



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- April 28, 2011 – 6:30-8:00pm

Conway Recreation Center

Meeting Attendees:

Community Members: Susan Hommes, Sue Wittgenstein, Mary Brownlow, Erika Martin, Eric Widi, Hope Schirmer,

City Staff: Randy Graff, Gwen Peterson, Pat Voyda, Eric Thompson, Joe Buzicky, Betsy Leach, Ellen Biales, Don Ganje, Anne Gardner

Notes by: Anne Gardner

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Anne Gardner gave a brief recap from the first meeting:
 - Community preferred a new location to be central to library and rec bldg, not close to parking lot, visible from directors office and from the ball fields.
 - New play area should be a 'destination,' unlike other parks, with something that reinvigorates this space so that people will want to be here (splashpad)
 - Leaving basketball court as is
 - Theme of literacy and tactile objects for children along the path and throughout the play area
- Anne Gardner presented overall concept plans for play area renovation and realignment of Pederson Pathway
 - Option 1 did not include a splash pad
 - Option 2 includes a splash pad
 - Both concepts show the play area moved from the original location.
 - Both concepts include an area for 2 -5 structure and a 5-12 structure
 - Swings are located within the larger play container for concept 1 and in a separate container for option 2
 - Sand area in option 1 is in a larger, separate container surrounded by picnic/seating area and the sand area in option 2 is located within the 2-5 play area zone in a small 6' diameter sand circle
 - Concept 2 includes the splash pad which is a 16' diameter circle located off the path of between the library and the rec center
 - The water that runs off from the splash pad would be directed to a tank that will collect water to be pumped up to the community gardens to serve their need for irrigation. Hose bib will be marked as a non-potable water source.
 - Benches and seating surround the splashpad
 - Garden at entrance of play area west of path from the rec center. Also creates an enclosure to the

- informal 'outdoor classroom'
 - 'Infiltration beds' create small ponding areas for water to drain to and infiltrate. They will not be designed to have standing water just to have a place for water to drain to- similar to a 'rain garden'.
 - Two trees will be removed in order to build the play area- one may be small enough to move
 - Pederson Pathway is realigned so that it does not lie in the low points of the area. It will be approximate 10' wide for vehicular access for maintenance vehicles.
 - It is designed to have gentle curves to create an interesting walkway
- Meeting opened up for community input on concept plan for the two options.

Community comments included:

 - 1) Community favors the splashpad option. It would be a positive activity for the neighborhood users and a fun and interesting attraction. Even if it is used only a few months of the year, it will be a positive addition during hot summer days.
 - 2) Community would like the path between the library and the rec center to be plowed. Path should be designed to be plowed (10') even if the budget does not allow for it to be plowed every year.
 - 3) Add more seating and tables in play area
 - 4) Does sand area need to be there? A small sand area (away from the splash pad) is fine with more maintenance to keep out broken glass, hazardous items
- Presentation of various play equipment scenarios with explanation of pros and cons for all options as well as splash pad details
 - Three different types were shown.
- Opened up for community input for play area equipment.

Community comments included:

 - 1) Like the style of the more traditional equipment as shown in the 2-5 equipment (Big Toys- Villa)
 - 2) Did not like the 'modern' cable style equipment
 - 3) Like the Big Toys "Rock and Cross" teeter totter type element
 - 4) Include monkey bars
 - 5) Concern for plastic slides (from a maintenance perspective). They are easy to break, wear out very quickly, and are subject to vandalism. They are expensive to replace. Though the metal slides can be hot, the maintenance staff prefers them to plastic. Slides should be oriented away from direct sun.
 - 4) Like the appearance of a colored patterned concrete with ground sprays for the splash pad
 - 5) Design splash pad to include ground sprays only with possibility to add vertical features in the future
 - 6) Literacy theme needs to be more integrated into the play area. The art sculpture concepts may be too static. Ideas such as poetry in the sidewalk, hopscotch, or letters imprinted in the walk are possible ideas.
- Presentation of surfacing options including the poured in place rubber, rubber tiles, and synthetic turf. Community liked the synthetic turf option. Maintenance staff said that in other projects where it has been used, it is holding up well. Synthetic turf can be repaired more easily if necessary.
- Four legged benches with backs are preferred in the play area. Tables with wood or recycled plastic have a nice feel compared to metal tables or benches.
- Future planning for the Frisbee golf course may be a part of this project if the budget allows. Starting point or trailhead would be in place of the bangboard court.
- Dumpster to be moved to the eastern edge of the parking lot

- Add bike racks to the eastern entrance of the building.
- Action Items
 - Anne to meet with the Ramsey county watershed district to discuss possible funding sources
 - Anne to find a new option for 5-12 play structure that has a more traditional appearance with metal slides
 - Develop details and surfacing pattern for the splashpad design
 - Research possible alternatives for 'integrating' the literacy theme into the play area
- Next meeting scheduled for late May, 2011
- Information presented at March 3, 2011 meeting provided on City Website at <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4480>

Please contact Anne Gardner at 651-266-6421 if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly