**Meeting Notes**

**Iris Park Improvements**

**Design Advisory Committee Open House**

**1/29/14**

City Staff Present: Brian Tourtelotte, Dave Ronzani, Ellen Stewart

1. Introductions. Many of the members in attendance attended the previous meetings. Attendees included nearby residents, local business, and residents of Episcopal homes.
2. Ellen reviewed the purpose of the grant funding the project, goals of the project and overall vision and concepts developed from the previous community meetings.
3. Concept discussion: Ellen presented the updated concept design which was a combination of the 2 concepts presented during the second meeting and incorporated feedback received from the previous meetings. After the presentation, the attendees were given an opportunity to discuss the concepts with city staff and comment on the boards with post-it notes.
   1. Concept
      1. Concept provides a split plaza on the north end that provides two seating areas – one oriented to the street and the other oriented toward the park.
      2. Fountain and retaining walls provide a physical barrier and a sound barrier making the lower space more intimate
      3. Planters separate the plaza from the main sidewalk with a ramp in the middle for access from E. Lynnhurst
      4. The pergola structure provides a demarcation of the park’s presence. The structure’s shape is unusual and could incorporate some whimsy related to either the previous presence of an amusement park or some other artful interpretation.
      5. Access for those using wheelchairs and walkers from the upper level to the lower level will be the sidewalk along E. Lynnhurst and a ramp along the west side of the plaza.
      6. The upper and lower areas are connected by stairs as well toward the 5’ arced walkway that leads to W. Lynnhurst.
      7. The lower plaza could accommodate game tables – it would be important to make some of them wheelchair accessible.
      8. Upper plaza area hosts more temporary seating including seat walls
      9. A second gathering area provides a slightly larger space than what currently exists at the north end of the pond. Another pergola structure there would accommodate more tables or benches or swings or a combination of furnishings.
      10. Possibility of incorporating an Iris Park sign into the west seat wall of the upper plaza.
      11. A circular lawn area.
      12. A fountain at the corner flows down the steps into a runnel or stone pavers that lead south toward the existing pond.
      13. “Family Friendly” aspect of the design is the runnel, topography, and open space rather than having a designated play area in the park.
      14. Trees near the plaza just north of the pond can be limbed up or removed for visibility
      15. The south pergola was shifted further west to leave more room for future development
      16. Potential of swing chairs by the water.
      17. Whimsy aspect – More of a memorable place. Sculpture or add color, metal details, etc. to pergola

Post-it comments included:

* + - 1. Love the design; include extra lighting at both seating areas.
      2. Include sidewalk poetry (possibly by Marcus Young) for a public art component of the design
      3. Incorporate roughened sides on low sitting stones to discourage graffiti. 3 sitting stones (blocks) look better than 2.
      4. Include 2 bocce ball courts?
      5. How well will the paving stones work with mowers and maintenance?
      6. Mosaic Iris Park sign. Maybe with “Mosaic on a Stick” folks on Hamline.
      7. Could you do a story trail on posts 3 feet high instead of pavers?

1. Next Steps:
   1. The public participation phase of this project has been completed.
   2. Construction Drawings
   3. Begin Construction Spring/Summer 2014
   4. Project Completion Spring 2015