



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
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## MEETING NOTES

DATE: October 7, 2013

LOCATION: West Minnehaha Recreation Center

ATTENDING: Misha Liang, Lara Christley, Melisande Charles, Lauren Klabunde, Jeff Arnold, Patricia Ohmans, Tony Schmitz, Susan Schmidt, Seitu Jones, Soyini Guyton, Jake Voit, Hani Hussein, Cy Kosel, Karin Misiewicz, Eli Lubman, Carolyn Revani, Kathleen Anglo, Alice Messer

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Melvin Emanuel Jr.

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, October 15, 2013

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

*Kathleen Anglo began meeting with walking tour of site. Tour included the following discussion items:*

- Discuss existing conditions
  - Top of the hill (Farm)
    - History:
      - House of the Good Shepard (1884-1967)
      - Amherst Wilder Foundation Headquarters (1969-2009)
    - Soils report: No contamination found, may need more soil testing for geotechnical information.
    - Remnant foundations other demolition debris
    - Fence removal
  - Natural Area
    - Noise, smells
    - Different types of trees
    - Slope
    - Previous entrance drive
    - Foot traffic to/from Minnehaha business center
    - Bus stop
  - Sledding hill
    - Slope/Accessibility from Rec area to farm
    - Views
    - No buffer to homes along south side
  - Recreation Area



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- Play area
- B-Ball hoop (agreement with Wilder Square Co-op)
- How to treat wooded slope (transient activity, trash, etc)

***Meeting reconvened at West Minnehaha Recreation Center. Kathleen Anglo presented:***

- Overview of the Park Design Advisory Committee
  - Frogtown Park DAC Meeting Schedule
    - Week of October 21<sup>st</sup> (24<sup>th</sup> set) : Opportunities and Constraints/ Functional Diagrams
    - \*Week of November 18<sup>th</sup>: Draft Concept Design (prior to December 10<sup>th</sup> Community meeting)
    - Week of December 16<sup>th</sup>: Recap Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, plan finalization
    - January 4<sup>th</sup>: Final Community Meeting
- \* May need to add another meeting between weeks of Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> and Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>

***Kathleen presented draft Design Goals and Objectives.***

- Discussion included a need for broader education, activities for all seasons and a neighborhood focus. See attachment for revised Goals and Objectives.

***Kathleen Anglo presented common themes that emerged from September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.***

***Discussion followed regarding preliminary programming ideas for Frogtown Park. Discussion items included:***

***Overall Park Items:***

- Explore use of trees for buffer of noise
- Useable art onsite with benches and seating
  - Reuse biowaste/ paper art
- Windmills
- Budget Plan is important – what is reasonable within budget
- Discussion on what/where is entrance into park –where is “Gateway”?
  - many ways to enter into park
- Entrance off Milton Avenue is key to site access of park
- Need to explore “service area” of the park. Who will it serve?
- Need for lighting
- Safety!
- Walking/biking
- Design for all seasons
- Neighborhood consists of 48% youth – should be neighborhood and youth centric
- Park should represent totality of health – healthy foods, healthy movement
- Explore outside path that connects space and integrates people and the 3 different areas so the site feels more cohesive.
- Desire for park space that serves neighborhood first.
- The Farm may need to attract an interest beyond the neighborhood to be sustainable.

- What are the parking requirements?
  - Almost 3 acres of parking exists to the north in the Minnehaha business center.

***Recreation Area:***

- Kiddy pool for summer use
- Structured versus non-programmed space – Frogtown Park may be a natural overflow for West Minnehaha Rec Center and need to look and show how many programs are turned down at West Minnehaha.

***Natural Area:***

- Good shade in natural area vs. “recreational area” – explore transitioning between native planting and mown grass.
- Idea of Agri-forestry and the 3-Sisters approach
- Transition zone at steep grade – explore use of lower area for socialization of elderly people
- Seen as a quiet place in neighborhood
- Natural area is also the loudest space within site with roadway, Foundry and buses along Minnehaha Ave.
- Need for sanctuary space within Frogtown
- Idea of flowering groundcover underneath tree canopy
- Retain beauty of space and natural characteristics

***Next Steps:***

Meeting #2 on October 24<sup>th</sup> with focus on project history, background, site analysis including opportunity and constraints.

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**Next Meeting: October 24, 2013 at West Minnehaha  
Recreation Center from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

Please contact Kathleen Anglo if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly.