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City in America

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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Como Regional Park Advisory Committee April 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

1. **Historic Como Pedestrian Bridge** – Don Varney, Parks Design and project consultants

Plans were presented for the project. Tests showed that the bridge is in better shape (structurally) than previously thought, so there are more options for restoration. Since the meeting there has been one State Aid review of our plan sets and now revisions are under way. Bidding for the project will start in May.

2. **Announcements/Project Updates**

- **Play Area Grand Opening**
Alice Messer (Parks Design) reports that construction will be complete mid-June or so. The resilient surface installation is weather dependant. The committee suggests that if completion is late enough into the summer, the grand opening event could be part of Como Fest (2nd week in July). NW Como staff and Ted at D-10 would be good contacts.
- **Agency Accreditation**
Kathy reported that the site visit team had been impressed with the Parks operation up to this point, were scheduled at the Como Visitor Center with community partners on Tuesday evening and were expected to wrap-up their site visit and present a final report to staff and the Mayor's office on Wednesday.
- **Proposed Route 83**
Kathy and Elizabeth Stiffler provided an update – Parks and Public Works employees are reviewing the proposed stops on the route. There will additional information forthcoming from Metro Transit.
- **Como Campus projects**
The Ordway Gardens will open publically April 19.
The Gorilla Forest Exhibit is on track to open June 6.
Media promotion and coverage will be ramping up for both.

3. **Follow-up discussion about the committee structure and format moving forward.**

The CRPAC began as a two-year pilot in 2011. Although the time period for its operation is expiring, there is a desire from both inside and outside the department, for it to continue. The committee has discussed this and provided the following recommendations:

- Reduce the meeting frequency – quarterly is the suggestion.
- Parks staff and community residents will need to plan ahead, leaving lots of lead time on big issues that need the committee's review or community input.
- Electronic updates between meetings would be OK.
- An extra meeting could be called if there is a significant need.
- We need to be thoughtful about agenda topics.
- Suggest broadening the committee's membership to include a member from the St. Anthony area, Frogtown, Hamline-Midway, District 6 and District 10.
- Some members have agreed to stay on.
- Involve PED and PW when topics suggest.



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Other announcements:

- Tom Dapper provided a hand-out stating the position of the Como Men's Club regarding any plans for the re-use of Como Golf Course. There was time for a brief discussion about the hand-out and committee members could ask Tom questions.

Next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, June 11th 6:30-8pm.