



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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May 24, 2007

Harriet Island Phase II Design Advisory Committee**Meeting Notes – May 21, 2007****Wigington Pavilion, Harriet Island**

Meeting Attendees: Susan Barker and Steve Komula, West Side Bluff Task Force; Virginia McBride, West Side Resident; Molly Shodeen, MnDNR; Tom Beach, St. Paul DSI; Steve Howell and Jim Kosmul, Padelford; Anne Hunt, Mayor's Office, Ron Maddox, Taste of MN; Peggy Lynch, Friends of the Parks; Mike Klassen, Saint Paul Public Works; Jim Smith, Design Committee Chair; Sarah Kokke, Jody Martinez, Don Varney, and Kathleen Anglo, St. Paul Parks and Recreation

A. Kathleen Anglo of Parks and Recreation welcomed attendees. Attendee introductions.

B. Presentation of background information:

1. Preliminary Goals and Objectives
 - Continued Implementation of Master Plan 'Vision'.
Complete the river promenade, expand access opportunities to the river, picnic area and open picnic pavilion, provide access, trails, and connections.
 - Original Master Plan called for the Island to transition from more urban at the Wabasha bridge end to more natural towards Lilydale.
 - Less formal design, naturalized access to the river, maintain sand beach areas. Picnic areas for small and large groups and create a connection to Lilydale Regional Trail.
2. 1998 Harriet Island Master Plan 'Vision' background info presented by Jody Martinez.
3. Funding Sources and Requirements
 - Tea 21 Federal Funding, CIB Local Funding(pending final approval-December 2007), and Metropolitan Council Regional Park Funding. Requires completion of river promenade and a connection to Lilydale Regional Trail.
 - original cost estimate in 1998 dollars to complete entire concept was \$27M. Phase I included \$14.5 M+/- . We now have about \$2M additional construction dollars for Phase II. This funding may not cover all program items listed.



CAPRA Accreditation

AA-ADA-EEO Employer



National Gold Medal Award

4. Existing Conditions review
 - Photos of views, shoreline, river walk and general park setting.
5. Schedule
 - Design thru winter 2008, Construction begins spring 2008, Completion in fall 2008.

C. Discussion/Comments/Questions:

- **Skatepark** located near existing play area
 - Recreation opportunity for Westsiders
 - Needs upkeep and maintenance
 - Unsupervised location may be an issue but not necessarily
 - Sport is growing in popularity
 - Proximity to play area may be a conflict
- **Overall Operation of Harriet Island as an event and activity center**
 - this is beyond the scope of Phase II and will need to be addressed as a separate issue.
- **Parking Issues:**
 - Events – lack of on-site and nearby parking
 - Could the City lease private parking lots during events?
 - Limited access to the site due to its location between the River and the Bluff
 - Limited access from downtown parking ramps via Wabasha Street bridge
 - Bicycle parking facilities
 - Motorcycle parking accommodations
 - Lack of parking may be a deterrent to visitors coming to Harriet Island
- **Safety and Lighting**
- **Picnic Venue:** grills, tables, open shelter (no working kitchen)
- **‘Natural’ Transition** from formal to natural shoreline and Lilydale Park
- **Preserve and Enhance Natural Features for Education**
 - Birding Sanctuary – Fly Zone, Enhance Song Bird environment
- **Tree Preservation/Restoration**
 - Habitat Enhancement
- **Natural/Ecotourism**
 - Start point for birding, fossil hunting, etc.
- **River Promenade**
 - How far along the river will it continue?
- **Enhance Biofiltration area – Interpretive Signage**
- **Alternatives to Rip Rap** along shoreline preferred
- **Family oriented entertainment**
 - Make it fun!
- **Kelly’s Landing Recognition**
- **Historical Reference and Interpretation**
 - Native American Significance

- **Interpretive Signage**
 - Education
- **Fire Rings**
 - like the WPA stone fire rings in Como Park
- **Possible planning (no construction funds) for future combination of Yacht Club Clubhouse and Trailhead building near the boat parking lot to the west.**

D. Next Steps:

- Design Task Force – a small scale group of 10-12 who will meet to provide community input to help guide Parks and Recreation staff during the design process. Meeting to be held in mid-June. The meeting will cover site analysis and site program.
- Next Large scale Advisory Committee meeting to be held mid-late summer.
- **PLEASE REVIEW THESE NOTES AND CONTACT ME (651-266-6368) IF COMMENTS ARE INCORRECTLY NOTED OR MISSED COMPLETELY.**

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