



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

400 City Hall Annex
25 West 4th Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
www.stpaul.gov/parks

Telephone: 651-266-6400
Facsimile: 651-292-7311

Phalen - Keller Regional Park Master Plan

March 4, 2010 6:30 p.m.

Design Task Force – Meeting Three Minutes

In attendance:

Staff

Bryan Murphy
Jody Martinez
Don Ganje
Cy Kosel
Karin Misiewicz
Jody Yungers – Ramsey County
Todd Kramer – Ramsey County
– water patrol

Task Force

Members

George Johnson
Mara Humphrey
Jonathan Carter
Susan Bishop
Deshaun Dunbar
NaiVasha Hamilton
Al Oertwig
Ray Ogren
Audra Robbins
Neil Franey
Robert Barbosa
Rich Kramer
Patti Sullivan
Larry Greif

Task Force Members

(not present)

Candace Peterson

Others Present

Rep. Tim Mahoney

Meeting began at 6:30

Design Task Force – Meeting Three Agenda

Previous meeting/work

At the previous meeting, we covered the following:

- Existing and future Park activities
- Natural Resources Inventory presented by Ken Wehrle
- Presented Issues and Opportunities

Reviewed email comments since last meeting

From Bill Zajicek – City of Saint Paul - District 5 (alternate):

- Could a stable for the horses for the Police mounted patrol be located in Phalen?
 - This is currently being studied at the Xcel Highbridge power plant site
- Make East Shore Drive between Arlington and Frost a one-way road?
 - See Cncept A
- Could a landscape plan be developed in conjunction with the master plan?



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- Funding doesn't allow for this but could be a specific project in the future
- Could non-paved hiking trails be developed in the park (such as the 'fishing' trail on the east side of the lake)?
 - See Concept A
- Lighting should comply with Dark Sky Society lighting standards
 - Sure

From Neil Franey - Friends of Parks & Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County:

- Respecting trail use guidelines (riding bikes in the proper direction, walking on designated walking trails and not on bike trails, etc)
 - Enforcement, operations, and signage
- Swimming area is smaller than a number of years ago – crowded and not enough room for wading
 - Lake levels have been low, reducing the area of the beach
- Litter collecting at the sides of the swimming area
 - Operations – provide sufficient trash cans
- What is the source of the unpleasant blue color of water at the north end of Lake Phalen last summer?
 - Unsure
 - Possibility - There was an RSVP project which produced some contamination. Believed the project was fined.
- Goose droppings on paths (especially south of beach house)
 - Shoreline management, minimizing mown grass areas

Presentation of Keller Park concept

- A proposed trail crossing above or below highway 36 may be of concern in regards to the proximity to the eagle's nest
 - John Moriarty is aware of the nest and the issue will be addressed in the Natural Resources Inventory Plan. This information will provide better direction to the placement of a trail connection at highway 36
- What are the impacts of closing tunnel under Highway 61?
 - The tunnel is currently used very little. The location of the tunnel is poorly located as it would direct people to the middle of a parking lot as part of the addition of restroom and picnic facilities on the lake side of Highway 61. A new trail connection from the Golfview parking lot to the creek would allow users to access the South Keller Picnic Area under 61 along the channel.
- What level of development would the portage around the weir be developed to?
 - The 'portage' would be developed to accommodate easy access for all users

Presentation of Phalen Park Concept A

- Relocation of boat ramp
 - There is a large demand for parking for truck and boat trailers and cars at the north end of the lake.

- The proposed location of the boat ramp allows for at least the same amount of parking for trucks and boat trailers
 - The north end of the lake is shallow and would require dredging which may incur a large amount of approvals especially from the DNR
 - This is a long range plan that will address the use of the park. If there is a large benefit of moving the boat ramp, the approval process would be worth it.
- Waterfall
 - Would the expansion of the Oak Savanna impact the space available for enjoyment at the Waterfall once it is restored?
 - As development of these areas is undertaken, a blending between the uses (Oak Savanna and Waterfall) would permit ample space for both to coexist together.
 - There was some consideration at one time of drawing water from Round Lake to utilize for the operation of the waterfall. Rich Kramer will find and provide that information.
- Turn-around of Phalen Drive at Arcade Street
 - Is the closure of the entrance at Arcade and widening of the existing one-way drive worth directing people farther north only to have to turn around and exit the park at Wheelock Parkway
 - We'll review a alternative (better) option in concept B
- Expansion of the Oak Savanna
 - How long is the establishment period of the Oak Savanna?
- Trails near the parking lot by the historic bridge
 - The trails converge at odd angles. With two way bicycle traffic and pedestrians meeting, it would be advisable to 'massage' the intersection to avoid conflicts
- Amphitheater
 - Is a 'Slightly' larger amphitheater really worth it?
 - Is advisable to go big (Shelter/shade, sound system, large enough stage and seating areas) or nothing at all
 - What is the demand for the amphitheater
 - Will track down those numbers
 - There will be a challenge for parking if we propose a big amphitheater
 - There may be a conflict of interest at the amphitheater between those that are there for events/concerts and those that are not
- Picnic Pavilion
 - It would be nice to add year round use
 - Phalen Picnic Pavilion is one of the more popular locations in the City of Saint Paul
- Wheelock Parkway/Arcade Street intersection
 - The small area plan has some suggestions for improvements
- Community Gardens
 - The appearance of the gardens would be an issue of adjacent residents. Strict design standards would have to be implemented
 - Gardens could be similar to the existing poetry/dragon garden
- East Shore Drive – One-way South

- Supportive of One-way:
 - Will provide ample room for separation of trails and landscaping
 - Will not impact area perceived as the front yards of those living on ESD
 - May provide traffic calming
- Unsupportive of One-way
 - Residents on ESD would have to backtrack in some situations to arrive or leave neighborhood
 - Likes the current peaceful drive in both directions along the lake to and from work
 - Will tailgating be an issue at bump out parking areas on ESD?
- Other considerations
 - Impact for emergency vehicles
 - I have a tentative review with Police/Fire
 - Segment of road is within two jurisdictions – need approval of both?
 - Seems like a big issue...maybe we leave it for future generations to deal with...?
- Reroute East Shore Drive to intersect with English and Arlington
 - Creates a pocket of parkland adjacent to the lake/trails without having to cross ESD
 - This area could be an Ecological Demonstration Area with restrooms (composting toilets, solar powered, etc), parking, drinking water, restored wetland.
 - We could provide an Ecological Tot Lot
- Tunnel under Bruce Vento Regional Trail
 - Close it to block migration of 'kids'
 - No crosswalk at ESD
- Dog Park
 - Supportive
 - 4.4 acres – small is subjective (wouldn't be just for dogs such as Chihuahuas or Bichon Frise sized dogs)

Open House - Concepts will be updated per the discussions at the previous Task Force meetings. The public will have the opportunity at the open house to place dots at the features they like. Between the Task Force discussions and Open house voting, this will provide us with the preferences in order to develop a final site master plan. This final plan will be presented to the Task Force for approval. That will initiate the review and approval process.

Next steps

Next meeting will cover presentation and discussion of Phalen Park - Concept B
 PKMP DTF meeting 4– March 25, 2010 6:30 p.m., Phalen Golf Course Clubhouse

8:45 Adjourn