



## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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March 7, 2011

## Conway Recreation Center Play Area and Pederson Pathway Renovation Analysis and Programming

Meeting notes- March 3, 2011 – 6:30-7:30pm

Conway Recreation Center

### Meeting Attendees:

Randy Graff, Gwen Peterson, Pat Voyda, Betsy Leach, Susan Hommes, Sue Wittgenstein, Mary Brownlow, Margo Bock, Eric Thompson, Kendra Whinnery, Eric Widi, Erika Martin, Don Ganje, Anne Gardner

- A. Anne Gardner handed out meeting agenda and described the goal of the meeting
  - a. *Meeting #1 Goal*
    - *Introduce project and meeting participants*
    - *Direction for preferred Play Area Location*
    - *Should Basketball stay or go?*
    - *What is the play area theme or aesthetic?*
- B. Meeting participants introduced themselves
- C. Anne Gardner introduced the project-
  - (1) Replace play area equipment
  - (2) Improve Pederson Pathway
  - (3) Other park improvements including walkways, benches, landscaping, and/or lighting as funding will allow.
- D. Anne Gardner reviewed the design process
  - (1) Existing Conditions and Site Analysis – Meeting #1
  - (2) Concept Plans – Meeting #2 (to be scheduled sometime in mid-late April)
  - (3) Design Development, Final Plan – Meeting #3 (to be scheduled late May)
  - (4) Future meetings will be scheduled using ‘meeting wizard’- via email.
- E. Anne Gardner presented existing, site analysis, goals and objectives, and play equipment boards
- F. Community Input
  - i. Theme-
    1. Margo Bock (Sunray Library) expressed the opportunity for relating the design to the library (LITERACY) using letters, numbers, words within the play area to encourage young children to learn to read.
    2. Earth/Natural themes (refer to [www.naturalplaygrounds.com](http://www.naturalplaygrounds.com) )
    3. Patterns/Colors/Textures to relate to the multi-cultural neighborhood
    4. Story Telling along the pathway



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ii. Community/Neighborhood Scale

1. Margo Bock presented census numbers of the area (63% white, 14% Asian, 11% Black, 8% Latino/a, 3%-Multiracial, 1% American Indian)
2. connections are very important (pathways)
3. improve Pederson Pathway for bikes, include signage
4. include elements along pathways and sidewalks to promote literacy- objects, signs, letters that are low to engage children

iii. Site Scale

1. Consider summer programs- splash pad/water element
2. Like: MN ZOO splash pad/Como Town splash pad
3. Basketball court- good for older kids. Preference is to stay
4. Older citizens- Walking/sitting along pathway (1000 benches program)
5. Include Bike Racks that are FUN and FRIENDLY
6. Lighting- safety and ambiance
7. Most people arrive at the play area by walking
8. Parking –rec center lot is frequently full- library lot is partially used
9. include eating area for 6-8 people
10. add trees to play area
11. add mural to side of the building (East facing wall of gymnasium)
12. Could Frisbee golf replace basketball?

iv. Play Area Location Considerations

1. consider connection to ballfield and playground (parents may have one child playing bball and one using the play area)
2. do not like: play area directly adjacent to parking lot
3. Preference for Option B- (centered between the building and library)
  - a. Visibility from the ball fields to the west
  - b. Buffer to the bball court
  - c. Path could divide the existing play area
  - d. Elongate form of play area – circular form seems too restrictive

v. Play Area equipment

1. modern, natural, organic, traditional
2. something unique that will be an attraction
3. hill/berm
4. kinetic learning

G. Next steps –

a. Action Items

- i. Coordinate with Randy Graff/Eric Thompson/ Betsy Leach to have boards at the Rec Center for the March 28 meeting
- ii. Develop concept plans
- iii. Present play area equipment options
- iv. Price out a splash pad

b. Meeting #2

1. project updates on website: <http://www.stpaul.gov>
2. schedule next Task Force Meeting (mid-late April)