



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MEETING DATE: October 24, 2013

LOCATION: West Minnehaha Recreation Center

ATTENDING: Misha Liang, Lara Christley, Melisande Charles, Lauren Klabunde, Jeff Arnold, Patricia Ohmans, Tony Schmitz, Danielle Salus, Seitu Jones, Ahmed Anshur, Kathleen Anglo, Alice Messer

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Melvin Emanuel Jr., Soyini Guyton, Jake Voit, Hani Hussein, Cy Kosel, Karin Misiewicz, Mark Granlund, Mohamud Hashi

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, October 30, 2013

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Kathleen Anglo began meeting with introductions and provided overview of committee expectations. Included presentation on:

- Committee purpose and expectations
- Review of goals and objectives from last meeting
- Review of schedule
 - December 10th have preliminary concepts for park and farm design
 - January 4th is final presentation of park and farm design
- History of site and involvement from partners
- Project budget: \$800,000 total budget
 - \$650,000 for construction of park
 - Trust for Public Land has campaign underway, but won't know amount of money raised until campaign completed. Additional money would go to City of Saint Paul Parks for construction of the whole Frogtown park and farm.
 - \$150,000 set aside for project administration costs

Kathleen presented analysis on the surrounding neighborhood, comparable existing parks, and analysis of existing site features. Presentation boards are available on the project website www.stpaul.gov/frogtownparkandfarm

Discussion included:

- Discussion on parking and bus accommodation at site. Effort to be made to minimize amount of parking, however, need to maintain access into the site for programming needs, accessibility, maintenance, safety, and emergency responders.
 - There was consensus for minimal parking.
- Brass Foundry is in operation from 2 am to 5 pm Monday to Thursday. Operations result in noise within park during Foundry operations.

- Foundry employees would also use the park during breaks, lunch hours.
- Noise from Lexington Avenue and Minnehaha Ave. also heard onsite.
- Question about future operations of Brass Foundry:
 - The City is apprehensive in starting a conversation regarding their future plans, as we're the "new neighbor" and the Foundry has been there for over 50 years.
 - Could the Port Authority make initial contact regarding their future plans for the site? Jeff stated that the site is too small for Port Authority to consider redevelopment. Some in the community may be interested in further pursuing the conversation.
 - City will call MPCA to get information on noise levels and emissions from Foundry.
- Existing wooded area by basketball court and play area feels unsafe.
 - Would be good to remove invasive species and trim up trees to open up views into site
 - Possible volunteer activities for invasive species removal.
- Maintain sledding hill, but need to clear up debris from hill
 - Explore use of native plantings for soil stability on slope
- Existing play area equipment is owned by Wilder Square Co-op.
 - An evaluation of existing condition of the equipment will need to occur.
- Cross walks and curb cuts needed at Van Buren and Blair Ave. to access the park.
- Keep storm water onsite
 - Explore placement of rain garden within storm water easement on southeast corner of site.
- Explore use of edible plant materials
- Re-establish street trees down Minnehaha Avenue
- Milton Road is private – City to discuss access agreement to site via Milton. There is no guarantee that Wilder will approve an easement.
 - Committee desire for official easement over existing road
 - Verify if the alley off Victoria Street and Lafond is City alley or private.

Kathleen presented current community outreach efforts.

- Survey currently being completed. Deadline was Nov. 1st, but date has been extended to allow for additional responses.
- Need for survey to be translated into Somali and Hmong.
- Survey to be made available to committee members for distribution, Al Ihsan Mosque, Wilder Square and Rondo Library

Follow-up Items:

1. Question: Is the Joyce Kilmer fireplace operational and can it be used for baking?
Response: Fireplace is for wood burning fires only. It can be permitted for use. It was not designed to hold heat for baking.
2. Question: What is the estimated cost for picnic table and barbeque installation?
Response: Picnic table cost is approximately \$2,000 - \$2,500 to install. Grill is \$500.

3. Question: Is the existing alley off Victoria Street and Lafond Ave a city owned alley or private? Response: The alley is a paved city alley.
 4. Call placed with MPCA requesting information on noise emissions from Brass Foundry.
 5. Translate survey and distribute to various locations for completion.
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Next Meeting: November 18, 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.