



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 22, 2019

LOCATION: HOPE Community Academy, 720 Payne Ave, Saint Paul MN 55130

ATTENDANCE: Murph D., Mike G., Cliff C. Brian T., Nancy G., Batt V., Brad G., Dennis T., Roger A., Mandy O., Karin D., Marjorie O., Jacklyn S., John B., Jack B., DLL., Al O., Sarah F., CM Jane Prince, Veronica B., Damian S., Chee Y., Brett H.

NOTES BY: Chee Yang, May 30, 2019

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Chee welcomed audience, group introduction, opened the presentation, and provided project schedule update. Refer to page 2-4 of Presentation.

- The Swede Hollow Park Master Plan project is funded by the McNeely Foundation.
- Parks and Recreation department is partnering with Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP). LPCP is taking the lead in community engagement for the project and is funded by the Bush Foundation.
- Outlined the presentation's agenda
- Went through Community Meeting Roles and Ground Rules
 - Community Member Roles
 - Define the community and neighborhood needs of the park
 - Review plan concepts and provide input on major design elements and themes
 - Bring suggestions from area residents to the attention of the project team
 - Help communicate project progress to community members
 - Provide guidance to the Parks and Recreation design staff on final design recommendations for the project
 - Ensure that the full range of issues are discussed during the design process
 - Ground Rules
 - Respect for different perspectives with an open-mind
 - Willingness to listen and hear different views/ideas
 - Courtesy of one another
 - Understand and balance needs of all park users
 - Contribute in a positive way
 - Attendance at every meeting
- Project Schedule
 - Today's meeting focuses on one concept with ideas based on the goals and priorities for Swede Hollow Park
 - Next meeting will be at the Art in the Hollow, June 1st. Chee plans to be there

from 10-11:30 AM.

Chee recapped the goals and priorities from Community Meeting #1. Refer to pages 5-9 of Presentation.

***These goals and priorities are not set in stone and can change based on the feedback from the community.**

- List of park users enjoy most about Swede Hollow Park in its existing condition from highest to lowest.
 - Nature
 - Escape of the City
 - History
 - N/A – People do not know of the park
 - Trails, Access
 - Exercise
 - Cultural/Spiritual
 - Events
- Park limitations from highest to lowest.
 - Safety
 - Accessibility
 - Not enough programming
 - No change -fine as is
 - Other – Flooding
 - Not welcoming
- List of desired improvements from highest to lowest.
 - Signage
 - Access to Creek
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Gathering Space
 - Lighting
 - Trail Improvements
 - Public Art
 - Other – no change, play area
- Three (3) overarching goals:
 - **Transform:** Improve park access. Activate the park through sustainable design, partnering with stakeholders, and passive recreation and programming.
 - **Enhance:** Provide enhancement to the unique natural environment, water quality, stormwater management, and wildlife habitat through natural resources management.
 - **Connect:** Interpretation of the natural, historical, and cultural stories of Swede Hollow Park and connection to the neighborhood and nearby parks.
- Connecting the three overarching goals with the master plan goals.
 - Transform
 - Improve equitable park access

- Increase visibility & security through design
 - Enhance
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Options to Daylight Phalen Creek
 - Connect
 - Historical & Cultural Interpretation and Signage
- Top five priorities from survey
 - Park Interpretation & Signage
 - Natural, historical, & cultural stories - Migratory Bird Flyway, Dakota culture, Immigrants
 - Investigate strategic key location
 - Connection to other destination - Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Downtown Saint Paul, East Side Heritage, Hamm Park
 - Opportunity for creative public art
 - Access to Water
 - Daylighting Phalen Creek
 - Water quality with additional investigation on water source
 - Creative design by the water and education opportunity
 - Alternate trail type i.e. Boardwalk
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Removal of invasive species i.e. Buckthorns, green ashes, Siberian elm, & low quality vegetation
 - Enhance wildlife habitat i.e. Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, planting native plant species
 - Visibility/Safety
 - Lighting
 - Emergency Beacon
 - Removal of low quality vegetation
 - Activating the park brings more awareness i.e. partnering with Planning and Economic Development (PED) to activate north part of the park
 - Park Access
 - Space
 - Provide space to gather & events
 - Spiritual/Cultural healing space
 - Activating spaces with passive recreation & programming
- Other desired improvements
 - Trail Improvements
 - Public Art
 - Play Space
 - Bathroom Facility

Chee presented the concept with ideas. Refer to pages 10-17 of Presentation.

***The concept is presented in layers building up to a combined concept at the end. Ideas presented are based on the goals and priorities from meeting 1. Ideas can change and will**

continue to be developed. The goal here to receive community feedback.

- Natural Resource Management
 - Target plant communities guide was compiled by Friends of the Mississippi River in 2011.
 - Documents act as a guide only. More extensive work and analysis are required for site preparation for future project phases.
 - A Swede Hollow Ecological Restoration and Management Plan draft in 2012 is available.
 - All natural resource management documents are available on the project website under Background Information section. Below are hyperlinked to documents.
 - [Swede Hollow Management Plan 2012 Draft](#)
 - [Swede Hollow Plant Species List](#)
 - [Swede Hollow Park Target Plant Communities Map](#)
- The park vegetation is largely volunteer invader species developed after closing the park to residents and removal of the houses. The target plant communities, natural resource management, will act as a guide to putting future effort towards establishing native plant communities throughout the park.
- Land Use
 - Pink area indicates active space.
 - Light pink/purple area are areas of historical/cultural space that visible.
 - The entire park has a large historical and cultural significance. These two spots are highlighted. The Wood Land garden, up on the bluff, is where the Hamm House used to be. This garden is maintained by Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH). The other is located north, in the Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA), where Hamm Brewery used to use the artesian wells.
 - The green-tan are proposed enhanced spaces for natural resource management.
 - Use the target plant communities plan as a guide.
 - Letters on map corresponds with photo(s) with the same letter.
 - A) To activate and create an outdoor patio space in the HRA's property merging into lawn space where family can gather and have flexible space
 - This would provide opportunity for people to congregate and trail users to stop and enjoy themselves.
 - Activating this space would create another access from the north and for St. Paul Brewery customers.
 - This space would attract more people to decrease unwanted behavior with more eyes in the park.
 - B) Up on top of the bluff is a proposed nature based play area.
 - There are several comments about wanting a play area in the survey.
 - This location would be most ideal as it is flat and away from the natural spaces below the bluff.
 - The nearest public park with a play area on the east side is Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center and Margaret Park. On the west, Weida Park has a play

- Benefit for this access is it is visible from Payne Ave. It also brings awareness to the park.
 - B) Improve existing stairs.
 - Currently in bad condition. Opportunity to improve or remove the stairs.
 - If stairs are removed, we have the other option of access down from the bluff such as access at the end of Greenbrier Street.
 - C) Proposed pedestrian only trail down to the creek.
 - D) Proposed low dim amber light along Bruce Vento Regional Trail.
 - Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute has conducted studies on the amber light with results that it has low impact to wildlife.
 - E) Emergency call-box.
 - Locations suggested by Parks Operations and Maintenance.
 - Previous comments about having emergency call-boxes for safety.
- Water Features
 - Dashed purple line represents proposed boardwalk/water-features.
 - From the community meeting #1, access to water was one of the highest priorities for the community.
 - A1) A study in 2015 was conducted to locate where the water in Swede Hollow Park was coming from. Results indicate a larger scope and more analysis is needed to determine the water source.
 - The study called for a confinement at the inlet of the creek to increase water visibility and movement.
 - Narrow areas can allow for ideas as a small bridge to allow different user experience with the water.
 - In the study, the outlet of the middle pond, a mini-waterfall was proposed leading to other water features.
 - A2) Water features which affected the movement and human-water interactions.
 - One idea is creating areas of water riffles.
 - Another idea is having places that people can cross the creek and be near the water.
 - B) A proposed boardwalk with access from the existing timber stairs and on the east park trail.
 - C) Celebrate the water. We heard from the first meeting that the community would like water to recirculate and to have only clean water. Recirculating idea from Mears Park was brought up. There are two options for the creek to increase water.
 - One option is to tie in an existing stormwater sewer. This will bring in unfiltered stormwater into the park increasing water volume.
 - Second option is to recirculate the water throughout Swede Hollow Park.
- Sign
 - Blue circles represent wayfinding signs. Wayfinding signs are directional signs leading park users to certain locations. For example, see image B. This is an existing multi-blade wayfinding sign. Each blade points to a destination.
 - Pink star indicates the existing Swedehenge public art.
 - Yellow star indicates proposed location of public art.

- Light purple circles are proposed interpretation signs.
- A1) Location of interpretation signs along trails.
 - Restore missing interpretative signs up on the bluff.
 - A2) A designated space for bicyclists and pedestrians to stop and rest with interpretative signs.
 - This location is located right off of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail.
 - B) Wayfinding signs.
 - Update timber park signs.
 - C) Gateways as entrance into Swede Hollow Park.
 - Brings awareness people are heading into the park.
 - Gateways can be public art.
- Passive Recreation
 - Year round passive recreation includes:
 - Biking
 - Walking/Hiking
 - Wildlife Observation
 - Snowshoeing
 - Cross Country Skiing
 - Other pass recreation:
 - Play area
 - Picnic Area
 - Map indicates location of passive recreation
- Overall concept
 - The overall concept combines all the different layers into one.

Chee asked for comments regarding the goals & priorities.

- **Discussion regarding Access:**
 - Consider opening views from the overlook at top of bluff.
 - How is this project interacting with the Rush line?
 - Show where Rush line drop-offs will occur and how this plan intersects Payne Ave & Phalen Blvd.
 - Neighborhood connection at Payne Ave & Phalen Blvd.
 - Bridge/ramp proposed at Payne/Bedford Overlook not feasible.
 - Keep historical component of Drewry Tunnel.
 - More access should increase security
 - Nature shouldn't be compromised for access.
 - Stairs should be shoveled.
 - Parks should consider shoveling.
 - Concern the proposed access from overlook across Morelli's will become a safety issue.
 - Brian discussed a stair was accessed north of apartments on the west side of the park.
 - Will need to look further into this.

- The layout of property line north of the apartments has a jog, and might be a place to consider access development. Brian also remember questioning the "bridge" element noted on the concept plan, which is intended just as an access point.
 - Lighting will ruin habitat (half of the audience agreed)
 - Remove lighting from project except around Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and up above on the bluff.
 - Those who attended the community meeting 2 strongly opposes in providing lighting throughout the park.
 - People that are for lighting are not here and lighting should not be removed immediately.
- **Discussion regarding Water:**
 - No new polluted water from storm sewers.
 - Show historic map from Lake Phalen to Mississippi River so people have that reference.
 - Please see Community Meeting #1 presentation slide #7.
 - Will provide map in future presentations.
 - Swede Hollow Park could treat stormwater.
 - Grit filters can remove trash from polluted water but is it necessary and feasible for this project.
 - In the 2015 water study, the grit filters cost something like \$100K each. At the time, the community decided that it was not warranted because the storm sewer flow was so intermittent that it would not provide the desired stream output.
 - Like better defined paths, not sure if a boardwalk that long is necessary.
 - Close off Public Works stormsewer that is leaking.
- **Overall Discussion:**
 - Swede Hollow Park should be planned because its been neglected over the years.
 - No soccer area. Reduce pink area on top of the bluff.
 - The bluff is a better location for active uses.
 - How do we protect areas that are dangerous? Signs?
 - Metro State Vista & access to park?
 - Needs more investigation to determine if Metro State is willing to partner with the City when the time comes.
 - Restore/stabilize unstable slopes. Make this as a goal in plan.
 - Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District should be included.
 - Chee will reach out.
 - Goal: HRA to transfer property to parks.
 - This property includes the area where the existing Swedehenge is located.
 - What is HRA's goal for their property?
 - Any railroad tunnel maintenance?
 - Reach out to public work bridges.
 - Considering acquiring property if/when available north of North Street.
 - Move picnicking and activities to East Side Heritage Park, located north of Swede Hollow Park.

- Community meeting #1 notes showed building restroom.
 - Restroom is not included.
 - A general agreement to no restroom facility in Swede Hollow Park.
- Provide park map at the 7th & Payne parking.
- Move proposed south gateway within view of 7th & Payne parking lot.
- A1 signs should include interpretation of historical stories and immigrant history. Show at locations.
- There are numerous historic remnants of previous cultural groups in the park which should be protected. These should be protected and restored as historic pieces with interpretive elements added.
- Discuss Dakota culture.
- Reach out to HPC and to coordinate with Dakota community.
- Minimizing hardscape is important, including picnic table pads.
- Skijoring was a suggested recreation but it would be difficult since Bruce Vento Regional Trail is plowed.
- Bird sanctuary should be master plan initiative.
- Whole park should be sanctuary and improve certain tree species.
- Maybe northern end could be oak savanna or developing missing habitat rather than open space.
- Weakness: Natural park should be stated and there is too much active space.
 - There should be a strong statement in the concept that it is to be maintained as a natural park.
 - A strong support from the audience.
- Historical park was sanctuary for immigrants.
- Can't be so accessible that ruins sanctuary.
- Least natural place in the city.
- Weakness: Springs are an asset. Designate a remote area on southern end.
 - See passive recreation sheet, A2 to C (south tunnel).
- Remove pedestrian portion from truck route.
- Holding pond on other side of 7th to reduce dredging.
- Large concrete debris (north of Bates) -look into removing big chunks
 - The master plan should state long-term goal of removing debris that are dangerous and to include restoring the park landscape to a safe and more natural condition. Also should include slope stabilization efforts.
- A desire that wildlife improvements include focused work on creating a bird sanctuary. Include bird watching as a passive recreation.

Chee concluded meeting. Next community engagement will be at the Art in the Hollow event Saturday, June 1st from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Next steps – refer to page 19 on Presentation.

- Refined concept to present at Art in the Hollow
 - ****Revised: Plans as shown in community meeting #2 will be presented at Art in the Hollow to reach a greater audience for feedback prior to refining the concept.**
- Chee will send master plan draft for community comments in July 2019.

Special thank you to everyone who attended and to Lower Phalen Creek Project for providing refreshments.

Next Meeting: Next community engagement will be at the Art in the Hollow Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:30 am.

**Copies of the overall master plan and a comment box will be left with Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) for additional comments from the community.*

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