



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2016

LOCATION: Hancock Recreation Center, 1610 Hubbard Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104

ATTENDING: Anita Friedmeyer, Cindy Huber, Dan Marshall, Jackie Lanin, Lauren Nelson, Jessica Gulbranson, Peter Gulbranson, Mike Spende, Karin Misiewicz, Alice Messer, Cheeneng (Chee) Yang

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Amy Raddatz, Antonio Rodriguez, Brittany Williamson, Christina Jenson, Cindy Caverzagie, Claire Fromme, Dan DaCosta, Emily Spende, Graham Lynham, Jessica DaCosta, Kristin Lynham

NOTES BY: Chee Yang, July 28, 2016

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Chee Yang welcomed the design advisory committee. Refer to page 2 of Presentation Materials.

- Outlined the presentation's agenda & project schedule
 - Design process to conclude mid-September with Open House
 - Construction documents to begin fall/winter 2016.
 - Advertise the project after the New Year's hoping for construction to begin in May 2017.

Chee reviewed and recapped meeting #1 concepts and feedback received. Refer to pages 3-9 of Presentation Materials.

- Project Overview
 - Secured \$281,000 from the Capital Improvement Bond (CIB) fund for play area and site improvements at May Park. About \$220,000 is allocated towards construction and play equipment.
 - Presented 4 conceptual ideas at Mtg #1. Below is a recap of concepts:
 - Idea A – Keep existing play container and have a looped path to define open space.
 - Idea B – The oak trees act as a gateway into park and play spaces are separated into different spaces to encourage movement.
 - Idea C – A centralized play space and gathering space with the open spaces to the north and south of the park.
 - Idea D – Have multiple play spaces throughout the park acting as an obstacle course.

- Key Comments received from Mtg #1 include:
 - Play Space for Children – Even though Newell Park has a play area, the community would still like a play space at May Park where it is quiet and provide people to away from Newell when it is busy.
 - Keep Open Space – A lot of people want the open space to remain as a flexible space.
 - Protect Oak Trees – Iconic to the park.
 - Add Picnic Tables and Benches – Many parents/adults want to have a place to sit, to rest, and to watch their children while they play.
 - Keep Merry-Go-Round – The number one comment. The community has a strong desire to keep the Merry-Go-Round because the children enjoy playing with it.
 - We can keep the Merry-Go-Round! For now. Merry-go-round is in good condition, but if the equipment should break or become unsafe to use, it will be taken down since replacement parts are no longer available.
 - Flexible Play Equipment – Having play equipment with multiple use such as climbing, spinning, and balancing.

Alice Messer presented the two concepts. Refer to pages 10-11 of Presentation Materials.

- **Concept A**
 - Play space is about the same square footage as existing play space, but reconfigured to protect the roots of the oak trees.
 - Play space is outlined by a 4-5' wide path except to the west.
 - Fences are set in the back of the play space.
 - Play elements include:
 - A sandbox defined by rocks/boulders.
 - Merry-go-round and a traditional monkey bar to reference the burned down Tatum School
 - A whimsical-like structure connected to a slide. Inside is a netted-arrangement for climbing.
 - A swinging play equipment capable of having multiple children on at a time.
 - A rope bridge.
 - The open space is defined by a looped 4-5' wide path with no fence surrounding the path and existing open space promoting movement within park.
 - The park property line is the oval black-dashed line.
 - East of the property is a 15' sewer easement. Within this easement we cannot build or plant anything.
 - Include 2-3 picnic tables and benches.
- **Concept B**
 - A 4-5' wide semi-circle path looped around the oak tree dripline to protect the roots of the trees.
 - The play space is pushed back towards the alley.

- Play elements include:
 - Traditional climbing structure
 - Merry-Go-Round
 - Plan to keep the existing swings. May modify the 6 swing sets to 4 and to include a bucket swing for toddlers and accessible swing.
- South of the play space are play mounds with tunnels for children to run on and crawl through.
- A tree grove to create a barrier to define the play space from the open space.
 - Examples shown are birch tree groves which are planted closely allowing children to play and explore within the grove.
- The existing open space remains with fencing along Chelton and part of Clayland St.
- Include 2-3 picnic tables and benches.

Alice asked for comments regarding the two concepts.

- **Concept A:**
 - Many liked the play elements shown in concept A especially the whimsical-slide structure.
 - All are thrilled that the merry-go-round can stay.
 - Like the shape of the play space and the idea that it is away from the oak trees.
 - A concern of the 4-5' wide looped path around the open space.
 - Worried about construction damage the existing open space.
 - Want to keep existing space as is with little disturbance and to remove the looped path. Don't feel there is a need for an internal walkway.
 - Would like to have an ornamental fence to outline the open space
- **Concept B:**
 - Many liked the simplicity of the design and leaving the open space as is.
 - Everyone liked the having the existing open space fenced like how it currently is.
 - A concern of the play mounds having to be artificial turf.
 - Alice recommended checking out the play mounds at West 7th Community Center.
 - A concern of the tree grove being a visual barrier from the play space to the open space. Would like to keep that visual cue open or have a low structure.
 - Showed interest in keeping the existing 10' high swings.
 - Children enjoy it and a place for children to sit next to each other and to interact.
 - Many do not mind having sand as a play surface.
 - Like to see a concept with modified swing that allows many children to swing together. Promotes social interaction versus swinging individually.
- **Overall Discussion:**
 - Would like to remove the entire looped path in concept A.
 - Want to keep the existing open space fenced.

- All agreed on play surfacing to be a mix of sand with access points to play equipment to be poured-in-place (rubber surfacing).
- Agreed on having a hybrid of both concepts.
 - Keep the north part of concept A combining it with the south part of concept B.
 - In concept A, they many voiced they would like keep the path that outlines the play space to the access point ending at the middle of the park on Clayland St.
- Many liked the play equipment on concept A including the swings from concept B.
 - Do not mind have a 4 swing set instead of 6.
- Keep the merry-go-round.
- Explore removing fencing and replacing with ornamental fencing if costs allow.

Alice presented and discussed about the public art. Refer to page 12 in Presentation Materials.

- From meeting #1, many showed interest in having a sculptural or poetry art piece.
- Ideas include having some sort of ornament to have on the fence or have a frame-like medium on the fence for photos/arts.
 - A lot of the attendees like this idea.
 - Can have a box frame holding art – children’s art from the neighborhood.
 - Have a plaque or monument telling the history of May Park.
- A sign for the park.
- A playful element where children can play with – the wooden snails in the ground.
- Many showed interest in the idea of having a low seat wall where people can sit and lean on. It can be placed where the tree groves are in concept B.
- Concrete poems along the path.
 - Instead of poems it could be mathematics, chemical formulas, or constellations relating to academic – referencing Tatum School.

Chee concluded meeting. Next meeting is Open House on Thursday, August 25, 2016 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Final concept to be presented based on meeting #2 comments.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 25, 2016 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Open House to be held onsite with back-up location at Newell Park.

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