



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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**Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan
Task Force Meeting #2 Notes - DRAFT
September 16, 2010**

Staff Present:

Kathleen Anglo, Project Manager, Parks & Recreation Design
Ellen Stewart, Parks & Recreation Design
Terry Timmons, Parks & Recreation Operations
Meghan Manhatton, Parks & Recreation Environmental Services
Brian Tourtelotte, Parks & Recreation Design
Ellen Biales, Ward 7

Task Force Members Present:

Julie Gugin, Task Force Chair	Marjorie Pitz
John Anfinson, National Pk Serv.	Sue Richter
Colleen Ashton	Jane Russo
Ned Brooks	Bob Spaulding, Friends of the
Jacob Dorer	Mississippi River
Stephanie Harr	Steve Trimble, Resident Historian
Anne Kolar	Wally Waranka
Brian Miller	

Task Force Members Absent:

Candy Petersen
N. Scott Larsen
Jim Jones
Tom Ross
Leonard Wabasha

Business Meeting:

Welcome and introductions
Discussion of Consensus Process for making decisions

Indian Mounds Regional Park Presentation of Existing Conditions

Comments:

- *Add sculpture locations and beacon to the existing conditions*
- *Provide cultural/historic resources map with locations of old mounds, former layout of the roads, WPA walls, Burlington Hotel, fire rings and other significant historical aspects of the park.*
- *Catalog remaining Historic Features*



- *Note that open space on the western end of the park is well used for play*
- *Note that the new trees along Commercial Ave. are in poor condition*
- *Note that there are additional "trails" - places where people creep off the asphalt trail or over walls into more hidden areas or possibly areas with significant views*
- *Note hydrology issues where the road was removed*
- *Locate pedestrian access points to significant trail connections and to views. Note the quality of the access.*
- *Catalog spectacular trees which could be added to the existing conditions*
- *Many parts of the park and trails are very dark*
- *Delineate the bluff line (above the bluff/blow the bluff differentiation) and the parameters of the park so they are more apparent in the graphic.*

Indian Mounds Regional Park Presentation of Opportunities & Constraints

Comments:

Projects currently in the planning stages or upcoming deadlines for input

- *61/Burns/Warner Road projects*
- *Projects from MNDOT, DNR, Public Works, 1000 Friends benches*
- *CIB funding requests for biennium 2012/2013 may provide opportunities for the park*
- *Lowertown Master Plan*
- *DNR may relocate offices at Fish Hatchery due to building issues*

Mounds Maintenance Presentation of Opportunities and Constraints and Recreation Analysis

Comments:

- *Basketball court is used all the time, even at night*
- *There have been vandalism and noise issues*
- *Tennis court very rarely used, if at all*
- *Ball field used more for open play, kite flying*

Indian Mounds Regional Park Goals & Objectives

Comments:

- ***Recognize, Celebrate, Interpret and Seek to Preserve*** the historic and cultural elements of the park that make it a special place (Mounds, air beacon, WPA walls and other historic walls (pre WPA), picnic shelters, pavilion, views of and relationship to the River, Municipal Forest etc.).
- ***Create a destination*** - enliven the park through programming and purposeful signage
- ***Restore resources that exist within the park*** - pavilion - look into condition, use of basement
- ***Improve Access*** - Winter conditions on Mounds Boulevard pose issues for emergency vehicles; consider access for Cerenity residents in the siting of amenities
- ***Provide connectivity-*** Improve connection of trails to areas within park and outside of park
- ***Increase Safety-*** provide safe crossings at major intersections, consider medians for pedestrian respite, traffic calming measures, lighting studies, determine appropriate treatment of edge of bluff without use of additional fencing. Keep existing post and chain fencing along bluff. Close gates in parking areas at night when the park is "closed".
- ***Appropriate recreational activities*** - determine appropriate uses for the park including active uses and passive use within the context of the surrounding area and Indian Mounds Park's regional park status.

- **Stormwater Analysis** - inventory of wet areas, drainage, and erosion prone areas - provide input on maintenance and solutions to problem areas.
- **Incorporate newly acquired and recently developed land** into the context of the park including land adjacent to re-routed road and Plum Street

Indian Mounds Regional Park Programming

Comments:

- **Interpretive programming** could include downloadable catalog of historic and cultural elements within the park for visitors, kiosk with information about the park and current events, pamphlets, maps of trails, etc. Smartphone App for walking tour.
- **Band shell** (*Cerenity would program some events if it were close to and accessible to residents*)
- **Views** – restore prominent viewsheds
- **Satellite Farmers' Market**
- **Nature Trails** - create loops and better access through municipal forest and into and around fish hatchery pond
- **Exercise loops**
- **Trails** – make connections to Sam Morgan, Bruce Vento
- **Tennis** - keep Indian Mounds tennis courts as use has increased over time and it is something that is appropriate in regional park
- **Volunteer programs** – stewards of the park
- **Pavilion** – repaint railings, programming, reuse as interpretive center or bandshell
- **Native vegetation** – partner with U of M Arboretum, Master Gardeners, or U of M extension services
- **Indian Mounds** – return to native vegetation
- **Sculpture Garden**- near western entrance to denote destroyed Dayton's Bluff mounds
- **Ice Skating**
- **Sledding**
- **Basketball**
- **Picnic areas with control over use**

Mounds Park

- **Basketball court well used but can be a nuisance with noise**
- **Consider keeping the building**
- **Wildflower Garden**- i.e. Eloise Butler Wildflower Sanctuary, reflective space away from noise.
- **Sculpture Garden**
- **Community Gardens**
- **Skate Park**
- **Skating rink**
- **Clean slate** - consider placement of elements within the park and the context tightly abutting residences. Appropriate uses may not include really active
- **Activate park for safety**
- **Extend Cypress and Suburban avenues to increase “eyes on” the park**

Action Items:

- Create historical map of park
- Put historical map of all mound locations on the website
- Investigate possible project at the intersection of Burns and Highway 61
- Put presentation from first meeting on the website

- Possibility of creating a Historical Tour or presentation on the website

Next meeting will be October 21, 2010 at 6:30 pm at Cerenity Senior Care, note meeting will be held in Parkview Room, please enter through main entrance on Thorn/Earl side of the building.

The agenda will include presentation of broad based recommendations and concepts based on Analysis, Opportunities, Constraints, Goals and Objectives, and Programming identified in Meeting #2 followed by discussion and reactions to the conceptual design.