



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

400 City Hall Annex
25 West 4th Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
www.stpaul.gov/parks

Telephone: 651-266-6400
Facsimile: 651-292-7311

Phalen - Keller Regional Park Master Plan

January 25, 2010 6:30 p.m.

Design Task Force – Meeting Two Minutes

In attendance:

Staff

Bryan Murphy
Jody Martinez
Kathy Korum
Gary Korum
Karin Misiewicz
Nathan Johnson
Marcus Young
Ken Wehrle – Ramsey County

Task Force Members

George Johnson
Mara Humphrey
Jonathan Carter
Susan Bishop
Deshaun Dunbar
NaiVasha Hamilton
Beau Ku Vang
Al Oertwig
Ray Ogren

Task Force Members

(not present)
Candace Peterson
Neil Franey
Audra Robbins
Robert Barbosa
Rich Kramer
Patty Sullivan

Others Present

Rep. Tim Mahoney
Romi Slowiak
Bill Zajicek

Meeting began at 6:35.

Susan Bishop called the meeting to order and asked to go around the table for introductions.

Task Force Responsibilities

Mission Statement:

To provide recommendations and guidance to The City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County Departments of Parks and Recreation for the development of the Phalen – Keller Regional Park Master Plan, which fairly represents the needs and desires of each group the task force member represents, while also considering the needs of citizens of the greater Saint Paul region.

Speak on behalf of respective group

Communicate meeting procedures to your constituents

Identify alternate representative in absence

Design Task Force Meetings are open to the public; conversations and voting will be limited to the task force members or their alternates

Please take a moment to fill out meeting evaluation form at the end of the night



CAPRA Accreditation

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer



National Gold Medal Award

Review of last meeting – Introduced project, process purpose, and inventory. Everything was posted on website.

Activities

Existing park activities – Active

Swimming	Kato	Sailing
Walking	Dog Walking	Rowing
Biking	Volleyball	Golfing
In-line skating	Hockey	Geocaching
Jogging	Cross Country Skiing	Events (Triathlon, Ice boat races)
Canoeing	Kiting	Day camps
Kayaking	Sledding	Snowmobiling
Baseball	Ice Skating	Archery
Soccer	Skateboarding	

Existing park activities – Passive

Fishing	Reading	Holiday light viewing
Ice Fishing	Sunbathing	Dragon boat festival attending
Campfires	Concert going	Enjoying Nature
Picnicking	Meditating	Photography/Videography
Birding	Poetry	

Proposed Park Activities – Active

Mini Golf	BMX Bike trail	Running track
Frisbee Golf	Splash Pad	
Tennis	Bocce/Horseshoes/etc	

Proposed park activities – Passive

Gardening
Accessible fishing
Cleanup volunteering

Review of Goals & Objectives

- Improve traffic circulation
- Preserve Valuable Natural Resources
Added: Improve maintenance for trees and Preserve ‘wild’ land
- Provide a sense of pride and stewardship
- Provide user comforts, safety, and security throughout the park
- Improve connections to adjacent parks, trails, and neighborhoods
Added: Improve connections TOWARD park
- Promote an active lifestyle
- Promote a historical and cultural identity for the park
Questioned the connection to 3M

Natural Resources Inventory

Ramsey County has plan for parks but based on management for wildlife...not a planning tool.

Emphasis of NRI will be to meet met council requirements

Phalen

Lot of wetland area

Wetland conservation act will dictate what happens

Met council – won't impact those areas

Good things

Oak Savanna

Shoreline restoration

Small wetlands at Maryland and Johnson Parkway

Keller

Eagle nest near Highway 36

Good for environment, but has some planning concern

Wetlands on either side of Spoon,

Pond near Roselawn with RWMWD

Shoreline improvements near picnic area at south end of Lake

Roselawn open area – natural area

Water quality

All lakes are impaired by MPCA

Stipulations for precautions during construction

Impaired due to Perfluorooctane sulfonate which impacts aquatic vegetation

There is Eurasian Water Milfoil in Phalen

Need to balance active use areas and watershed management. There is pressure to take active use areas for water quality management.

Review of Issues and Opportunities

Keller Lake area

Issue: Trampling shoreline

Opportunity: hard paved fishing areas and shoreline restoration

Issue: Highway 36 is barrier between park use areas

Opportunity: Tunnel or bridge under/over 36

Issue: Wetlands prohibit access to bridge/tunnel access point

Opportunity: Boardwalk to provide access

Issue: Highway 61 is busy and fast moving vehicles

Opportunity: Make Highway 61 more of a parkway to slow traffic and offer turn lanes

Issue: Keller Lake is very shallow

Opportunity: Continued management of watershed would help with weed proliferation

Issue: Narrow strip of land between Highway 61 and lake prohibits connection between park use areas

Opportunity: Boardwalk could provide connection through this area

Issue: Isolated area of park near the Roselawn intersection has been used by individuals participating in inappropriate activity

Opportunity: Close and remove entrance and drive and provide trails to area would attract a different user group

Issue: Trail doesn't connect with neighborhood trails near Roselawn

Opportunity: Make the connection

Issue: Intersection of County Road B and Highway 61 is busy and doesn't provide a suitable entrance into the park

Opportunity: A trail along County Road B would provide a better connection for neighborhood users.

Issue: Narrow park use areas limit parking availability.

Opportunity: Remote parking areas with more suitable drop off locations would help provide users with access to the park. Improved pedestrian and bicycle trail connections would also help provide access to the park.

Comments: Could area near maintenance building be used for a remote parking location? Ramsey County is considering remote parking areas at golf course during off peak golf hours.

Issue: Existing picnic areas attract diverse user groups

Opportunity: Providing use areas, facilities, and amenities based on cultural awareness would help provide ensure user enjoyment of the park.

Issue: Pedestrian tunnel under Highway 61 does not meet current design standards and limits access between park areas.

Opportunity: Replacing the tunnel is necessary to re-establish the connection between these park use areas.

Issue: Trail connection between Keller Park trails and Gateway/Munger State Trail is not clearly identified.

Opportunity: Providing better signage for this connection would help connect trail systems.

Issue: Access to archery range is difficult.

Opportunity: Adjusting location of archery range would help provide better access to the range and active open area.

Issue: Wier (dam) on creek is a barrier and the shoreline provides a difficult portage for paddlers

Opportunity: Improving portage conditions around the wier would improve enjoyment of paddling on the chain of lakes.

Issue: Round Lake picnic area parking lot is used as trail head for Gateway State Trail although access across Frost Avenue is not provided.

Opportunity: Designating and signing access to State Trail would provide a safer connection for trail users.

Lake Phalen area

Issue: Intersection of Frost Avenue and East Shore Drive is hidden and dangerous.

Opportunity: Relocation and better traffic control of intersection would provide a safer intersection. This would also provide a gateway to Phalen Park and Gladstone neighborhood.

Issue: Wooded lot of former Saint Paul Tourist Cabins sits vacant.

Opportunity: Acquisition for parkland would provide a new route for East Shore Drive, parking, trail head, concessions, etc.

Comments: Ownership is City of Maplewood. Need to confirm their intended use of the site.

Issue: Trail connection to Keller Lake is not visible. The parking lot is poorly designed and does not function well.

Opportunity: Redesign of trail connection and parking lot would provide better trail connections and use of this area.

Issue: Park entrance from Arcade Street and parking lot is useless. Overlook of Round Lake is not accessible.

Opportunity: Relocation of park entrance would alleviate useless intersection and provide an opportunity to provide access to the overlook at Round Lake.

Issue: Golf course pond filling with sediment and polluted water spills over into lakes and streams.

Opportunity: Pond could be improved to provide an amenity to the golf course as well as improved water quality.

Issue: Trails do not provide access to this picturesque area.

Opportunity: New trails around Round Lake, a bridge across the creek would provide better access to this area and fishing opportunities.

Issue: End of two-way Phalen Drive is confusing and inefficient.

Opportunity: Redesign of this intersection and one way road would provide a more efficient use of this area.

Issue: Poor shoreline management and intense recreation use on island has left turf in poor shape.

Opportunity: Managing recreation and restoring shoreline would promote improved turf conditions.

Issue: Wheelock Parkway and Arcade Street intersection is confusing and dangerous.

Opportunity: Redesign of this intersection would provide clarity and a safe crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists

Issue: Picnic shelter is outdated.

Opportunity: Redesign of building would improve appearance and provide necessary amenities

Issue: Golf course maintenance facility is unsightly.

Opportunity: Reorganization of maintenance yard to maximize use of the site would provide a more attractive appearance of Wheelock Parkway.

Issue: Gladstone Nature Preserve is still undeveloped.

Opportunity: Providing a link between Phalen and Gladstone Nature Preserve would promote use of the green space.

Issue: Bend in East Shore Drive and intersection is dangerous.

Opportunity: Realignment of East Shore Drive would provide a safer intersection for vehicles and pedestrians/bicyclists.

Issue: Boat ramp and parking lot is inconvenient and crosses trails.

Opportunity: Redesign of parking lot and ramp would provide a safer trail connection for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Issue: Location of East Shore Drive doesn't leave much room for a trail or landscaping.

Opportunity: Realignment of East Shore Drive would allow separation of trails room and landscaping.

Issue: Larpenteur Avenue is not an attractive pedestrian and bicyclist route to Lake Phalen.

Opportunity: A pedestrian/bicycle route on Larpenteur Avenue from Bruce Vento Regional Trail would enhance park entrance experience.

Comments: Larpenteur Avenue is wide and could accommodate a bike lane. Shoulders get used for parking in mornings by trail users.

Issue: Steep trails and no resting spots on top of hill don't provide a nice break for park users.

Opportunity: Improving accessibility and providing benches would allow users a place to relax and take in the views from the top of the hill.

Issue: Connection to Bruce Vento Regional Trail is not clearly identified.

Opportunity: Signage would provide better direction to regional trail.

Issue: Fenced wetland is unsightly and does not function anymore.

Opportunity: Renovating wetland would help improve appearance of area and water quality.

Issue: There is no trail through tunnel connecting neighborhood to trails at Lake Phalen.

Opportunity: Addition of trail and lighting would provide a critical link to the adjacent neighborhood.

Comments: Neighbors don't want trail through there, attracts the wrong crowd, would need to provide crosswalk across busy street

Issue: Parking lot is undersized and exit is dangerous.

Opportunity: Redesign of East Shore Drive and Parking lot would provide needed parking and alleviate congestion in this area.

Issue: Adjacent wooded, isolated, Public Works parcel

Opportunity: Wetland restoration underway could provide opportunity for accessibility and use.

Issue: Picturesque wetland no longer works.

Opportunity: Renovation of wetland would return it to functioning.

Issue: Park ends abruptly at residential area.

Opportunity: Additional tree planting could provide a buffer and define the edge of the park.

Issue: Former raised railroad bed is no longer used.

Opportunity: Raised condition would allow simple connection for a pedestrian bridge across Maryland Avenue.

Issue: Historic waterfall is deteriorating.

Opportunity: Renovation of the waterfall would preserve the historic structure and provide improved water quality for the lake.

Issue: Picturesque area can be secluded.

Opportunity: The City of Saint Paul and a Minnesota Chinese friendship organization has identified this area as an ideal location for a Chinese Friendship Garden as part of their sister city relationship.

Comments: There isn't any programming for the space yet. Has only been identified as an attractive location for a garden

Issue: Trails in this area are confusing.

Opportunity: Redesign of trails would provide better direction for trail users.

Comments: Meditation sculpture could be highlighted with landscaping or other sculptures in this area

Issue: Parking lot(s) are only accessible from the south.

Opportunity: Redesign needs to accommodate access to parking lots from both directions.

Issue: Water quality of Lake Phalen is fair.

Opportunity: Water resource management of watershed would continue to improve water quality and promote swimming and fish habitat.

Issue: Beach house is outdated and does not provide needed services and beach is losing popularity.

Opportunity: Renovation of beach house would provide a better appearance and use of the facility. A water feature would encourage use by little kids.

Comments: Consideration of combining beach house and boat house would alleviate excess building for need

Issue: Wheelock Parkway provides a barrier to poetry garden area.

Opportunity: Providing better access and visibility across Parkway would provide better use of this area and more park stewardship opportunities.

Additional comments

Parking lot and boat ramp are frequently full on Spoon Lake. An additional boat ramp and/or parking would be nice

The bike path on the north shore of Round Lake can become covered with sand. As one travels around corners, collisions are possible. The bike trail is also narrow

On street parking should be considered. This design tends to slow traffic. Amphitheater needs to be improved

Bruce Vento trail crossings at Larpenteur and Frost (and other streets) are not marked well. Can be dangerous for trail users crossing these streets

The 'point' is inaccessible. This may be a possible 'private' beach location. Beach drops off sharply and should not be used for swimming.

Next steps

Concepts (2-3 concept plans) will be developed and presented at our next meeting. The public open house will be held later in March.

PKMP DTF Meeting 3 – March 4, 2010 6:30, Phalen Golf Club House

Will provide an email reminder

Will attempt to post/email concept plans prior to meeting so more time can be spent commenting on them.

8:45 p.m. Adjourn