



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
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May 29, 2009

**West Minnehaha Recreation Center Play Area – Meeting #1 Notes**

1) Introductions

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| a) Bryan Murphy            | f) Kyle Munoz      |
| b) Jamie Anderson          | g) Rachel Stone    |
| c) Tait Danielson Castillo | h) Jennifer Horton |
| d) Bev Wittgenstein        | i) Caitlin Reid    |
| e) Juliana Keen            |                    |

2) Project Introduction/Overview

- a) Replace play area equipment
- b) Other park improvements including walkways, benches, and landscaping **as funding allows.**
- c) Project funding is \$253,000.00

3) Design Process

- a) Analysis and Programming – Meeting #1
- b) Site Concept plan – Meeting #1
- c) Play Equipment styles – Meeting #1
- d) Play equipment approval – Meeting #2
- e) Site Furnishings – Meeting #2

4) Analysis and Programming and Concept Design

- a) Goals and Objectives
  - i) **Enhance Appearance/Environment of Park/Play Area**
    - Remove/Repair/Replace dilapidated park features
    - Provide park elements in scale with the park
    - Retain existing vegetation where possible
    - Utilize ‘Green’ products and practices
    - Identify and enhance entrance to recreation center from parking lot
  - ii) **Enhance Park Safety/Security**
    - Utilize durable products
    - Retain sightlines
    - Provide barrier between play area and Minnehaha Avenue
  - iii) **Enhance Users Health and Well-being**
    - Provide activities for children of all ages (2-5 and 5-12)



- Provide a balance of active and passive activities
- Encourage Parent Interaction
- Provide accessibility for all park users

**iv) Promote sense of community and pride**

- Encourage local labor for construction
- Encourage youth involvement

b) Site Inventory/Analysis

- Minnehaha Avenue has lots of traffic. Moving the play area away from the street would be nice.
- Current location of the play area seems crammed between parking lot, building and ballfield. Considered alternate location for play area.
- Only other space would be to the east of the recreation center. This area doesn't have visibility from the recreation center. Foul balls from the ballfield could pose a problem with this alternate location. Some of the language and actions on the basketball court may not be suitable for small kids playing at this alternate location.
- With some study, the current location is the best site for the play area.
- Existing connection to the building entrance is indirect. This should be identified and improved.
- There is good visibility from the building lobby to the existing play area.

c) Needs/Wants

i) Needs

- Bike rack
- Monkey Bars
- Swings – would be nice to have something for little kids and older kids close together
- Trash cans that are bolted down; ornamental
- Climbing activity – wall or nets
- 'Chin-up' bar – something to hang on
- Slide – curly or interesting
- 'gathering spot' for kids in the play equipment
- Separate 2-5 and 5-12 year old play areas
- Benches close the play area
- Game/kids/changing table
- Picnic tables

ii) Wants

- Small sand play area
- Water element
- Seesaw
- Restroom access
- Grill

- 5) Play area styles
  - a) Spider web
  - b) Tree house
  - c) Outer space
  - d) Frog/frog pond/lily pad
  - e) Liked equipment that had several play events, opportunity for kids to play tag, decks are nice, slides, spinners, wobbly posts. Separate equipment for 2-5 year old kids
  - f) Is there an alternate place to provide equipment just for the big kids?
  - g) It's tough for kids to share single events
  
- 6) Next meeting – June 15, 2009, 6:30p.m., West Minnehaha Recreation Center