



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

DATE: September 17, 2012

LOCATION: Sholom Home – Board Room

ATTENDING: Emily Shively, John Yust, Scott Olson, Gary Brueggemann, Liz McMann, Rory Stierler, Robin Vue-Benson, Stephanie Vagle, Brian Bloomfield, Pete Regnier, Bob Fossum, Kent Petterson, Paula Faughender, Martin Schieckel, Marcus Young, Dan Pederson, Bill Driver, Jeannie Farrel, Jennifer Verbrugge, Will Wilson, Thomas Frawley, Claire Russell, Manual Cervantes, JoAnna Craighead, Halle O'Falvey, Adam Robbins, Karin Misiewicz, Tonya Johnson- Nicholie, Alice Messer, Don Ganje.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Bredemus, John Bentfield

NOTES BY: Alice Messer

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Alice Messer welcomed committee to meeting:

- Provided summary of meeting agenda with goals of:
 - meeting all committee members
 - provide an overview of how the Design Advisory Committee will function in providing input to Parks staff on the design of Victoria Park
 - provide an overview of future meetings
 - provide a summary of work that has occurred on and around Victoria Park during walking tour

Brief introductions held and then departed for walking tour.

Alice Messer guided site walking tour – refer to walking tour map for talking point locations. Map attached to meeting notes.

A: Brief summary of work on site

- HRA currently owns Victoria Park and land will be turned over to the City of Saint Paul as a park after environmental remediation has been completed onsite
- Remediation has been actively underway since 2010.
- Fencing has been removed and the fill has been placed, the remediation is still active and the park is not open to the public.
- Throughout the environmental capping phase, Parks has been providing input to HRA on decisions of shaping of the fill material, wetland mitigation and storm water treatment options.
- Condition of the park now is starting point for design. Dirt can be moved and storm

water treatment can be relocated, but wetland mitigation must remain and storm water treatment must meet CRWSD requirements.

B: Victoria Way and Thurston Street

- Newly constructed roadway to complete the street system of Victoria Park master plan
- Included on-street parking, street trees, lighting and boulevard
- Major entrance point to Victoria Park

C: Intersection of Adrian and Montreal Avenue

- Access point into Victoria Park from Montreal, Highland Park and adjacent neighbors
- Residents overlook park
- Create access point into park for Metropolitan Council Sanitary Sewer structure – serve as framework for trail
- Rare location where existing cottonwood trees could remain
- Adrian Street to be rebuilt by Public Works in 2013

D: Wetland

- Location for wetland mitigation
- .75 acres of wetland were filled due to environmental capping process and mitigated with creation of 1.5 acres new wetland
- Location chosen because largest wetland onsite and opportunity to enhance quality of existing wetland
- Low point on site and storm water directed to wetland

E: Storm Water Treatment

- Storm water management required for Victoria Way and shared use parking lot
- System works to treat and infiltrate water before enters existing wetland, but potential to greatly enhance storm water features in park
- Capitol Region Watershed District has hired engineering firm to explore innovative storm water options and those will be presented at a later date.

F: Remediation Pump House

- Required to extract vapors from monitoring wells (to be removed when remediation is complete)
- Extraction levels have been turned up to allow public use of the park sooner rather than later, but levels too high to have park open to the public now
- Maintenance access is required to pump house and maintenance road from trail will allow access

G: Existing Rail Road Underpass

- Very important connection between north and south side of park
- Low clearance for vehicles, but adequate for pedestrians and cyclists
- Important to keep this connection open

H: Future Mound/Overlook

- Provides views of Victoria Park, downtown St. Paul and possibly Mississippi River when leaves off trees
- Footprint limited by existing wetland in corner
- Mound height approx. 30' high
- Revisit when leaf cover gone

I: Victoria Park South

- Fill placed on approx. 2/3rd of site
- Remaining fill to be placed after northern site is stabilized for erosion control measures
- Storm water to be managed by creating three basins that will hold water to allow infiltration with ultimate discharge in existing wetland
- Storm water not allowed to flow over bluff

J: Existing Road to Mississippi River

- Old access road down bluff
- Important connection down to Mississippi River
- Not handicap accessible, but pathway already created down bluff and critical river connection point

K: Alternate route to tunnel under Shepard Road

- Explore tunnel at later date when leaf cover gone
- Very overgrown, but important connection under Shepard Road and larger connections to Crosby Regional Park and Sam Morgan Regional Trail

L: Mississippi River

- Access to Mississippi River
- Opportunity to store canoes/kayaks under bridge
- Water level very low, but able to see smooth sand bar when water levels low
- Very important connection to Mississippi River and part of Great River Passage canoe trail

M: Flint Hills Booms

- Not owned currently by City, but opportunity to explore acquisition
- Unique remnant of industrial use of river
- Explore incorporation into overlook/walkway

N: Remediation Pump House

- Loud, but access important to allow extraction for remediation (to be removed when remediation complete)
- Existing roadway creates loop up and down to river
- Important connection to keep open and re-stabilize

O: Overlook

- Amazing views of Mississippi River valley and downtown St. Paul
- Not in Victoria Park property, but important visual connection to river
- Link to Victoria Park by trail system from Sam Morgan Regional Trail
- Great amenity for future development site

P: Stewart Street Extension

- Continue existing Stewart Street into Victoria Park site for access
- Bring in water and sanitary sewer service with roadway construction
- Stewart Street would also serve private development proposed for corner of Otto and Shepard Road

Q: Fill placed on Victoria Park South

- Fill placement and grading to continue after north side stabilized

R: Parking Lot

- Shared use parking lot by Nova Classical Academy and future Victoria Park
- Parking lot specifically located on narrow land of Victoria Park to allow greatest amount of land for park development
- Parking lot heavily used during school hours, but not time most people will be using park

Tonya Johnson-Nicolie presented overview of committee structure:

- Guiding Principles of Advisory Committee:
 1. No Alternates
 2. Decisions by consensus, not voting
 3. Work respectfully in group setting
 4. Understand and balance needs of all park users
 5. Join Committee with open-mind and willingness to listen and hear views/ideas for Victoria Park
 6. Have “parking lot” for additional comments/questions that come up that are not on agenda
 7. Limit talking points to 3 minutes, co-chairs will monitor
 8. Meetings open to public, but hear public comment at conclusion of meeting – 3 minute time limit.

Emily Shively presented role of committee in:

- Advisory role to Parks and Recreation
- Input balanced with larger citywide needs; City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Systems Plan, City of Saint Paul Vision Plan, Great River Passage and permitting requirements
- Committee members are representing larger interest group. City website will become central source of project information. This will allow Committee members to reach out to network and share information on project.

Alice Messer presented summary of preliminary meeting schedule:

- Monthly meetings (exception to December/January)
- Preliminary meeting schedule - anticipate 6 to 7 meetings with preliminary outline:
 - Meeting 1 (September): focused on familiarity with site and understanding of committee process.
 - Meeting 2 (October): goals and objectives for park, brainstorming event, discuss survey to gather more public input on goals and objectives
 - Meeting 3 (November): site analysis focusing on existing site constraints/opportunities, connections to surrounding environment (residential, river valley, bluff), history of site, summarize survey results
 - Meeting 4 (December/January): conceptual ideas for Victoria park based on goals, objectives and site analysis
 - Public Open House (February) – held in conjunction with District Council Meeting
 - Meeting 5 (March): refined concept(s) based on feedback from Design Advisory Committee and Open House
 - Meeting 6 (April): present final concept plan and discuss implementation priorities which will be used as guide for funding requests. Parks has discretion to adjust based on construction sequencing needs or as unique funding opportunities arise
 - Other optional events: snowshoe tour of site to see with leaf cover off, other site visits as suggestions arise.
 - Once final concept plan developed; Design Advisory Committee process will conclude.

Questions/Comments from Committee:

1. Kent Petterson - What is the process to bring addition issues/topics to the committee?
 - Response: Notify project manager or co-chairs of topic and topic will be included at appropriate meeting
2. Brian Bloomfield offered meeting room in Nova Classical Academy for future meeting location.

Actions:

- Alice to determine best monthly meeting time from 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- Presentation materials posted on project website at:
<http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4876>

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 2012, 6:00–8:00 pm

Please contact Alice Messer at 651-266-6412 if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly.