



## MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: January 27, 2015

LOCATION: South St. Anthony Recreation Center

ATTENDING: Matt Wildenauer, Mike Richardson, Karen Flink, Bob Brose, Ellen Harrop, Sarah Grow, Brad Engelman, Margot Monson, Gregory Junge, Sandy Jacobs, Ann Commers, Ray Bryan, Michael Oxborough, Stephen Mastey, Alice Messer, Ellen Watters, Nancy Dilts, Sherm Eagles, Ray Phillips, Ann Fendorf, Adam Robbins, Sue Conner, Margaret Solberg, Meredith Sommers, Jay Dregini

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Matt Hass, Vivi Dai, Julie Ann James, Karin Misiewicz, Suyapa Miranda, Gregory Page

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, March 2, 2015

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### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

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

- Alice provided overview of meeting and format of Open House
  - Introductions
  - Goal of the Open House was to receive larger community input on final concept plan.

#### ***Alice recapped from Mtg #2.***

- Approximately \$8,000 remaining from Sewer Infiltration project. This balance will be transferred for park improvements.
- I met with Ian Lane from University of Minnesota regarding pollinator friendly plants/turf.
  1. Ian provided information on turf/clover mixes that would be appropriate for the site. Discussed other shrub and tree options.
  2. University currently not looking to “partner” on project, but will be resource for pollinator friendly plant selection.

#### ***Alice presented final concept plan. Refer to Presentation Materials for final concept plan.***

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- Committee likes elements from all three concept plans presented at Mtg #2. General direction heard from previous meeting included:
  - Incorporate bus stop into plaza
  - Extend trail connection to north end of park
  - Preference for smaller plaza space
  - Like stone seat walls that allow views into and out of park

- Utilize new park signage
  - Explore integration of no mow fescue and/or pollinator friendly turf.
  - Movable picnic tables.
- Final concept plan includes:
  - trail connection to northern edge of park, limit impact to existing open space
  - Define larger open space by selectively removing trees
  - Intergrate pollinator friendly plants at entrance points to park
  - Smaller plaza space at corner of Raymond and Hampden Park
  - Stone seat walls define plaza and provide seating options

*Alice asked attendees to offer final comments/thought verbally and via post-it notes.*

*Summary of statements are below:*

- Location of kiosk signs needs to be addressed – not sure in best location
- Would like to review final text on park signage
- Like the idea of the bees, but worried that bees are too small
- Would like path to be plowed.
- Fescue is not a place you would want to sit, play or picnic– should be smaller scale planting areas focused on areas where existing grass not doing well
- Stephen suggested public art idea of integrating readings from Jens Jensen’s “The Shifting”

Comments received on overall plan via post-its:

- “Path extension like Concept 2”
- “path extension on concept 2 good compromise”
- “maintain an open free play area here”
- “need to maintain an evergreen forest of some kind here”
- “in addition to breaking up the open space the north path outlets are blind for cars coming around the Bayless/Hampton Ave.”
- “Too much paving. No need for this paved path on this end”
- “I don’t think there needs to be a path to the north at all. But if one is planned, keep it near Bayless to maintain the open space”
- “Please – a narrow unpaved walking/running path around the perimeter of the park! 18” wide”
- “This is a very narrow park. Adding hard surface and reducing green seems to be wrong direction. Have as little path as possible and as small a plaza as possible”
- “keep evergreens at south end near Raymond”
- “Small stormwater pond – but retain open space”
- “Limit use of fescue – other low maintenance natives would be better – like woodlands area”
- “like the fescue because I like less mowing if possible. Like pollinators”
- “potential area for public art space with gravel and benches”
- “bench, picnic table, swing in west end of park – Bayless Ave and Bayless Place”
- “Swinging bench is needed somewhere”

- “Very much like the fescue, pollinator planting, low wall for seating in favor of linking the path to the north end of park. Thanks!”

Comments received on plaza via post-its:

- “love shape of plaza; move kiosk closer to street to allow more room for park side”
- “plaza is great – super design”
- “love the curved lines on the plaza”
- “plaza curved wall shape is nice”
- “love the wall seating”
- “trash bin at Raymond end”
- “I would be supportive of more lighting in the plaza...solar powered? Low to ground”
- “consider additional topography and definition of open space”
- “I think the proposed drainage area effectively loses the space regained by the road re-aligning”
- “I think the path to the north end would help re-orient the park so that it is less oriented to Raymond and may invite connection to the transit way”
- “I think the plaza size is about right as a temporary rest spot for bus riders, bikes, shoppers/walkers”

Comments received on public art opportunities via post-its:

- “Very cool” – stone wall image
- “lighting – especially for plaza, path would be good too – night sky protective lighting”
- “like lighting in plaza”
- “All lighting should be fully shielded cut-off design”
- “Bees are wonderful”
- “Like the bees”
- “art should not attract graffiti, if possible”
- “like art swing”
- “birch and aspen groves as “art””
- “a swinging bench in north end of park – climbing rocks a great idea”
- “north sidewalk improvement is great idea”
- “cigarette trash bin at Pearl and Bayless”
- “reuse same path to save money – just add north arm concept 2”
- “Yes – concept 2 for path – don’t break up north end of park”
- “Concept 2 for path”
- “make picnic area under large oak tree (adjacent pines) using a pebble arched no-mow area”
- “stone walls are great”
- “currently can ski around the outside, it’d be nice to still be able to do that”
- “utilize area to introduce color and pollinators – few places with full sun”
- “no raingarden...redundant use of space”
- “too much fescue – keep recently planted turf that’s doing well”

Follow-up comment via email regarding mowable fescue:

*“I did not think hard enough about the life cycles when I endorsed mowable fescue. Having thought about it more, I have decided to tell you that if the fescue suggested has to be mowed, it would not be my choice, because of the uncertain timing of mowing. If bumble bees chose to nest there, they would have established their colony by the time it might need to be first mowed; in the late fall after frost, the nest dies, all except for the newly developed queens, which leave the nest and look for an overwintering site, away from their original home, often underground. So, if mowed very late, this might be safe, but I believe it would be unreasonable to think the crews can work around bee life cycles.”*

*Alice thanked committee for their participation in Design Advisory Committee!*

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## **Next Step: Develop construction documents based on feedback. Get final plan to Design Advisory Committee.**

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