



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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## Phalen - Keller Regional Park Master Plan

April 1, 2010 6:30 p.m.

### Design Task Force – Meeting Three Minutes

In attendance:

#### Staff

Bryan Murphy  
Don Ganje  
Karin Misiewicz  
Nate Johnson  
Marisol Chiclana-Ayala  
Ken Wehrle

#### Task Force

##### Members

Mara Humphrey  
Susan Bishop  
Al Oertwig  
Ray Ogren  
Robert Barbosa  
Rich Kramer  
Beau Ku Vang

#### Task Force Members

##### (not present)

Candace Peterson  
Larry Greif  
Audra Robbins  
Patty Sullivan  
Neil Franey  
Jonathan Carter  
George Johnson  
NaiVasha Hamilton  
Deshawn Dunbar

#### Others Present

Rep. Tim Mahoney  
Rep. Leon Lillie  
Bill Zajicek  
Leslie McMurray  
Craig Berdie

Meeting began at 6:35

Previous meeting/work

At the previous meeting, we covered the following:

- Additional email comments
- Keller Park Concept
- Phalen Park – Concept A

Presentation of Phalen Park Concept B

- Highlights of plan
  - Acquire former Saint Paul Tourist Cabin site for recreation purposes
  - Improve connection to boat ramp (in current location) and parking
  - Move East Shore Drive in order to widen trails to acceptable standards
  - Restroom on eastern shore



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National Gold Medal Award

- Action sports area near intersection of Maryland Avenue and Johnson Parkway
- Disc Golf course along Ivy Avenue
- Develop *Activity Center* where current picnic pavilion is located – includes relocated boat house, new picnic pavilion, and large amphitheater
- Improve picnic facilities on Picnic Island
- Create intersection of Phalen Drive with Arcade and Larpenteur Avenue
- Improve channel

#### Discussion of Phalen Park Concept B

1. At the time concepts were developed, the City of Maplewood was still determining if housing would work in that location. The area was generically labeled as recreation space since the possibility of acquiring the space was still unknown. Residents would prefer to see it developed as a natural area.
2. Not a lot of opportunity but could make connections to the Keller Lake area better and minimize impervious surface.
3. Not a bad idea, but maybe there will be too many bridges if another is added across the channel
4. Great idea – possibly use as a demonstration area
- 5.
6. May reintroduce ‘cruising’, would shorten two of the golf holes, need to prepare a traffic study
7. Residents would probably like the improvements; commuters may not appreciate the improvements, would there be assessments if it was improved?
8. Good idea – what size is it. The Chinese Friendship Garden Society is very modest and would work with whatever would work. The pavilion may be about 12’ x 12’ in size
9. Channel restoration may be undertaken this year
10. 10 tables may be too big for most picnic groups. Maybe two groups of four tables located closely together would accommodate the larger groups. We should develop a survey and/or work with a focus group to understand the needs of the island
11. The City of Saint Paul would not be able to program larger events. There may be a conflict of interest with Picnic Pavilion users and others in the area. There may be too much stuff in this area – parking demand would be much more. Councilmember Bostrom is trying to develop a theater in the area (Payne – Maryland complex)
- 12.
13. Intersection is illustrated in Arcade Small Area Plan. Acquiring the property on the northwest corner of Wheelock Parkway and Arcade Street is a better idea. The property on the southeast corner could be fixed up.
14. There is no shade at the beach. *Aquatic feature* should be renamed *splash pad*. The beach needs new sand.
15. Area may not be large enough for disc golf. Residents may not appreciate the type of user this activity brings in.
- 16.
17. Very long discussion about the pro and cons of moving the road. Would be problematic for the residents if ESD is much closer to houses. Why is it being proposed to move it? Is it for safety? (Yes). Bill Zajicek commented on his survey (approached 17 doors, 9 answered). Most people did NOT support moving the road. Most were open to the idea

of a one-way. Maplewood doesn't have representation at the table. Maplewood is in a fragile condition right now. This can't be developed without their input. Parking on ESD would be a significant issue with the residents. Would be a very expensive project. Suggestion of seasonal one-way...would certainly pose confusion when seasonal switch is made.

18. Good idea. Some vehicles barely stop at the intersection.
19. Not a decent location for the restroom facility. It would be better if it was located at the south end of the lake. The port-a-potty is unattractive at the parking lot at the south end of the lake.
- 20.
21. Maybe have some of the same issues as expressed in #17
- 22.
23. There may be contaminated soil at this location. What are some additional uses? Bocce Ball, Gardens, Sculpture, Flowering tree grove, Rock garden, handball courts.
24. Need to show what 'development' means at the open house for people to understand

The next meeting will be a *Public Open House* on May 6, 2010 from about 5 – 8 p.m. at the Phalen Picnic Pavilion. Format may be as such:

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – open house – participants can come and go as necessary, look at boards, ask questions, make comments, etc

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Presentation

7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Questions/Answers/Comments

Next steps

Next meeting will be the open house

PKMP Open House – May 6, 2010 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Phalen Park Picnic Pavilion

9:00 Adjourn