



## MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2016

LOCATION: Baker Park Recreation Center, 209 Page St W, Saint Paul MN 55107

ATTENDING: Jill Danner, Lloyd Dalton, Yuan Dalton, June Dalton, Shawn Jacobson, Troy Parkinson, Alice Messer, Cheeneng (Chee) Yang

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Megan Namowicz, Steve Rossow, Betsy Thompson, Louis Garcia, Anna Bulter, Anastacia Martinez, Rachel Quick

NOTES BY: Chee Yang, November 17, 2016

---

### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

***Alice Messer welcomed audience, provided introduction, and opened the presentation. Chee Yang presented the presentation. Refer to page 2-3 of Presentation Materials.***

- Outlined the presentation's agenda & project schedule
  - Outlined presentation agenda
  - Reviewed Design Advisory Taskforce Roles and Expectations
    - *Respect for different perspectives with an open-mind*
    - *Willingness to listen and hear views/ideas*
    - *Courtesy of one another*
    - *Understand and balance needs of all park users*
    - *Contribute in a positive way*
    - *Attendance at every meeting*
  - Design process to conclude February 2017 with Open House
  - Advertise the project after completion of construction documents in April 2017
  - Construction anticipated to start late June/early July 2017 and end sometime in September 2017

***Chee presented site context, existing site conditions, and site analysis. Refer to pages 4-6 of Presentation Materials.***

- Project Overview
  - Secured \$342,000 from the Legacy Grant fund for play area renovation at Cherokee Regional Park. About \$290,000 is allocated towards construction and play equipment.
- Overview of site context to surrounding park users and other parks.
  - Cherokee Regional Park is in District 3 Ward 2.

- Existing Conditions
  - Play area installed early 1990's
  - Swing bays separated from play area
  
- Review site analysis with present conditions
  - Different spaces highlighted in different color
    - Protect mature oak trees
  - Cherokee Regional Trail and sidewalk are used to walk to the park
  - Park facilities are in white
  - Access point to the restroom and play area from Chippewa Ave
  - Access point from Cherokee Heights Blvd. and Cherokee Trail. Currently have a ped-ramp which provides a future connection to play area and restroom facility.
  - Play area sits on top of the plateau overlooking the park but swing bays are disconnected from the play area. An opportunity to bring the swings closer or combine with play area.
  - Play area has no defined 2-5 year old and 5-12 year old children.
  - Concrete container in good condition.
  - Timber containers in swing bays to be removed.
  - The slope/topography creates a visual barrier to the play area from the picnic space. Also provides opportunity to explore ways to use the landform.
  - Red X's are Ash Tree which may be removed based on design concept

*Chee provided an overview of community responses based on community outreach. Refer to page 7 of Presentation Materials.*

Concepts are based on community feedback and input from community outreach.

- Online Survey
  - 1% of total budget is required to go towards public art.
  - Public Art ideas include:
    - Reflect the history, diversity, and culture of the West Side
    - Interactive Sculpture
    - Mural on the restroom building
- West Siders for Strong Schools
- West Side Community Annual Meeting

*Chee presented the three concepts. Refer to pages 8-10 of Presentation Materials.*

*Plan Overview:* White indicates existing trees, brown are existing park facilities, green are proposed trees, and red are play spaces. Concepts are ideas only and sketched very loose. Concepts will change and be refined based on meeting #1 feedback.

- **Concept A**
  - Internal circulation to connecting the play area to Cherokee Heights Blvd. and Chippewa Ave and to other park features.

- Swing bay is moved closer to play area separated into its own play space
- Play area remain in same location
- Play elements are traditional/classic envisioned for this concept
- **Concept B**
  - Play space moved into the center off the park by the slope.
  - Using the slope as part of play area incorporating embankment slides and climbing features for children
    - Immediate surrounding will be the rubber surfacing
  - A flexible flat space is close to the restroom facility. Additional picnic tables and benches may be placed in the space.
  - A lopped circulation around play area for accessibility creating an internal loop for children to run.
  - Play elements consists of a combination of net/modern equipment
- **Concept C**
  - Like this concept - simple
  - Play space remains in the same location overlooking rest of park
  - Accessible looped circulation around the play area
  - Remains close to restroom
  - A combination of traditional and modern play equipment
  - Swings will be part of play area
  - Appropriate play equipment for 2-5 year old and 5-12 year old children

*Alice asked for comments regarding the concepts.*

- **Overall Discussion:**
  - Site line to river valley
  - Bike Trails
  - Like the play area closer to the restroom for young kids
  - Prefer to have a designated separate sand box away from play area with artificial turf
  - Do not enjoy talk-tube play equipment
  - Add bike trails to run around play area
    - Protect obstacle
  - Safety should be considered to make it easier for parents/guardians
  - 1% Public Art Idea
    - Harness light in the park
      - Sunlight
      - Moonlight
    - A good location to catch light
  - Incorporate history of park in new design
    - Have history panels in park
  - Pull history of site into design
    - Fossil playground

- Skating Pond
  - A separate play area for different ages
  - Drinking fountain not that great
  - Possibly include play elements
    - Zip line
    - Trampoline
    - Large slide
    - Miniature golf course
    - Pet pen
    - Miniature library
    - Rain hut
    - Play house
    - Tree house
    - Mini pretend food court
      - Playhouse designed “home” for imaginary play
    - Pretend rocket
    - Pretend time machine
    - Parkour course
    - Space for ballet bars for pretend play
    - Balance beam bench with springs to bounce on
    - Monkey bars as seen at Harriet Island
    - Merry-go-round
  - Canvas for shade
  - Additional seating
  - Bike rack w/fixit station
  - In place of existing vegetation bed, add fencing around it
    - Plant strawberry patch
    - An edible garden
  - Add crosswalk at Curtice St. & Winona St.
    - Will communicate with Public Works
  - Partner with Eagle Scout for landscaping projects
  - Would like to have a paved trail for accessibility
  - Short fencing around 2-5 year told play space
  - Plant shade and fruit trees – could partner with Growing West Side’s Urban Orchard project to add apple or fruit trees
- **Concept A:**
    - Like the idea of the internal path connecting the park internally
      - Question about the path be opened during winter
      - Weighing the of play equipment to the cost of constructing the path
      - Bike Haven
    - Like the close and separate swing bay to play area
    - It will cost a lot more to construct and pave the path and have less for play equipment
      - Ability to move through park

- Prefer to have better play equipment
- Likes how it connects the park internally
  
- **Concept B:**
  - Like the centralized play area
  - Picnic area at the top
  - Longer slides down the hill
  - Like play mound
  - Like slope concept
  - Worried about erosion down the slope
  - Connect balance beams to play mounds
  - Really like the play mounds as seen at West 7<sup>th</sup> Community Center
  - Worried about the cost to construct the path
  
- **Concept C:**
  - Top photo of climbing ribbon feature, the metal becomes slippery when wet and children fall
  - Rock walls
  - Like the play area remaining in same location and near restroom
  - Like this concept of the play area

*Chee concluded meeting. Next meeting Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Refined concepts to be presented based on meeting #1 comments.*

---

**Next Meeting: Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Baker Park Recreation Center, 209 Page St W, Saint Paul MN 55107.**

Please contact Chee Yang at 651-266-6414 if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly.