

**Como Regional Park Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2014**

**Committee Members Present:** Dan Marckel, Pete Bolstad, Kathy Korum, Art Oglesby, Elizabeth Stiffler, Trieste Brown  
**Guests:** Bill Sylvester, Frank Dolesj, Sally Worku, Jeanne Swanson, Michelle Furrer, Melissa Maier, Susan Vandenberg

**Introductions:**

Today's guests and the members of the committee exchanged introductions with each other.

**Discussion/Decision Items:**

- **Como Transportation/Bonding Project Update and Discussion** – Michelle Furrer provided an update regarding the recent bonding request and the final bill passed by the Legislature. She indicated the initial request was for \$8.9 M based on recommendations in the Como Regional Park Transportation Implementation Plan (CRPTIP). The department received a state investment of \$5.4 M. Michelle showed the committee the handout presented to the Legislature and shared some initial thoughts about how the \$5.9 M might be allocated. Ms. Furrer indicated the current department priorities do not include a parking lot for the shuttle. The Parks and Recreation department will be meeting in the next few months to move possible transportation improvements from the concept stage to project development. Michelle outlined the current ideas regarding the priorities for improvements. (Areas A, D, E and F) and possible improvements at intersections B or C. The Parks and Recreation Department will be refining the list of possible improvements during the summer. Michelle indicated she might be able to bring a proposal to this committee by our September meeting. Dan asked for possible timeline for the various improvements. Ms. Furrer noted that the earliest possible construction could occur in late summer of 2015 into 2016. She indicated that the Parks and Recreation department may also discuss how additional money could be gained to meet the original request of \$8.9 M. Kathy talked about possibility of adding CRPAC meetings in October and November for public discussion of this matter if needed.
  
- **Lexington Street crossing at Como Golf Course** – There appears to be an interest in studying the safety of this crossing related to people who cross Lexington to attend summer pavilion events and also during the winter ski season. Kathy showed a picture of a proposed project for a crossing by the entrance of Como Golf Course Clubhouse south of the north pavilion parking lot. Elizabeth talked about the fact that Lexington is a county road and there would need to be collaboration between the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County for any such project. The estimated cost from the county is \$134, 000. The committee and guests were informed the project could include a median to the south of the Como Golf course entrance. Kathy asked about any studies regarding this area. Ms. Worku asked whether the City of St. Paul had looked at possible underground crossings included in the Como Regional Park master plan. To address possible safety concerns this summer, Kathy suggested that the Parks and Recreation department could consider using “Right Track” kids to assist individuals crossing Lexington Parkway during special events.

**Updates:**

- **Como Campus parking lot signage and other Como signage:** Kathy provided an update on the signage being added to the park. She indicated the department is aware that the sign at the Horton and Midway Parkway intersection is incorrect and will be fixed soon. The computer for setting up the electronic signage is still being worked on this week. Kathy indicated the electronic signage notifying patrons whether lots are “full” or “open” may be operational by this weekend.
- **Historic Pedestrian Bridge:** The bridge project continues to experience delays. There are possible changes to the plan as to whether the bridge could safely handle pedestrians. Bids for this project are expected to go out soon. The bidding and selection process is expected to take four weeks. Construction on the bridge could start as early as August; however, the project could be delayed depending on the total cost of the project.
- **Face lifts at Como Pool:** Kathy showed the committee pictures of the new signs at the Como Regional Park Pool. She noted that stanchions and turnstiles have been added to help with traffic flow and monitoring the counts of individuals using the pool at any time. Kathy also informed the committee and guests of the ongoing work with the filtration system.

- **Dates for Lao Family Soccer event at Mc Murray:** The committee was informed that the dates for this year's event are July 4 and 5 with a load-in date of July 3, 2014.

**Other Business:**

- Ms. Worku raised questions regarding signage in the western part of the park, specifically questions regarding signage at Midway and Hamline. The intersection of Horton and Hamline was also mentioned as another location for signs.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** The committee was informed that the next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Bolstad/Kathy Korum