbins, Jim Leinfelder, Rory Stierler, Karin Misiewicz, Halle O'Falvey, Dave Bredemus, Stephanie Vagle, Brian Bloomfield, Bob Fossum, Maria McCoy

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Rose, Manual Cervantes, Scott Olson

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, February 19, 2013 *APM*

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Emily Shively and Tonya Johnson-Nicholie welcomed committee and held brief introductions.

- Emily and Tonya checked in with Committee on process and provided clarification on the following items addressed in emails prior to meeting:
 - Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) - we will be putting together a memo that summarizes SITES and how it may generally be addressed in Victoria Park as requested by Kent Petterson. Memo on SITES to be completed in lieu of Feb. meeting. Item has been placed in the "parking lot" to be discussed later.
 - HRA Easement - is part of the design charrette and what we will be addressing tonight. There are no updates on the easement.
 - Recreational needs are an important part of the process as we are having the representatives speak tonight on those issues. Storm water and wetland alternatives do require an "expert" and that will be coming in an additional meeting
 - Design charrette process is to assist in developing "functional diagrams" for the site. They should be simple bubbles arranged to establish ideal relationships between function and space. The goal of the meeting is to determine how the many program elements fit together on the site. The next meeting will then flush some of these ideas out into concept designs, which take into account site conditions.
 - Public Comment is held at the end of the meeting to allow the public to comment on what was discussed. Design charrette is open to the public.

Presentation on recreational need from Committee representatives.

- Nova Classical Academy (Brian Bloomfield) presented on Nova "wish" list:

- 1 soccer field (50' x 100')
- Small practice field
- Softball diamond
- 4 tennis courts
- Walking/running trails for 3-5 mile runs
- Circuit equipment

Future Victoria Park was instrumental to Nova Classical Academy selecting their new location.

- Palace Recreation Center/Youth Athletics (Gary Brueggeman) presented on Palace programming perspective on youth athletics.
 - Palace Recreation Center to be remodeled. Remodel does not include plans for tennis or outdoor basketball
 - Football most popular program at Palace Rec. Center, with good history of baseball. Softball and volleyball program are in decline.
 - Hockey and skating popular with refrigerated rink.
 - No outdoor basketball courts, but feel would be popular. Many outdoor basketball courts regulated due to criminal activity that can happen at courts.
 - Mentioned potential of skating in old quarry sites
 - Explore ways to work soccer fields, football and running track together
- Youth Athletics (Bill Driver) presented information on soccer interest in West 7th neighborhood.
 - Highland Groveland Recreation Association (HGRA) has grown from 1,200 to 2,500 kids. With additional 600-800 units of housing in Victoria Park. Where will kids play as HGRA can't accommodate current needs?
 - Summarized survey completed January 2010, by West Seventh Business Association (BA) which surveyed association members and neighbors about key questions raised in relation to the city's Great River Master Plan.
 - 96 respondents completed the survey and when asked if they favored the proposed four soccer fields at Victoria Park, 59 percent said yes
 - HGRA completed own informal survey within neighborhood and 13 of 15 responded "Yes" to soccer fields
- Twin Cities Hurling Club – Tom Frawley and Dan Pederson presented on Twin Cities Hurling Club.
 - Hurling club is looking for a "home" to play on in St. Paul.
 - Hurling is 3rd largest sport in Europe.
 - Play hurling on grass field 420'x 270'. Can also be played on certain type of synthetic turf.
 - Need site to store goals and gear.
 - Desire "wall ball" to practice and train
 - Pavilion with restrooms, water, grills to BBQ, etc. would be nice amenity
 - Lighting would help extend time of play

- Croke Park, headquarters for Hurling in Ireland, is the 3rd (or 4th) largest stadium in Europe with 83,000 capacity
- Top Hurlers are all amateur (don't get paid) and reflects interest of sport with respect to stadium size. Compare to professional soccer players who get paid thousands per week

Don Ganje presented goals of design charette as well as process for design charette.

Committee members were divided into five separate groups and each group received a Victoria Park base map along with activity cutouts drawn to match the scale of the base maps. The charge for each of the groups was to develop their own separate park plan using the supplied cutouts; moving them around and adding and subtracting "activities" on the base maps.

The goals of the exercise was for committee members to understand the size of the Victoria Park site, and begin to develop consensus on which potential activities the site can support and where they feel the best spots in the park are to locate those activities. With this information, the design team will be able to develop alternative concepts for further discussion and input.

Below is a summary of the presentation each table gave at the conclusion of the charette.

Plan 1:

- Tennis courts on Nova site –like idea of "eyes" on courts
- Ice hockey, broomball and storm water pond combined
- Storm water conveyance for loop skating
- Major play field on north site because lighting from parking lot and school already present
- Place common elements at edge of space
- Boardwalk in and around wetland with picnic shelter and kiosk with birding information
- Amphitheater with wetland as backdrop
- Orchards and bee hives on south side
- Horseshoe pits at south side
- Flexible open space on south side to be used for pick up games on site
- Orchards with bathrooms on south side of site
- Winter sliding hill and view of park
- Picnic tables on bluff line with shelter and restrooms
- Maintain turf for practice field space
- 3 acres of 40 acre park not a lot of space on site for active use

Plan 2:

- Divided table
- Look at entry from neighborhood side of park

- Additional 500 people to support from high end residential neighborhood
- Fields at north side for ease of access
- Everyone wants to be on south side of park
- Put field by Nova so they don't have to cross the tracks
- Wildflowers, orchards on south side
- Provide big and little sliding hills
- Restrooms on both sides
- Like overlook and something to support overlook
- Sidewalk path to connect down Stewart Ave.
- Boardwalk in wetland
- Splash pad with swing area near field to support field use
- Ice hockey and storm water pond combined together
- Snow shoe trails through site
- Make sure no quality of life issues near neighborhood

Plan 3:

- Love idea of hurling site in St. Paul because unique sport and bring people to business district
- Field space located off Otto
- Provide seating and spectating space
- Swing set with bathrooms, play area and parking around field
- Flat open space for small size soccer fields on south side
- Like idea of hockey rink
- Provide ¼ acre of garden space
- Water feature at north side
- Splash pad with wading pools on north side by parking
- Kayak and canoe storage provided
- Protect existing open space on site and don't take over entire park
- Use type of vegetation that invite wildlife to the site
- No lighted fields
- Low impact and leave as natural as can
- Some sort of water feature
- Storm water pond at corner of Adrian and Victoria Way

Plan 4:

- Fields are not the first thing you see as you enter park.
- Important to have open space and picnic shelter by Nova side of park with shade and picnic tables on north side
- Provide tennis courts on Nova's property
- Space for two hurling fields without striping that look like open field on south side
- Open ice hockey with rink for winter skating
- Open space

- Picnic shelter and tables
- Funicular to access lower area
- Don't care for mound idea – explore Indian mound dedicated to Dakota
- Like scenic overlook idea at HRA site with view of site
- Meditative labyrinth
- Amphitheater with wetland as backdrop

Plan 5:

- RR tracks are divider of site between urban and natural use
- Hurling/soccer field by Nova
- Green space by wetland for shelter
- Make natural area on south side with water resource on south side
- Bring back limestone from quarry
- River is what is special about park from other natural parks
- Get parking lot by HRA land
- Need time to talk about Critical Area in river
- Bring site back to pre-settlement
- See name of park changed to “Fort Road Park”
- Recreate “Old Fort River Trail” with interpretive panels and natural history for educational opportunities
- Victoria Park symbolizes Great River Passage
- Consider history of Dakota people
- Lighting on a timer to shut off?
- Provide parking for park users

At the completion of this exercise, each group pinned up their respective plans and discussed the merits of each plan. Participants were asked to initial the plan they were most in favor of.

Actions:

- Complete memo on SITES in lieu of February meeting
- City staff to review design charrette drawings and offer pros and cons on design elements
- City staff to develop conceptual designs for Victoria Park considering concepts developed from design charrette

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 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.

NOTE: Fort Road Federation Annual Meeting to be held **Wednesday, April 24th, 2013, 7:00 pm at Summit Brewery.**