



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Melvin Carter

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MEETING NOTES

Indian Mounds Regional Park Cultural Landscape Study and Interpretive Plan Community Engagement Event 3

MEETING DATE: January 12, 2019, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
LOCATION: Marian Center of Saint Paul, Parkview Room (200 Earl Street)
ATTENDING: Ward 7: Jane Prince, Councilmember; Stephanie Harr, Legislative Aide
Franky Jackson, Prairie Island Indian Community
Joey Taylor, Prairie Island Indian Community
Richard Janke
Steve Trimble
Carol Sommers
Kathie Madvig
Dan McGuinness
Gary Brown
Marjorie Pitz
Jan Gasterland
David Baker
Maria Cermak
Cole Cermak
Greg Cosimini
Scott Messer
Alice Messer
Kim Ulmer
Vicki Baucom

Project Team Members:

Bianca Paz, City of Saint Paul Parks
Ellen Stewart, City of Saint Paul Parks
Brenda Williams, Quinn Evans
Stephanie Austin, Quinn Evans
Mona Smith, Allies, LLC
Maura Rockcastle, TenxTen

The purpose of the meeting was an open house to listen to the thoughts and concerns of neighborhood residents. While this brainstorming session gathered a broad array of suggestions, the planning process will refine recommendations for the site and not all ideas will be applied to the final plan. The event was organized as a series of stations:

VISION + GOALS, HISTORIC PERIOD PLANS, SITE USE + PROGRAM, and PRELIMINARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES



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National Gold Medal Award

Notes for station focused on VISION + GOALS and HISTORIC PERIOD PLANS station

1. There were no comments modifying the vision or goals.
2. Attendees suggested modifying the Mitakaye Owasin diagram to include people – particularly the Village of Kaposia.
3. We received numerous comments on the historic period plans
 - a. The report should include recognition of important people associated with the village of Kaposia, including Little Crow, Skaya, and Big Thunder
 - b. Prior to dredging and fill on the Mississippi River, it was described as 300' across and marshy.
 - c. A historic map of the caves had been produced, and could be oriented to the surface to show the connection between above and below.
 - d. An Irish neighborhood “Connemara Patch” had been located at the western end of the park during the late 1800s-early 1900s.
 - e. The road/trail between the top of the bluff and the hotel along the floodplain used to have a staircase, now eroded. The trail is no longer recognizable.
 - f. Neighborhood residents discussed the 1938 winter carnival ice palace/court, which was constructed at the western end of the park.
 - g. An archery range was once located in the municipal forest west of the fish hatchery.
 - h. A note should be provided to identify the date of the realignment of Mounds Blvd.
4. General discussion/comments
 - a. Several neighborhood residents expressed interest in adding Dakota language to signage at the park.
 - b. A neighborhood resident encouraged use of native grasses and savanna vegetation to stabilize the slopes, rather than the early successional species that currently dominate the bluff. Modifications to vegetation on the bluff will be a multi-generational effort.
 - c. Several neighborhood residents indicated that they like the areas of restored prairie, and encouraged expanding the prairie restoration. There was one dissenter, who thought that the prairie occupied too much space that could be used by people in the park.
 - d. One resident indicated that the playground is very busy in the summer, and suggested that it should be expanded.

Notes for station focused on SITE USE + PROGRAM

The following section indicates general responses from neighborhood residents to questions about future use and programming of the park.

1. What current uses do you think should continue?

- a. Tot park
- b. Overlooks
- c. Pedestrian paths
- d. Picnic areas
- e. Music festival (jazz, bluegrass)
- f. Radio gliders
- g. Sledding
- h. Play structures
- i. The facilities that exist are nice, but may need some maintenance (tennis, playground, etc.)

2. What are uses and activities that you would like to see happen at this place (Indian Mounds Regional Park)?

YEAR ROUND

- a. Preserve significant sites and features. Teach protocols so people understand how to be respectful, and make it clear where is it ok to walk and not to walk.
- b. Welcome All
- c. Welcome and encourage Dakota to use the park as much as possible
- d. A gathering space for sharing stories and culture (Dakota and neighborhood residents)
- e. Dakota language
- f. Hiking tours
- g. Bike tours

- h. Interpret history through photos or information kiosk
- i. Concessions, food and beverages
- j. Maintain views from park to river and surrounding landscape
- k. Multi-dimensional programs: Land – sky/star view – water- under earth
- l. Art making
- m. Tours of Mounds Park Tree Trek

SPRING

- a. Picnicking & potlucks
- b. Kite flying event
- c. Neighborhood “Garage” Sale
- d. Easter Egg Hunt
- e. May Day Activity
- f. Spring clean up

SUMMER

- a. Events in appropriate locations: Music festival and performance, Amphitheater, Shakespeare in the park or similar//Plays in the park (picnic operetta), Wacipi (Pow Wow) Dakota dancing /drumming/singing, Weekend concerts at pavilion (country, drums, rock&roll, choirs, open jam, bag pipe bands), Art fair, Dayton’s Bluff Food Sling, July 4th gathering for fireworks viewing and celebration
- b. Active recreation in appropriate locations: temporary disc golf course (Eastern side of park), pickle ball (on tennis courts), skating path, skating, skiing, sledding, Hmong Volleyball/Top/Soccer
- c. Picnicking & potlucks

FALL

- a. End of summer/autumn community festival include Dakota and all cultures; and/or Indigenous Peoples’ Day activities
- b. Picnicking & potlucks
- c. Night Sky Viewing
- d. School field trips
- e. Fall tree walks
- f. Cross country races
- g. Story telling around fire with smores

WINTER

- a. Snow sculpture contest
- b. Black History Celebration
- c. Winter Solstice Bon Fire

3. What uses or activities do you think should not occur at this place (IMRP)?

- a. Avoid exclusion of any individuals or groups
- b. No naming rights
- c. Partying drugs/alcohol (parties on the bluff)
- d. Car “club”
- e. Blasting car speakers
- f. Bikes using bluff path
- g. Skate boarders on steep hills
- h. Water park

General meeting dialogue and questions:

- 1. What causes the echo?
- 2. Cosmology as a universal theme
- 3. It was Dakota land, It is Dakota land, It will be Dakota land
- 4. D-talkers (Dakota), L-talkers (Lakota), N-talkers (Nakota)