MEETING #1
Design Advisory Committee
September 23, 2015
5:00-7:00pm
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
Agenda

Welcome & Introductions
Project Introduction & Design Process
Project Background & Survey Results
Site Analysis & Concept Planning
Design Preference Activity
Discussion
Next steps
Project Overview:

Project Goal: Create a concept plan for improvements to Parque de Castillo to improve the play area and create a vibrant public space.

Meeting Goals:
- Introduce the project
- Review survey results, analysis, and concept plans.
- Determine a desired organization of the site for moving forward
- Determine preferences for the play area and other park amenities to include.
Design Advisory Committee guidelines:

*Design Advisory Committee process determines the direction of development and refinement of concept designs*

Who is the **Design Advisory Committee**?
- A diverse mix of community representatives including property owners, adjacent residents, stakeholders and representatives from business, finance, institution, and real estate.

Charge of the **Design Advisory Committee**:
- Advise the design team composed of city staff in the concept development and refinement for Parque de Castillo.

Role of the **Design Advisory Committee**:
- Define the community and neighborhood needs of the park site
- Review plan concepts and provide input on major design elements and park themes
- Bring suggestions from area residents to the attention of the project team
- Help communicate project progress to community members
- Provide guidance to the Parks and Recreation design staff on the final design recommendations for this project
- Ensure that the full range of local issues are addressed during this design process
Design Advisory Committee guidelines:

*Design Advisory Committee process determines the direction of development and refinement of concept designs*

How does the Design Advisory Committee process work?

- Decisions for moving forward will be made by consensus.

- Project information will be available to the public on the city website: [www.stpaul.gov/parquecastillo](http://www.stpaul.gov/parquecastillo)

- Meetings are open to the public. Comments from public outside design advisory committee can be sent through email, telephone or by comment card.

- Design Advisory Committee meetings end after design development is complete and consensus has been reached for major project elements.
Project Schedule:

**August – September 2015**
- Internal meetings and Discussion
- Community outreach: Attended National Night out, visited neighboring businesses, assemble Design Advisory Committee, and Manage online survey

**September 23, 2015 – First Design Advisory Committee Meeting**
- Introduce the project, review survey results, discuss site organization options and determine main priorities for the site

**November (11, 12, 18 or 19) 2015 – Second Design Advisory Committee Meeting**
- Review concept plan options, determine main priorities for the project, select concept plan to develop
- Introduce consultant to design advisory committee

**January (13 or 14) 2016 – Project Open house**
- Present final design for Parque de Castillo

January – April 2016 *(tentative)*— Develop construction documents

*To be determined* - 2016 – Bid Project

Fall 2016 or Summer 2017 *(To be determined)*— Construction starts
Project Background
Previous Planning Efforts:

**District del Sol (2002):**
- Improve Parque Castillo’s “visibility”

**Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Systems Plan (2010):**

*System-wide Needs (as it relates to project)*
- Splashpads
- High Quality Athletic Fields (Synthetic Turf)
- Access to Nature
- Family, Adult, and Senior Recreation

**West side Community Plan (2013):**
- Create a seamless park experience with El Rio Vista and Parque Castillo
- Provide additional recreation facilities at Parque Castillo

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### Implementation Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PR1.2</th>
<th>Coordinate the planning and design of improvements to El Rio Vista Park and Parque Castillo to create a seamless park experience.</th>
<th>Neighborhood House, WSCO, Parks &amp; Recreation</th>
<th>High priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR1.3</td>
<td>Provide additional recreation facilities at Parque Castillo, such as a splash pad, band shell, enhanced play area, skate park or community-maintained garden.</td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>High priority</td>
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Project Funding:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Phase Description</th>
<th>Financing Source</th>
<th>Priors</th>
<th>2014 Proposed</th>
<th>2015 Tentative</th>
<th>2016 Tentative</th>
<th>2017 Tentative</th>
<th>2018 Tentative</th>
<th>Total (not including priors)</th>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Com Dev. Blk Gmt PY</td>
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<tr>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>47</td>
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<td><strong>Total Project Cost</strong></td>
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<td><strong>307</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td><strong>650</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Justification:

According to the Parks and Recreation Department's Tot Lot Replacement List, the play area at El Rio Vista (Roosevelt School) is ranked number 4 on the list for replacement. Since the play area at Roosevelt is now maintained by the School District, we propose to replace the Parque Castillo play area directly across the street from El Rio Vista. This project would bring much needed upgrades to Parque Castillo and create a vibrant space able to accommodate kids from El Rio Vista. This plan would build on the Robert/Cesar Chavez Redevelopment Plan recently completed for the area. Parque Castillo bridges the connection between Cesar Chavez Street and El Rio Vista.
Community engagement

Attended National Night Out – Aug 6, 2015

Visited neighboring businesses

Mail postcards (750 mailed to neighbors)

Manage online English & Spanish survey (73 respondents)

Assemble Design Advisory Committee

Open house - December or January (TBD)

Any other suggestions?
Survey Results:

An online survey was available in August 2015 to September 2015 for community members to give their feedback on the play area and site improvements of Parque Castillo. 73 people participated in the survey. 51% of them live a 5 min walk within the park. 25% visit the park weekly and 30% less than monthly.

Q: What do you like about the play area and the park?
- Ball Fields
- Proximity
- Playground
- Community
- Relax
- Park
- Close to Home
- Slides
- Location
- Gym
- Nice
- History
- Street
- Gathering Space

Q: If you were to choose a theme to inspire the park design, what would it be?
- Castillo
- Music
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Cultures
- Park
- WestSide
- Colors
- Historical event
- Aztec
- Mexican
- Cesar Chavez

Q: In one word, say what you like best about the neighborhood?
- Community
- Park Fun
- Culture
- Friendly
- Active
- Great Peace
- WestSide
- Nice
- Everyone
- Diverse
- Multi-generational
- Creative
- Artistic

Q: What type of play equipment would you like to see in the new play area?
- Traditional: 8%
- Modern: 41%
- Net Structure: 9%
- Combination (Woven - Textile): 70%

Q: What type of play surfacing would you like to see in the new play area?
- Synthetic turf: 19%
- Synthetic resilient: 46%
- Sand: 43%

Q: What would you like to see in addition to new play area equipment?
- Picnic space: 68%
- Landscaping: 46%
- Additional seating: 45%
- Additional shade: 48%
- Water feature: 74%

Suggested Additions to the park:
- Tribute to veterans
- Colorful benches
- Concert stage
- Mural
- Water fountain
- Mosaic

Suggested Artistic Influences:
- John Acosta
- Frida Khalo
- Armando Gutierrez
- Diego Rivera
- Marina Castillo
- Ta-coumba Aiken
- Paul Basques
- Caprice Glaser
- Aldo Moroni
- Emily Stover
- Dim Media
- Andrea Steuder
- Jake Keeler
- Lucas Giusenkamp
- Hispanic traditions
- Mexican-American
- Aztec
- Monarch Butterflies
History:

The piece represents a mythological mother or queen to immigrant families of the West Side of St. Paul. The different layers represent the great ethnic diversity of the West Side, from the early Jewish to the present Hispanic community. The mild steel upright was originally a tie beam on the old Wabasha Street Bridge. "This sculpture is an assemblage of laminated stone that abstractly and metaphorically represents the figure of the immigrant woman, and her heroism in coming to her new land." David explains, "The concept of 'The Queen of the Wandering Races' came to mind from the poetry of Pablo Neruda. My hopes are that this art work will, over time, become an icon that represents the masses of immigrants and humanity that have moved through our community in the past, present and future."
Site Analysis & Neighborhood Context
Site Analysis: Neighborhood Context:
- Establish a presence on Cesar Chavez side that offers sightlines into the park, but enough of a buffer to make it feel comfortable

- Create strong visual connection to Gilbert de la O field and Rec Center

- Widen sidewalks and enhance pathways through the park that are intentional connectors

- Flatten the lawn space to create more useable open areas

- Reduce the strong presence of visible utilities (power pole & light fixtures)

- Trim plantings around the sculpture and/or move memorial

- Create a vibrant, active play area for children

- Create an open plaza space for community events
Site Analysis: Conceptual site organization schemes:

**CONCEPT A - art park**
- Art is major focus
- Play area 6,000 sq. ft.
- Formal layout
- Fountain joins park to street
- Preserves trees

**CONCEPT B - neighborhood park**
- Focus on green space and play area
- Utilize street space as plaza
- Preserve trees
- Less formal
- Orient band shell in NW corner to maximize open space
- Play area 3,000 sq. ft.

**CONCEPT C - traditional plaza**
- Large formal plaza with circular fountain located close to Cesar Chavez to invite users into park
- Focus is on gathering space
- Plaza also accommodates viewing area for bandshell
- Play area 3,000 sq. ft.

ADD A DOT IF THIS PLAN HAS YOUR FAVORITE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>location of play area</th>
<th>size of plaza</th>
<th>style of water feature</th>
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- Lawn
- Plaza space
- Water Feature
- Play Area
- Pathways
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Lawn
Plaza space
Water Feature
Play Area
Pathways
Concept Images: Play Equipment:
Concept Images: Water Features:
Discussion

1. Are there any additional themes to add to inspire the design?

2. What are your ideas and desires for this site?

3. What are the priorities for Parque de Castillo? (turn in sheet)
Moving Forward....

Next Meeting: Mid - November 2015