



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2013

LOCATION: West Minnehaha Recreation Center

ATTENDING, Lara Christley, , Lauren Klabunde, Jeff Arnold, Patricia Ohmans, Tony Schmitz, Danielle Salus, Seitu Jones, Ahmed Anshur, Kathleen Anglo, Karin Misiewicz, Mark Granlund, Melvin Emanuel Jr., Hani Hussein, Soyini Guyton, Erin Pavlica, Jeff Arnold, and Alice Messer

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Misha Liang, Melisande Charles, Mohamud Hashi

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, December 4, 2013

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Kathleen Anglo began meeting with introductions and provided recap from October 24, 2013 meeting. Addressed follow up items from the previous meeting. These included:

- Asked if Committee members had any outreach efforts to report back?
- Update on Brass Foundry and Noise Monitoring.
 - Kathleen summarized “good neighbor” approach
 - Discussed creating a noise wall that could be artist element
 - Foundry currently has no plans to expand or move in the future
- Milton Ave easement discussion
 - Seitu Jones informed the group that the City and Frogtown Farm has officially received a letter from Wilder denying a permanent easement on Milton.
 - Wilder has two programs on either side of Milton that have objections to increased traffic on Milton
 - Concern about parking and overflow into Wilder parking lot (*it is noted that even if we don’t have an easement, people will still park along Milton*)
 - Pedestrian easement is ok
 - Committee members asked about negotiating and pushing back on denied Milton access. Condemnation brought up.
 - Kathleen stated that she needed to discuss issue with department Director as condemnation can be an expensive and lengthy process.

Kathleen presented results of surveys received to date.

- 343 people had responded to survey. Survey to remain open until December 1st.

- Suggestions to get more responses from within neighborhood include placement of survey at Rondo library, Daily Diner and use of community ambassadors to distribute.
- Molly has 5-7 members of the community targeting community outreach, as Community Ambassadors
 - Working to establish dates within neighborhood where community will be gathering for further outreach
- Hani offered to have families complete survey during “Homework Help” time at Rondo Library.
- Question about District 7 distributing survey.
 - Request to include in email distribution list
- Soyini commented on need for senior representation. Suggestions made to reach out to Valley View High Rise, Mount Airy
- Suggestion to reach out to local school PTA groups

Kathleen presented preliminary concept plans labeled as Agri-Park, Natural Park and Active Park concepts. Presentation included the following design elements:

- Concept A: Agri-Park
 1. Terraced plantings to the north side of sledding hill that show cultural farming on steep hillsides, remove existing trees on slope near Victoria to accommodate an ADA path from Victoria.
 2. Children’s garden located near buildings and farm play area.
 3. Farm Play (located near buildings) Water pump, farm/art/play equipment, near restrooms
 4. Amphitheater within southeast corner of hill
 5. Expanded orchard down slope to create buffer between open lawn and residential.
 6. Edible vegetation
 7. Mix of paved and soft trails
 8. Buffer zones between farm and rest of park.
 9. Observatory or tall icon at overlook = possible art opportunity
 10. Maintain sledding hill
 11. Noise wall between park and Brass Foundry = art opportunity
 12. Entrance Gateways on Minnehaha, Milton and Victoria = art opportunity
- Concept B: Natural Park
 1. Preserve the ‘wildness’. Preserve natural areas not found elsewhere in Frogtown.
 2. Keeps trees
 3. No ADA access from Victoria
 4. Minimize paved trails
 5. No ‘standard’ play area
 6. Add native plantings to sledding hill which can be mowed for sledding
 7. Plant native ground covers under oaks near Minnehaha Ave
 8. Use natural materials
 9. Scattered picnic areas

10. Minimal active programming
 11. Assumes only vehicular access from Milton Ave
 12. Gateways at Minnehaha, Milton and Victoria = Art opportunity
 13. Noise wall at Brass Foundry = art opportunity
- Concept C: Active Park
 1. Play area tucked into hillside north of sledding hill as part of an accessible path.
 2. Embankment slide
 3. Sledding hill
 4. Keep open lawn for games, non-programmed play.
 5. Amphitheater in natural bowl near Minnehaha uses existing topography under canopy of large cottonwood tree. (which can be noisy)
 6. Mowed turf under existing oak trees
 7. Exercise programming (paved walking trails)
 8. Maintain volleyball poles
 9. Swinging benches
 10. Off leash dog run
 11. Designated picnic area (with grills)
 12. Gathering plaza with chess tables, seating
 13. Gateways = art opportunity
 14. Nature based play = art opportunity

Discussion on concepts presented:

1. Melvin likes the farm theme, like the orchard, but not enough recreational area for what the community wants, keep the open lawn area near Victoria.
2. Could fruit trees be planted throughout the site instead of in an orchard?
3. Agri-park was too structured
4. Explore use of orchard to create a buffer between farm and park
5. Like amphitheater in concept A (in south east corner of farm) versus the location close to Minnehaha Avenue.
6. Comment for need to accommodate seniors and elderly – explore seating areas where seniors able to visit and feel comfortable
7. Each plan needs to reflect accessible route from Minnehaha and Victoria.
8. Sound wall would make more use of the site because existing noise from Foundry excludes people from part of site where the most shade is available.
9. Like mown natural paths
10. Discussion on if there will be a “Farm Manager” onsite – depends on Farm programming.
11. Remove the dog run
12. Amphitheater for approximately 100 people
13. Like idea of stream play for children
14. Tamarack nature center discussed as example of natural based play area
15. Concepts need to encompass all user groups with ADA route
16. Karin likes the overlook area
 - a. Need site lines into amphitheater and lighting

Next Steps: Large Community Meeting, December 10, 2013 at Jackson Elementary from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

The 3 concepts will be refined based on comments from this meeting and will be combined with the farm designs that were presented and refined at the FARM DAC meeting on November 19, 2013 so that there are cohesive park/farm designs being presented. The designs will be presented and then there will be stations so that people at the meeting can make comments on each design so that it can be refined to one plan.

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