



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

Como Regional Park McMurray Area Transportation Planning

October 27, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Design Workshop Two Minutes

In attendance:

City Parks Staff

Bryan Murphy
Alice Messer
Kathy Korum
Karin Misiewicz
Derek Hollanitsch
Randy Graff
Jessica Williams

Como Park Advisors

Dan Marckel
Pete Bolstad
Kyle Baribeau
Elizabeth Stiffler

Others Present

Sally Worku
Carol Gray
Art Oglesby
Kim Moon
Kim Deroche
Kim Johnson
Michael Kuchta
Dave Gray

Focus Groups

Brit Forsberg – CWOC
Deb Robinson – CWOC

Consultants

Matt Pacyna – SRF
Cristina Diaz – ZAN
Charleen Zimmer- ZAN

Staff, Advisors, or Focus Group members (not present)

Triesta Brown	Bill Dermody	Tyler McKean
Tom Dapper	Mark Ross	Matt Dehne
Nick Eoloff	Gwen Peterson	Jody Griffin
Lynn Gallandat	Susie Odegard	

Meeting began at 6:35.

Bryan Murphy started the meeting and asked for introductions. This is the second of the workshops which will be followed by the Open House on December 15th

Bryan reviewed the Goals and Objectives of the project

1. Improve site access and circulation

- *Improve or remove site access points with limited visibility or poor alignment*
- *Provide parking in locations that is convenient to site uses*
- *Investigate opportunities to expand parking facilities in underutilized areas*
- *Provide sidewalk and trail connections to, and through, the site*
- *Provide opportunities for multi-modal transportation such as Como Shuttle/Circulator service and NiceRide*



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National Gold Medal Award

2. Enhance user's experience of the facilities

- *Improve access to soccer and baseball fields*
- *Provide attractive and informative signage where appropriate*
- *Provide attractive and adequate lighting for site users*
- *Provide accessibility for users of all abilities*
- *Introduce traffic calming measures*

3. Enhance the environment

- *Integrate stormwater management*
- *Minimize impact to surrounding land uses*
- *Utilize vegetation to improve park experience*

Bryan turned the meeting over to Matt Pacyna

Matt reviewed the previous concepts and concerns with each plan which led to the development of the revised plan. Matt gave an overview of the revised plan and discussed the existing and proposed parking numbers.

We opened up the meeting to questions regarding the plan. These include:

Question: How will Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC) parking be restricted for non-CWOC users?

Answer: For the most part, the parking at Como Park facilities is first come first serve. It is very difficult to enforce dedicated parking.

Question: How can the parking for the McMurray Fields/Como Pool/CWOC be prevented from becoming remote parking for the zoo/conservatory or other parts of the park?

Answer: Again, it can be difficult to set and enforce such specific parking regulations within the park. Currently there is on street non-dedicated spaces and there will be a net gain of about 50 spots. Street parking is now condensed into smaller parking pods near each different type of activity.

Question: Are the concessions/restroom facilities only functional in the 2-3 months of summer?

Answer: These specific things are not part of the transportation plan

Question: Do you anticipate "No Parking" signs on Wynne Avenue? And where will buses go?

Answer: Directions/No Parking Signs will be posted and there will be a dedicated stop for buses. The new road will also be narrower and expected to somewhat discourage parking on its own

Question: What are the prime times for different activities?

Answer: The largest time of pool/field overlap is usually between 6-7 pm on summer evenings. The pool opens in the morning for lap swimming, followed by lessons, and open swim around noon. At about 2:30/2:45 when the facility performs a safety break, many of the pool users leave. The pool closes at 8:00 p.m. As the pool season winds down, the soccer season ramps up. Summer is prime time for adult softball. *A CAG member also pointed out that most people who go to the pool in the evening have already arrived by the time people start to come for evening field events.

Question: Is there any estimate on how much parking would be lost if one field were to be eliminated?

Answer: Usually account for 30-40 spaces per field; about 15 for players and 20 for spectators

Question: Could the parking lot have green space/landscaping to help with traffic calming measures?

Answer: Certainly

Question: Given the direction of Jessamine Avenue, will there be traffic backup on Lexington Parkway waiting to turn left onto Wynne Avenue?

Answer: Based on traffic analysis, the different won't be significant or noticeable. It should feel pretty similar to how it is now.

Question: There will no longer be an entrance from Lexington Parkway onto Jessamine Avenue, correct?

Answer: Correct.

Question: Any thoughts of running Jessamine Avenue as a one way in the other direction (east bound).

Answer: Yes, but most people are going to the fields.

Question: Do the number of parking spaces listed include the 150 on the RR ROW?

Answer: No, those additional spots would be a bonus.

Small Group discussion feedback - Likes

Added bike access

Extra parking...we need the RR ROW for parking

Field access points

Layout of street and parking south of existing pool lot...but concerned about speed through the area

Field layout/orientation

Parking lot at existing gravel parking lot

Stormwater ponds

The potential to enhance streets and parking areas with plantings

Small Group discussion feedback – Dislikes/concerns

Wynne/Jessamine/Lexington Parkway intersection

Road through pool parking lot (even though it is separated)

Westerly flow of traffic on Jessamine...should be easterly

There should be no new parking at the pool

Concern about the number of crosswalks

It appears there is no parking for Como Woodland (can there be signed spaces for the classroom?)

Concern about seasonal use

Unsure if the sidewalks will be cleared during winter

Small Group discussion feedback – Suggestions

There should be stop signs at the crosswalks

Need to verify Jessamine has large enough turning radius for all vehicles

Need to increase the shuttle/circulator

There should be a priority on pedestrians

There should be access to the Humane Society

Prefer stop signs to raised crosswalks

Suggestion to do pervious paving

Can we show how the traffic will flow?

Can we still do back in angled parking?

Can we have 3D modeling of project?

Quantify existing and proposed impervious areas

Need to discuss with Humane Society on parking situation

Comment form feedback

Roads – Jessamine

- 12' seems narrow...verify access for emergency vehicles or stalled vehicles
- Are there issues with access from Wynne/Lexington Pkwy
- Like the one way...would like Back-in-angled parking
- Nice that there is no longer access of Lexington Pkwy
- Likes the one-way but not sure if it works better as eastbound or westbound...people in the neighborhood may object to one-way traffic

Roads – Wynne East of Pool

- Good...consider traffic calming, and good opportunity to test seasonal or removable speed bumps/tables
- Verify turning radius is sufficient to access Wynne
- Is this posted “No Parking” and a suggestion to add stop signs at ped crossings
- Consider West bound traffic on Wynne only...enter off Lexington and exit Beulah and Jessamine
- Support for eliminating parking east of the pool. Concerned about back-ups caused by people turning left onto Jessamine

Roads – Wynne West of Pool

- Topo is really extreme – how can this be a beautiful piece of LA worthy of HWS Cleveland?
- Like getting more space for CWOC
- Traffic calming
- Is this posted “No Parking” and a suggestion to add stop signs at ped crossings
- Consider West bound traffic on Wynne only...enter off Lexington and exit Beulah and Jessamine
- Hope as many traffic calming elements can be added to slow traffic

Parking – Pool Expansion lot

- How to make this a forest
- Love it...every space will be utilized
- Don't like easterly expansion but love the southerly expansion (toward fields)
- Good...it seems to be needed...investigate ‘green’ parking
- It is needed for Athletic activities
- Like the southern expansion lot...but not so much the eastern one

Parking – CWOC

- It looks like parking is for the fields, not the CWOC
- Like the bus parking and finished lot near the CWOC
- Accommodate “dropping off” of kids
- Stormwater issue with CWOC

Parking – Jessamine Ave

- Improved or not, people will park in RR ROW...Save some money on this and let parking happen on dirt
- Skeptical about the feasibility of getting land in ROW. Good, great improvement...double check numbers
- Parallel parking may not be possible by the Animal Humane Society
- Widen turn from Wynne for big vehicles
- Secure space from RR
- Don't care for the back-in-angled parking

Trails

- Good add – Needed
- Seem good
- Be careful of multiuse path right in front of pool...bikes and pedestrians don't mix well
- The added trails are great. Is it also possible to also have a sidewalk between Lexington and the pool?

Field Access Points

- Great!
- Good
- Nice to have additional access points

Other

- How much green space was lost
- Will shuttle traffic on Jessamine stop traffic when they are loading/unloading? Not a good idea if it does.

Next steps

Feedback from Design Workshop #2 will be evaluated and revisions made to the plan. The updated plan will be emailed, along with a memo noting the comments received from Design Workshop #2, to the workshop participants one week prior to the open house.

The public input portion of the project will be summarized at an open house on December 15, 2015 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. at the Como Streetcar Station.

8:25 p.m.

Adjourn