



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MEETING DATE: December 17, 2013

LOCATION: West Minnehaha Recreation Center

ATTENDING, Lara Christley, Lauren Klabunde, Jeff Arnold, Patricia Ohmans, Tony Schmitz, Danielle Salus, Kathleen Anglo, Mark Granlund, and Alice Messer

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Misha Liang, Melisande Charles, Mohamud Hashi, Seitu Jones, Ahmed Anshur, Karin Misiewicz, Melvin Emanuel Jr., Hani Hussein, Soyini Guyton, Erin Pavlica,

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, December 18, 2013

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Kathleen Anglo began meeting with introductions and provided recap from December 10, 2013 Community meeting. Summarized comments/feedback heard at stations related to Park concepts. Synopsis included:

- Liked Concept A (Ag-Park) and Concept C (Natural Park)
- Liked integrated park and farm elements and centralized buildings
- Liked the amphitheater location in Concept A
- Liked the farm program elements in Concept A; not all production fields
- Pond location in C was divisive – explore storm water options on site with rain garden or bio-swale that would provide wildlife habitat
- Liked embankment slide in Concept C
- Liked native plantings on sledding hill and under oak trees
- Did not like separated buildings and amount of hardscape in Concept B

Kathleen presented a possible plan reflecting elements from Concept A and Concept C.

- Liked picnic area at Victoria
- It was suggested to add picnic tables under oak trees by Minnehaha due to shade on site
 - Kathleen suggesting do a trial picnic area with movable picnic tables here. It would allow for larger group picnicking and can see if the area would be used for picnicking without placing permanent tables. If tables disappear or aren't used, then explore other options.
- Like idea of café, but could it be located at Minnehaha Mall site?
 - Jeff commented that he was already considering this idea. Potential relationship with mosque and desire for coffee shop
- Comment on compost site.
 - Like this idea and explore partnership with Ramsey County.
 - Explore idea with Eureka recycling curbside food composting?

- Liked farm stand relocated close to bus stop along Minnehaha
 - Jeff commented on constructing farm stand prior to farm production and using as informational kiosk to keep people informed and “advertise” the project
- Liked amphitheater location and use of existing topography
- Comment on approaching Wilder Center about relocating existing pavilion structure at child development center to overlook area.
- The group agreed the final possible concept plan reflected a good hybrid design between concept A and C.

Discussion prioritization of planned park elements

1. ADA trails
2. Access road and parking
3. Restrooms – explore constructing prior to farm building
4. Entrance signage at main access points – artistic gateway elements
5. Native plant establishment
6. Tree establishment

Kathleen asked if Park Design Advisory Group had recommendations on farm program elements. The following items were suggested:

- “Deep digging” of soil to address compaction should not be optional
- Focus of farm should be on programming and demonstration of how to grow food; not solely food production
- Educational element should be integrated into all stages of farm development and begin with Phase I. Education/programming does not need to wait until farm is in full production since there is a lot to learn with initial development of an urban farm, soil remediation, composting, and native plantings
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Other discussions/comments were as follows:

- Concerns regarding parkland dedication, since the City does not have a specific zoning category for parkland and open space. How is the property designated as parkland?
 - There is a deed restriction on the land due to state funding that the land must be used for park purposes and there will be a resolution to City council designating the land as such.
- A question was raised about what would happen to the site if the farm ceased to exist:
 - Kathleen responded that site would remain for park purposes and has limitless options. Parks evolve with time and elements proposing with concept plan will not preclude any future park uses.

Next Steps: Large Community Meeting, January 4, 2014 at Jackson Elementary 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.