



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL



MEETING DATE: December 15, 2016

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

ATTENDING: Jill Danner, Lloyd Dalton, June Dalton, Steve Rossow, Betsy Thompson, Troy Parkinson, Tony Kangas, Krisit Strandberg, Jennifer Klein, Joshua Cook, Alice Messer, Cheeneng (Chee) Yang

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Megan Namowicz, Shawn Jacobson, Louis Garcia, Anastacia Martinez, Rachel Quick, Shawn Jacobson

NOTES BY: Chee Yang, December 16, 2016

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

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

- Outlined the presentation's agenda & project schedule
 - Outlined presentation agenda
 - Third meeting set to end of January with design process to conclude in February 2017 with an 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
- Goal of presentation is to get a general direction for final concept layout and play equipment.

Chee recapped first meeting site context, existing site conditions, site analysis, and concepts. Refer to pages 4-9 of Presentation Materials.

- Project Overview
 - Secured \$342,000 from the Legacy Grant fund for play area renovation at Cherokee Regional Park.
- 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

Plan Overview: White indicates existing trees, brown are existing park facilities, and green represent proposed trees.

- **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 looped 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

Chee presented historical land use of Cherokee Park. Refer to page 10 of Presentation Materials.

- Parkland acquired from 1903 to 1911. A Tourist Camp opened in 1920 and ended in 1930.

Chee presented refined concepts. Refer to pages 11-14 of Presentation Materials.

- **Concept A**

- Looped path around play area connecting to swing bay
- Swings are near play area but in separate bay
- Picnic and seating opportunity around play space
- Trees to provide shade
- Entry pathway offset further away from service route near restroom facility and be screened with plantings
- Play zones are defined by material.
- 2-5 are rubber surfacing and 5-12 defined with sand with rubber surfacing access points
 - From the first meeting, many wanted to replace sand with artificial turf. Based on budget and cost estimate, it was too expensive to have all artificial turf.
 - To reduce cost, play surfacing will be a combination of sand and rubber surfacing.
- Dashed line represents play equipment clearance zone. Shown is the post with tower and net structure
- Concept A Play Equipment – Based on funding and interest of the community some but not all will be part of the final concept. Some play equipment clearance zone take up more space.
 - Post with tower at top with net structure.
 - A village of wood playhouses connected with net and slides.
 - Different spinning elements.
 - Viking swing which allow multiple kids to swing together. The other is more of a traditional swing.
 - 2-5 Playhouses – one is high-density plastic play house and the other is a natural playhouse
 - Steppers in sand area to create movement and informal play

- **Concept B**

- Looped path around entire play area
- Reconfiguration of play area
- Play spaces defined by material
 - 2-5 rubber surfacing
 - 5-12 sand & rubber surfacing access point
- Play area remain at top of plateau
- Picnic and seating opportunity around play area
- Low playmounds incorporated in 2-5 play space
- Dashed line represents play equipment clearance zone
- Concept B Play Equipment – Climbing tower-like features. Allow for more challenging

play equipment for older children.

- Low spinning element for children to run on and/or sit in.
- A variety of standalone climbing features
- 2-5 play tower with net structure
- Spring riders
- Low playmounds for young children to run on

Chee presented images of potential public art. Refer to page 15 of Presentation Materials.

- **Harnessing Light**
 - From the first meeting, a community member mentioned about utilizing the light from the opened park
 - A bench/seating structure harnessing light allowing for individuals to plug & charge personal electronics
 - Another seating feature allowing people to charge their electronics
 - The last one is more ornamental feature which lights up during the night
- **Re-Telling History**
 - Utilizing the restroom facility exterior walls, paint a 3D image of the historical use of the site
 - A stone monument walking and re-telling the history
 - A picnic table referencing the tourist camp
- **Celebrating History**
 - A mural representing the diversity and culture of the Saint Paul West Side community
 - A façade highlighted the beauty of different cultures

Alice asked for comments regarding the concepts and public art.

- **Overall Discussion:**
 - Want to see more space for individuals to use and allow a sense of community
 - Keep in mind safety and crime during design – trees & sight-line
 - Like to see more natural features
 - Climbing walls & rocks to represent the bluff
 - Create an inviting space for all – groups & individuals
 - Use of old swing bays and use as pollinating gardens
 - Who will maintain?
 - Will be hard to maintain and will need community commitment
 - Like the idea of utilizing the existing hill
 - Would like shade with sand
 - Ice skating ponds
 - Like to see more natural play material
 - Want traditional monkey bar – horizontal climbing as well as vertical climbing
 - Like River Birches

- Native & grows fast
 - Look for appealing places for seating
- **Concept A:**
 - Like the layout
 - Like the swings separated from play area
 - Fond of the idea of bringing picnicking near play area
 - Like the post with tower climbing structure
 - Allow to challenge older children
 - Would like a shade for the structure
 - Neat idea to have plantings screen the service area
 - Prefer traditional swings
- **Concept B:**
 - Like the playmounds
 - Like having path around play area
 - Not fond of having swings in same space as play area
- **Public Art**
 - Like the individual bench harnessing light
 - Really like the idea of charging personal electronics
 - There was an initial interest in the idea. After discussion, many agree the charging technology is not needed.
 - Do not like the old pioneer style – stuck in the 80's
 - Like the abstract art on the walls of the building
 - Like the idea of utilizing the building as part of the art
 - Like having mural on building
 - Community player for public art?
 - **Mural grant opportunity – community member Troy will explore**
 - **Overall agreement on public art to be an artful seating**

Chee concluded meeting. Next meeting Thursday, January 26, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Final concept to be presented based on meeting #2 comments.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2017 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.