



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
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February 7, 2011

**Eileen Weida Play Area
Analysis and Programming
Meeting Notes – February 2, 2011
Saint Paul Police Eastern District Headquarters**

Meeting Attendees:

Buzz Wilson, Kate Ross, Ann Simerson, Al Oertwig, Bill Pesek, Dave Ronzani

A. David Ronzani of Parks and Recreation passed out the meeting agenda and then proceeded with introductions.

B. Bill Pesek gave an overview of the design process.

C. David Ronzani presented existing conditions, site analysis, goals and objectives, Conceptual Bubble diagrams, and play equipment options

D. Discussion/Comments/Questions:

a. Dislikes/Concerns with the current tot lot:

- Deteriorating play equipment
- Not many places to sit
- Lack of electrical outlet
- No existing drinking fountain/water in the park
- Sand increases wear on the play equipment
- Equipment geared towards 2-5 age range gets abused by older kids.

b. What is liked about the current tot lot and should be carried over into the new design if possible:

- The concrete and play curb of the existing area is in good shape. The new play area should utilize these features.
- The large elm tree provides significant shade for the play area and group events that are held at the park
- Keep the concrete pad on the north end of the play area which is currently used as a gathering space for programmed events and is useful as a space to base their operations when the grounds are wet.



- Maintain sight lines through play area
- Like structures geared towards 5-12 age range
- Equipment that promotes group activities, but would also work for individuals.
- Would like to retain some sand
- Retain existing shade, would like more trees.
- Keep existing BBQ grill
- Neighborhood is getting better at policing itself
- Hasn't been many issues with the basketball courts

c. Additional Improvements:

- Meet ADA accessibility and CPSC safety guidelines for use zones
- Incorporate equipment that kids can be seen through
- Climbing opportunities
- Incorporate 4-square into existing concrete pad
- Like the see-saw
- Equipment that is new and exciting
- Twisting and spinning elements
- More 5+ age range equipment in lieu of swings
- No tot swings
- 2-5 age group to have independent play events rather than a specific play structure
- Check existing lights for an access panel, for potential installment of an electrical plug
- More moving equipment, climbing opportunities
- Combination of paths made out of poured in place resilient surface and play grass.
- Avoid play tubes, tunnels, and other places where people can hide
- More Picnic tables
- Benches
- Additional BBQ grill if possible
- Try to schedule around the major event at
- Weigh options of moving or keeping the Eileen Weida monument were it is.
- Install biggest trees possible, request "gator bags"
- Install drinking fountain if possible.
- Like the train motif, however, there may be better play value with other options
- Replace the fence along Burr Street if funding allows

E. David Ronzani Presented the new Concept Plan, Play Equipment, and play Equipment layout Options

a. From equipment style options, the preference was to combine the traditional style structure with the modern style to utilize a variety of play opportunities

- i. Individual play equipment preferences
 1. Spring toys
 2. Digger
 3. sand table
 4. "Zip-Line"

5. Double “See-Saw”
6. Net climber
7. Spinning elements
8. Flexible “wave-style” balance beam
9. If possible, tire swing

b. Preference was for Concept Option #1, Retain as much of the existing container shape, curb, and concrete as possible.

- i. Focus on play equipment/surfacing rather than other site improvements
- ii. Explore the idea of adding a small node for sand play

F. Next Steps:

- Meeting #2 – Design Development, Final play equipment decision – Early March
Date - TBD.
- Action Items:
 - Refined Concept Design
 - Play Equipment Layouts

PLEASE REVIEW THESE NOTES AND CONTACT ME (651-266-6410) IF COMMENTS ARE INCORRECTLY NOTED OR MISSED COMPLETELY.

David Ronzani
Project Manager

Bill Pesek
Landscape Architect