



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

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May 26, 2011

**Conway Recreation Center Play Area and Pederson Pathway Renovation**

**Design Development**

**Meeting notes- May 19 – 6:30-7:30pm**

Conway Recreation Center

**Meeting Attendees:**

Susan Hommes, Sue Wittgenstein, Mary Brownlow, Erika Martin, Kendra Whinnery, Sheila Winderlich (Sunray Library), Randy Graff, Gwen Peterson, Eric Thompson, Betsy Leach, Ellen Biales, Anne Gardner

*Notes by: Anne Gardner*

**DISCUSSION POINTS:**

- Anne Gardner gave a brief recap from the last meeting and reviewed the changes to the plan:
  - Walkway between library and Conway recreation center is 10' wide
  - Addition of benches throughout the site and 3 tables for picnicking
  - Small, contained sand area moved to be between the 2-5 and 5-12 play structures
  - Garden area is expanded within the play area to provide shade, visual and textural interest
  - Dumpster has been moved to east end of parking lot
  - Bike racks are located at near east entrance of rec center building
  
- Presentation of play equipment designs and community input
  - Two options were presented (option 1- Big Toys and option 2- Landscape Structures)
  - 2-5 structure – two options that are similar to the Big Toys Villa were presented
    - Community prefers the option 2 by Landscape Structures
    - Includes slide, book steps, small net climber
    - Do not prefer panels
    - Add in ABC climber stairs if budget allows
  - 5-12 structure
    - Community does not prefer option 1 (Big Toys)- not enough activity
    - Community wants to make modifications to option 2 (Landscape Structure)
    - More 'decks' for running and chasing and playing tag.
    - If budget allows, add in a climbing net pyramid
    - Add in a 'bridge' rather than the red net climber to connect the two decks shown in option 2
    - Community does not prefer panels- very little play option
    - Talk tubes are a great idea- adjust panels to have 'Hello' in many different languages or some other ACTION word

- Presentation of splashpad concept and community comments:
  - Three patterns for the concrete paving presented
    - Labyrinth (Used in meditation, easy to comprehend pattern or maze, Pattern that can be used during winter months)
    - Kaleidoscope- (Interesting pattern- light entering the other end creates a colorful pattern, due to the reflection off the mirrors)
    - Fibonacci (Mathematics- the first two Fibonacci numbers are 0 and 1, and each subsequent number is the sum of the previous two. Nature- Fibonacci cubes used for interconnecting parallel and distributed systems. They also appear in biological settings, such as branching in trees, arrangement of leaves on a stem, the fruit spouts of a pineapple the flowering of artichoke, an uncurling fern and the arrangement of a pine cone.

***Community comments included:***

- 1) Community favors the Fibonacci Pattern for the splashpad. They especially like the color that was shown in the rendering (blue, yellow, red). The color and pattern is vibrant and draws people/kids to the space.
  - 2) Fibonacci is a mathematical lesson and may lead to worksheets or other learning opportunities
  - 3) The idea of the Fibonacci pattern can then inform the planting pattern and potentially additional artwork for the play area at a later date (i.e. a large mural)
  - 4) Second choice is the 'kaleidoscope' pattern
  - 5) 'Labyrinth' is not a good option
- Sidewalk Poetry and Literacy program:
    - Anne presented a few of the sidewalk poems that are available for use through the St. Paul sidewalk poetry program- the task force is fine with selecting 2-4 to use along Pederson Pathway
    - Create a custom stamp as shown (alphabet and action word) to be used throughout the play area on the concrete walk.
  - Action items:
    - Proceed with the 2-5 structure as is or similar to the Big Toys version.
    - Revise the 5-12 structure to reflect the community comments
    - Proceed with the Fibonacci pattern for the splash pad
    - Anne to email out revised concepts for play equipment (specifically 5-12) for task force to approve.
  - Information presented at all three meetings (March 3, April 28, and May 19) 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