



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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December 7, 2009

**Hancock Play Area
Analysis and Programming
Meeting Notes – December 2, 2009
Hancock Recreation Center**

Meeting Attendees:

Bobbi Jo Rademacher –Community member; Marjorie Abrams, Bonnie Gustafson, Michael Fishback, Elisabeth Mulvaney – Saint Paul Public Schools; Jun-Li Wang - Hamline Midway Coalition; David Ronzani, Kathleen Anglo, Fernando Fuentes, Kelly Gust, Nicholas Schiebel – Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

- A. David Ronzani of Parks and Recreation passed out the meeting agenda and then proceeded with introductions.**
- B. David Ronzani gave an overview of the design process.**
- C. David Ronzani presented existing conditions, site analysis, goals and objectives, Likes/Dislikes/Wants.**
- D. Discussion/Comments/Questions:**
 - a. Dislikes/Concerns with the current tot lot:**
 - Deteriorating play equipment
 - Roller slides
 - Kids keep sitting on the crawl tube, leads to denting and eventual cracks in the plastic.
 - Lack of outdoor restroom
 - Do not like condition of current asphalt.
 - Sand: dirty, increases wear on the play equipment, makes asphalt slippery, causes the paint on walk way to wear off quickly, and accumulates in building
 - Dumpster location
 - No covers on garbage cans. Attracts bees
 - Lack of consistent maintenance
 - Lacks sufficient lighting, light near building not working properly
 - Kids hide in the tubes
 - Equipment continues to break, leads to removal



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b. What is liked about the current tot lot and should be carried over into the new design if possible:

- Bike rack out in front, or in back of building
- School likes bike rack out in front – deters theft
- Maintain site lines through play area
- Like structures with high platforms
- Climbing
- Kids like swings, and other equipment that moves or spins
- The digger is a favorite piece of equipment, allows kids to “get away” from larger structure
- Spaces kids can hide under and feel a sense of enclosure
- Kids like the “scary things”
- Sand (Kindergarteners bring sand toys)
- Kids need to be active
- Retain 4-Square
- Chess table used more as a table.

c. Additional improvements:

- Meet ADA accessibility and CPSC safety guidelines for use zones
- Provide for 60 kids per recess period, area is more heavily used by the younger grades
- Potential for Pre-K to be added at the school
- Places where kids can sit high or crawl under
- Teen element – Paint the Pavement
- Explore potential for art on the pavement
- Incorporate equipment that kids can be seen through
- Climbing opportunities
- No metal slides
- Make other versions of hopscotch available and thinner lines
- 4-square as a paver pattern in the concrete
- Mosaic tiles
- Like the see-saw
- Equipment that is new and exciting
- Twisting and turning elements
- More 5+ equipment in lieu of swings
- No tot swings
- Move sand to tot area
- More shade
- More moving equipment, climbing opportunities
- Soft tiles vs. sand, or alternative options (can provide examples)
- Retain 4-Square
- If there are tubes, have windows to see through them
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Potential to place a fence by wall around the electrical box
- Spring is the preferred start time for construction
- Lighter colors (heat purposes)

- E. David Ronzani Presented the new Concept Plan, Play Equipment, and play Equipment layout Options**
- a. From equipment style options, the preference was to combine the traditional style structure with the modern style to utilize a variety of play opportunities**
 - i. Individual play equipment preferences
 - 1. Spring toys
 - 2. Digger
 - 3. Double “See-Saw”
 - 4. Net climber “web wall”
 - 5. Rotating sky runner/Graviton
 - b. Preference was for Option #2, (No swings in large container, tots in the small container)**
 - i. Remove tot swings in favor of more equipment
 - ii. Move sand area from the large to the small container closer to the tot equipment.

F. Next Steps:

- ☐ Meeting #2 – Design Development, Final play equipment decision - January, date TBD.
- ☐ Action Items:
 - Play surface examples
 - New equipment examples

PLEASE REVIEW THESE NOTES AND CONTACT ME (651-266-6410) IF COMMENTS ARE INCORRECTLY NOTED OR MISSED COMPLETELY.

David Ronzani
Project Manager

Kathleen Anglo
Landscape Architect