



## MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: January 15, 2015

LOCATION: South St. Anthony Recreation Center

ATTENDING: Matt Wildenauer, Karin Misiewicz, Mike Richardson, Karen Flink, Bob Brose, Sarah Grow, Brad Engelman, Margot Monson, Gregory Page, Sandy Jacobs, Ann Commers, Stephen Mastey, Cailin Rogers, Ellen Watters, Adam Robbins, Dan Philippon, Alice Messer

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Dilts, Matt Hass, Vivi Dai, Julie Ann James, Ellen Harrop, Gregory Junge, Suyapa Miranda

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, January 26, 2015

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### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

#### *Alice Messer opened up the meeting.*

- Alice provided overview of meeting. Goal of meeting was to receive feedback on three concept plans in order to develop final plan.
  - Introductions
  - Alice provided recap from Mtg #1. Included summary of Opportunities and Constraints of site.
    - Addressed follow-up items regarding:
      - Nice Ride Station – no station currently proposed for Hampden Park
      - MetroTransist Bus Stop – spoke to MetroTransit and bus stop is not planned to include structure.
      - Signage – Grand Rounds Signage RFP currently out. Citywide effort to identify Grand Rounds in St. Paul and appropriate signage will be incorporated into plaza.

#### *Alice presented Concept plans. Refer to Presentation Materials for graphics.*

- Direction from Mtg#1 included:
  1. Create a more dynamic park.
  2. Utilize pollinator friendly plants.
  3. Incorporate Grand Rounds into plaza design.
  4. Integrate honey locust into plaza design for shade.
  5. Identify park with signage.
  6. Provide a variety of seating options within park.

7. Utilize high quality materials.

- Concept 1 – Maintain existing trail. Incorporate planting areas at park entrances and add pollinator friendly garden with seating in sunny area of park. Plaza design utilized stone wall to provide seating with views into park as well as views out to Raymond Ave. Includes 2 sided kiosk, bike rack, bike repair signage and drinking fountain. Plaza space is approx. 3,290 sf.
- Concept 2 – Extends existing trail to northern edge of park. Begin to selectively remove and/or relocate trees to define open space. Incorporate vertical elements to define entrances. Explore partnership with U of Minnesota to test pollinator friendly turf in park setting. Begin to break up traditional turf plantings. Plaza is rectilinear design. Incorporated stone walls to provide variety of seating options. Movable chairs proposed under honey locust trees. Pathway into plaza aligns between existing trees. Plaza is approx. 2,630 sf.
- Concept 3 – Reconstructs pathway to create curvilinear trail through the entire park. Trail and new planting areas define open spaces within park. Existing trees removed and/or relocated to define central open space. Incorporate no mow fescue grass to provide diversity within park. Plaza is curvilinear design that extends along edge of Raymond Ave. Large planting bed incorporates existing honey locust trees and provides backdrop to plaza. Plaza provides bike rack, benches and kiosk for Grand Rounds. Plaza is approx. 2,360 sf.

*Alice asked for comments on Concepts. Below is a summary from Committee members.*

- Margot Monson – Dutch clover is mowable and will improve health of soil. Enjoys areas with pollinator gardens
- Dan Philippon – appreciates creative and thoughtful ideas for site. Southeast corner will welcome people into park. Likes Concept 1 with seating and curvilinear plaza and organic form. Explore berms in site. Wondering about pavers salvaged from University Ave. Open space is currently used for yoga, Frisbee, kids, dog walking. Not sure if extended path is necessary. People will walk along Hampden if need to travel north-south. Would want to travel into park for lunch.
- Sandy Jacobs – Would want to be 10'-20' inside park. Not along Raymond Ave. Likes landscaping along Raymond Ave and creates nice edge. Likes standard park signage.
- Ellen Watters – Agrees with Dan and Sandy's comments. Is interested in supporting native plantings/pollinator gardens and votes for organizing neighbors. Feels like sumac has lived a useful life and would like a fresh approach. Likes planted edge along Raymond Ave.
- Ann Commers – likes buffer planting along Raymond Ave. due to traffic. Really likes Concept 3 as it defines areas within the park. Feels like not a lot is happening on the north end. Likes smaller plaza footprint with 1-2 benches. No mow fescues define areas in park.
- Karin M. – likes all the concepts. Feels smaller plaza area is better and most people would want to go into park to picnic, etc.
- Gregory Page – Likes smaller plaza better. Plaza creates entrance into park and likes walls that define entry as well as able to sit. Likes how bus stop is embraced with

Concept #1. Likes the path in #2, but feels like path in #3 will divide green space too much. Make plaza smaller, and utilize movable tables.

- Karin Flink – Feels existing path is ok as it is. Make sure planting low enough to not block visibility. Like movable tables and grass. Like the look of stone and versatility of space. Like pollinator idea. Likes concept 1 with planting area that wraps around Raymond Ave.
- Brad Engleman – Park will be used for next 5-10 years. Greenline, and Grand Rounds and more people in the park. See park being used differently in the future. Concerned about path access and have spur to north. Standard park signage is a good idea. Caution about experimenting with turf in park.
- Stephen Mastey – Extend street tree element along Raymond Ave. Location you will want to be in park for picnicking is by existing fir trees. Focus of plaza should be entry way into park. Explore incorporating vertical element at northern end of park as focal point. Current planting palette is trees with no understory. Explore native planting and/or sedge mix in shade area to provide habitat and diversity during all times of the year. Clover will do well in rich soil and not great in dry sites.
- Adam Robbins – native planting areas need to be maintained and would not happen with limited size at Hampden Park. Completed tree analysis with U and tree girdling occurring with linden and maples. Suggest assessing trees and replacing. Native plant species will provide site for song birds. Like to see public art as structure in park for kids to play and interact with.
- Matt Wildenauer – likes concepts 1 and concept 3. Explore berming and topography in site. Likes extending path thru the site. Provided own concept plan for site.
- Mike Richardson – bikes may be locked to drinking fountain if placed next to bike rack. Think about views of pollinator garden from plaza area. Opening up views. Plantings along Raymond will soften entrance into park from Raymond Ave. Mixed feelings on path extending north.
- Cailin Rogers – like size of plaza with #3.
- Sarah Grow – Like plaza to play roll in public transit. Likes bike rack, repair station, drinking fountain and kiosk. Likes stone benches for seating in and out of plaza. Like path in #3 with dynamic flow into the park. Feels like there is enough open space in the park and older youth will go to larger open space. Need a variety of tables.
- Bob Brose – Like concept #3. Like drinking fountain in the plaza. Kids from across Raymond will use open space as well. Like idea of berm for skiing. Young pines and evergreens are too low.

***Alice presented information on pollinators.***

Three items needed for pollinators:

- native flowering plants - Understory trees and shrubs that support pollinators were selected
- nesting site - Nesting sites could be interesting volunteer event to create within park
- Pesticide free plants - Identified nurseries that provide pesticide free plants.

***Alice presented opportunities for public art. Refer to presentation materials.***

Has been a lot of discussion about incorporating large stone pieces that serve as interactive public art. Great idea, but other options to consider.

- Lighting – could provide interesting element at plaza area. Lighting could become park identifier as well as help slow down traffic. Could also up light existing trees.
- Seating – could include interesting swings or carved stone for seating
- Materials – stone wall or paving pattern within plaza
- Storm water – idea of revealing underground infiltration system...pulling back carpet to reveal infrastructure below the surface.

Group consensus to discuss public art after final concept plan selected.

Alice followed up via email (1/23/15) with Bee and Reverie project.

*Alice concluded meeting. Next meeting is January 27, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Open House to present final concept plan.*

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**Next Meeting: January 27, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at  
South Saint Anthony Recreation Center**

Please contact Alice Messer at 651-266-6412 if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly.