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City in America

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Melvin Carter

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Hidden Falls / Crosby Farm Regional Park Master Plan Advisory Committee - Meeting #1

Meeting Notes

October 16, 2018

6:30 – 8:00 PM

The Wellington Senior Living - 2235 Rockwood Avenue, St. Paul MN 55116

Goal: Introduce the group. Explain the purpose of the meeting, expected outcome from master plan process. Present overview of the parks and parameters for project, engagement to date and previous studies. Determine priorities. Discuss upcoming timeline and next steps.

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Metropolitan Council Master Plan
 - b. Importance of this place culturally, ecologically, spiritually, socially
 - i. Native American culture celebrates Bdote site – confluence of the two rivers as central to their spirituality
 - c. Consider the park and uses
 - d. Individual introductions – name and who they are representing
 - i. Hank Carlson YMCA- leads youth groups
 - ii. Adam Brunner – fishes the banks
 - iii. Shawn Sheely natural trails advocate – Mississippi River gorge committee. Led efforts to build natural trails
 - iv. Sandra Macguire Lutz – hiking walking
 - v. Barb Lehn – lives on the river – resident
 - vi. Paige DeWees – considers Crosby her church
 - vii. Emily Northy - Fort Road Federation
 - viii. Alicia Uzarek - Friends of The Mississippi River
 - ix. Becky Amidon – resident of Highland – at Hidden Falls every day since teenager
 - x. Gary Bruggeman – lifelong resident, Minnesota historian. Remembers the Crosby Farm. Sibley Caves. His wife Jackie also participated in the meeting.
 - xi. Rebecca Ryan – lives by Beaver Lake now but grew up in Highland– father was on park board when Crosby was designed. Banding bats.
 - xii. Tyler Teggatz – Highland District Council, lives by HF North Gate
 - xiii. Becky Rice – Highland resident 20 years – regular user of the park. Director of MetroBlooms non-profit restores ecology of urban environment



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- xiv. Kristine Gill – transportation committee Metro Council. Ramsey County day job
 - xv. Holly Larson, NPS RTCA
 - xvi. Renee Campion – Sleepy Hollow Montessori – getting ready to open junior high that will be centered on the River.
 - xvii. Karin Misiewicz, St. Paul Parks & Rec Maintenance and Operations
 - xviii. Ellen Stewart - St. Paul Parks & Recreation
 - xix. Barrett Steenrod, NPS RTCA
2. Committee role and expectations (provided on agenda)
 - a. Role is to provide feedback and input
 - b. Bring information back and forth between this group and those you represent as part of the process so that we get a well-rounded understanding/perspective on the community's desires for the park
 3. Project overview – creation of report that will be submitted to MetCouncil
 - a. Timeline, context and location, goals
 - i. November committee meeting
 - ii. Open house in January to verify that we got it all
 - iii. Production of document
 - iv. Reviews and approvals
 - v. Funding requests to follow over the years
 - b. Regional Parks – 7 county metro
 - i. 530,000 visitors at HF/CF RP per year
 - ii. Required to look at development projects, access, attraction of more people to come to the parks
 - iii. 1970s master plan completed
 - c. Funding for the development of the Master Plan from State Legacy Amendment
 - d. Hidden Falls – 130 acres – 1880s Horace Cleveland encouraged city to set aside natural areas for public use
 - i. Variety of structures and facilities within the park
 - ii. Deferred maintenance
 - iii. Access issues
 - iv. Erosion
 - e. Crosby Farm
 - i. was a farm until 1960s.
 - ii. Feels remote
 - iii. Lake, restored prairie, tree/forest replanting, invasive removals
 - iv. Seasonal flooding, lack of wayfinding
 - f. Cultural Resources (history, site significance)
 - i. Two Rivers Overlook acknowledges cultural significance, but we should seek to take this cultural acknowledgement further into the park to recognize the significance of the land
 - g. Natural Resources Inventory required for both HF and CF
 - i. Preliminary findings shows that no areas are in excellent habitat quality currently
 1. Invasive plants
 2. Not native ecosystem

3. Great River Greening updating the inventory for HF, City of St. Paul Natural Resources is updating inventory for CF (in progress, will be shown at next meeting)
 - h. Partners
 - i. Investments
4. Engagement to-date
5. Online Survey (closes end of October) 703 responses to date
 - a. Walking, running, biking
 - b. Upgrade bathrooms
 - c. Improve trail surfaces
 - d. Improve river access
6. Great River Passage 2010-2012
 - a. More Natural, More Urban, More Connected
 - b. Saint Paul's long-term plan to Connect neighborhoods, communities and people to the 17 miles of Mississippi River that runs through the city
 - c. Interdisciplinary team of consultants
 - d. 56 members of Community Advisory and Technical Advisory team
 - e. 28 community meetings
 - f. 5 focus groups
 - g. 2012 adopted by the City Council into the City's Comprehensive Plan
7. Questions:
 - a. Who owns the land near Ford, along the river? Not owned by the City – private property?
 - b. Considering the Ford Dam as part of that discussion?
 - i. Will be something that is part of the City's planning?
 - ii. Leaving as an option to acquire land but not getting into detail; we are reserving the ability to acquire land by putting it in the plan
 - iii. Shoreline changes due to removal of the dams – removal impact is unknown at this time. No hydrological engineers on this project. If anything, it will make the river narrower. No firm commitments to anything around that.
 - c. Watergate? How much will be part of that project?
 - i. Environmental Learning Center part of Great River Passage
 - ii. Division in our Department and more in-depth plans and details will be worked on through that division. We will be working with and around that.
 - d. Shoreline
8. Break-out groups
 - a. 4 groups of 5 max guided by Anne, Baret, Holly, and Liz
 - b. Create big idea statement for the park – beyond improvements.
 - i. Looking to know and understand what this place should be
 - ii. What gives it its identity?
 - c. Review GRP plans and discuss
 - d. Review priorities from GRP master plan
 - e. Report back to committee
 - i. GROUP 1
 1. Trash cans
 2. Limit parking
 3. Restoration of staircase

4. Improving the falls – daylighting the water feature
- ii. GROUP 2
 1. Big idea – nature preserve – keep it wild
 2. Signage and safety
 3. Resilient trails
 4. Invasive species removal
 5. History – Rumtown and Fort Snelling connection
 6. History – indigenous
 7. Clean and renovate the Hidden Falls Pavilion
 8. Stabilize creek bank at Hidden Falls
- iii. GROUP 3
 1. End to end hiking and cycling trails
 2. Sustainable.natural surface trails
 3. Native culture -more prominent
 4. Consistent signage
 5. Boat dock access – improvements and more of it
 6. Police/DNR presence above and below the bluff
 7. Bluff stabilization -especially at Marina
 8. Challenge area for kids – bike pump track near marina
 9. Quiet spaces in the flats should also be a priority
 - 10.Improving pavilion in Hidden Falls
 - 11.Bathrooms
- iv. What we have heard before
 1. Shelter that can accommodate groups
 2. Improve entry and enhance safety
 3. Wayfinding
 4. Nature based play area in Hidden Falls
 - 5.

9. Wrap up, next steps

Next meeting will be in November 2018. Visit <https://www.stpaul.gov/hidden-falls-crosby-farm-master> for more information and details on upcoming meetings.