CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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June 18, 2008

Lilydale Regional Park Design Advisory Meeting
Meeting Notes – June 16, 2008
Wellstone Center
Meeting Attendees:
Bill Anderson, Jan Carr, Jody Martinez, Gjerry Berquist, Robert Ferguson, Molly Schodeen, Gregory Page, David Kuebler, Jon Kerr, Eric Thompson, Peggy Lynch, Karin Misiewicz, Kathy Farnell, Grit Youngquist, Wendy Molylan, Irene Jones, Megan Manhatten, Anne Hunt, Mary Jackson, Gail Merriam, Derek Johnson, Alan Robbins-Fenger, Paul Mohrboacher, Craig David, Bill Goldberg, Pat Lindgren and Alice Messer

A. Jody Martinez of Park and Recreation welcomed attendees and provided a brief overview of site plan process.

B. Alice Messer of Parks and Recreation recapped Goals and Objectives developed at September 2007 meeting.

C. Presentation of Site Analysis/Synthesis Board of existing conditions within Lilydale Regional Park.

D. Presentation of Cultural, Recreational and Ecological Concepts

1. Cultural concept:
    - Lilydale Road in current location with revised parking lot pulled away from lake edge and on street parking (Note – Dakota County will not allow on street parking on road so this concept requires the road becomes St. Paul's.)
    - Interpretive trail connects cultural impacts within park highlighting impacts of floodplain, industrial use of river, RR impact, history of City of Lilly Dale, brickyard trail, fossil grounds
    - Interpretive building/picnic shelter/restrooms with satellites provided adjacent to Pickerel Lake
    - Strong boardwalk connection to fossil ground site
    - Group camp site provided
    - Interpretive building/gathering area provided at entrance to fossil grounds
    - Road realigned at fossil grounds to eliminate trail/auto conflict
    - Contaminated fill sites removed (but no replacement of clean fill)
2. Recreational concept:
    - Relocated portion of Lilydale Road by lake gathering area
    - Parking separated from road (Dakota County okay with this concept)

- Picnic shelter located above floodplain with clean fill brought in so that water and sanitary service can be provided
- Internal trail system developed connecting features in park
- Two group camping site provided
- Dog park located away from lakeshore
- Casual recreational uses proposed to support family use adjacent to picnic area (sand volleyball, horse shoes, small play area)
- Canoe route dredged through wetland and connection to Mississippi River under Mendota Historic Bridge
- Contaminated fill sites removed and clean fill brought in at location of proposed picnic shelter/restroom facilities

3. Ecological concept:
    - Relocated majority of Lilydale Road away from Pickerel Lake
    - Wildlife viewing/observation platforms provided through out park
    - Wildlife observation shelter provided above floodplain with water and sanitary service
    - Butterfly garden extended along shoreline
    - Canoe route through wetland for wildlife observation
    - Group camp site provided
    - Vegetation management throughout park to encourage wildlife diversity
    - Contaminated fill sites removed and clean fill brought in at location of proposed picnic shelter/restroom

E. Discussion/Comments/Questions:

- Request to provide on-road bicycle lane for commuter cyclist. (This will add 12' to road width.)
- General consensus to combine various program elements found in all three concepts
- Request to rank program elements from High Priority to Low Priority for future phasing and implementation
- General consensus to pursue road realignment for a section of Lilydale Road to provide space adjacent to Pickerel Lake as main gathering area and minimize vehicle conflicts
- General consensus to provide a central structure within park and minimize parking areas as needed
- General consensus to hold separate meeting addressing dog park as new program element that needs further discussion
- Need more information regarding existing vegetation within park. Vegetation Management Study required as soon as possible to refine final concept plan. Minimal areas planned to be manicured turf
- Desire to minimize vegetation removal, beyond invasive species removal. Larger tracks of vegetation are better for wildlife habitat. All significant trees to remain
- Discussion of Lilydale Road turn-back program from Dakota County to City of Saint Paul. Citywide commitment that will require future discussions
- Future exploration of boardwalk system connecting fossil grounds to main park area. Research options for providing fishing access to fishing hole in lake
- Need to research further impacts of opening channel between wetland and Mississippi River for canoe access under Mendota Historic Bridge.
- Minimize trail crossings. Need for safer trail crossings with roadway. Explore trail crossing options

- General consensus on proposed improvements to Water Street with Gateway/Park entrance at Bait Shop property, stream/creek gathering bluff seepage (similar to Bruce Vento), bury overhead power lines, and open views to Mississippi River
- General consensus on realigning Lilydale Road at entrance to fossil grounds to reduce trail conflict and provide group gathering area at entrance to fossil grounds
- General consensus for water and sanitary service within park. Water and restrooms greatly needed for group volunteer activities currently held in park
- General consensus to eliminate trail conflict with RR bridge trestle. Additional tunnel for trail use only required.

F. Next Steps:

- Research funding options for Vegetation Management Study. Put together Request for Proposal (RFP) to get estimate for a regional park study
- Research completed Phase 1 and Phase II Environmental Study for all of Lilydale Regional Park. Will address soil contamination/remediation efforts
- Develop overall site plan reflecting comments. Open house will be held presenting final concept which will be used to secure future funding
- Develop phasing/implementation plan
- Continue developing lakeshore improvement plans. Task force developed to review lakeshore improvement plans
- Plan and hold separate dog park meeting addressing pros and cons of dog park within Lilydale Regional Park

PLEASE REVIEW THESE NOTES AND CONTACT ME (651-266-6412) IF COMMENTS ARE INCORRECTLY NOTED OR MISSED COMPLETELY.

Alice Messer

Alice Messer
Project Landscape Architect