

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
*Michael Hahm, CPRP - Director*

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**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
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## MEETING NOTES

### **Indian Mounds Regional Park Trail Reconstruction Project - Cultural Landscape Study**

**MEETING DATE:** May 21, 2018 - 5.30 -7pm

**LOCATION:** Marian Center of Saint Paul, Parkview Room (200 Earl Street)

**ATTENDING:**

City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation: Brett Hussong, Bianca Paz, Ellen Stewart, Angie Tillges  
Ward 7: Jane Prince, Councilmember; Stephanie Harr. Legislative Aide

Jamie Haas , Chris Haas, Cody Jennings, Lucille Baker, Danyelle O'Hara, Kate Beane, Rosie Bunge, Tara Remscheid, Suzanne Schaff, Steve Trimble, Gary Brown, Harvey Dundas, David Lyons, Crystal Norcross, Tom Remscheid, Tim Thorin, Dorothy Coughlan, Gayle Gustafson, Jim Rock, Dick McCarty, Joyce Maddox, Larry Meissen, Kimberly L.

NOTES BY: Ellen Stewart, May 21, 2018

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#### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

**Brett Hussong opened up the meeting by acknowledging that this is the home of the Dakota people. City of Saint Paul Parks & Rec Department is committed to collaborating with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) and the local community to establish a respectful and responsive process.**

- Meeting Goal: Collaboratively establish community process, content and scope for:
  - Cultural Landscape Study and,
  - Trail Reconstruction.
- Funding: Two separate funding sources:
  - Cultural Landscape Study & Interpretive Plan : Met Council Legacy funding was transferred
  - Trail Reconstruction: Federal Aid & Met Council Legacy match

Current Status of Indian Mounds Regional Master Plan 2010:

We are kicking off tow priority projects of the current Master Plan and we would like to have an open dialog as we move forward.

We are taking a step back to be more transparent and respectful of the sacredness of this land.

Decisions on the trail alignment have not been made yet.

### Tentative Timeline

Brett Hussong explained the process and timeline for the Trail Reconstruction Project

- The two projects are going to have a parallel processes
- A tentative project timeline was provided that shows how the Trail Reconstruction Project and the Cultural Landscape Study relates
- We have had one previous meeting the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and Tribal Preservation Officers.
  - Question – were TPOs and MIAC both at the previous meetings as we set up the schedule? Yes. Both were in those meetings. Clarification asked since not all Tribal Nations are represented by THPOs
- We are soliciting Request for Proposals (RFPs) now, such as who to hire as consultants for each project. MIAC and THPOs have weighed in on the RFPs that have been issued.
- A Geophysical survey will be conducted during the Trail Reconstruction Project to determine sensitive areas.
  - Question – Will the geophysical be over entire park? Yes, it will and the findings will be share with the Cultural Landscape Study Process.
  - Upon the geophysical findings and other assessments, we will be checking in with MIAC and TPOs
  - Question – Did THPOs give recommendations for consultants? Yes, and we are following their recommendation.
- After the results of the geophysical survey and the Cultural and Environmental Evaluation, we will regroup with the THPOs and MIAC for review and guidance. After the review period, the two projects will collaborate together but move forward simultaneously with separate project scopes

### **Bianca Paz, project manager for the Cultural Landscape Study explained the process for the Cultural Landscape Study and Interpretive plan:**

- Cultural Landscape Study Timeline: We are looking for a Consultant to propose an innovative community engagement strategy and process for the Cultural Landscape Study and Interpretive Plan. A Community Advisory Committee will be set up as part of this process. Timeline for products and meetings will depend on the consultant proposal and sequencing. Work will be done by summer 2019.
  - Question: what are the products? The deliverables for the first phase are: a) A report with the findings. B) Community Engagement Report. Second Phase deliverables: Interpretive plan. The process will help to determine the format and detail of the deliverables.
  - Question: When will we have consultant on board? By the end of June 2018.
  - Question: Will THPOs be part of the reviews of consultant proposals? Yes, a representative from MIAC and a representative from THPO will be evaluation the proposals. And are you required to go with lowest bid? Scores will be based on the evaluation criteria. Cost weights 30% of the score.
  - Will MIAC be involved? Yes.
  - Has the history of those who have artifacts here and moved away been consulted? Dylan already reached out nationally. Additional consultation will be done during the Cultural Landscape Study process.
  - Who do you expect to provide proposals? For profit? Non-Profits? For Profits will be the ones that provide the proposals. And it will be different for each project. Engineer likely for trail project.
  - Has Dayton's Bluff District Council been involved? They have been involved through the process. District 4 is aware and Council Ward can make sure that they did.
  - Will the previous survey work be used? Yes, the awarded Consultant is required to gather all the existing studies and findings.

### Trail Alignment:

**Map with trail alignment attached. The paths in red remain. The paths in blue are proposed from the master plan. The paths in orange are proposed to be removed. We will consult the community, TPHOs, and MIAC to determine the final alignments.**

- Question/Comment: Trail removals – why? Response: This is a culturally sensitive area and we are trying to be respectful of the site. People can safely travel through the site along the sidewalk adjacent to Mounds Blvd. We understand that the local community may still use the walk proposed for removal. We are trying to limit access to the mounds by visitors.
- Question/Comment: Has a usage study been done on the trails to be removed? If people have walked there, they will always walk there. Response: We may consider a use study. However, because of the sensitivity in the areas indicated for removal of trails, it may make more sense to not explicitly invite people to walk over those areas.
- We could possibly move fencing to control circulation through center of mounds.
- Question/Comment: Indigenous plantings and restoration rather than fencing. Response: We will work with the THPOs and MIAC to determine a maintenance plan.
- Question/Comment: There are a couple of non-Dakota consultants that are frequently hired white firms are getting paid to do the stories of our people. There are people who should be paid to do the work – writing the text. Hold groups accountable by requiring that they hire people in the community is the way to do that rather
- Fish Hatchery connection? Why isn't this part of the project? It's a popular camping ground. Response: Federal funds are for strictly for path replacement from I94 to Hwy 61.
- Question/Comment: Will the trail be done in phases? Will it be closed completely or each section for a time? Response: The contractor will determine the sequencing and phasing and we will rely on them to do that to keep the costs down. There will be a pedestrian access plan that will be in place in order to make sure it is safe for people to use. Our intent is to provide continued ADA access through the site.
- Question/Comment: Has anyone looked at putting a bridge over 61? Bike community has talked about it and we can follow up with Public Works. Response: A bridge has been considered but further community engagement and funding is needed. The federal funds will not pay for a pedestrian bridge over Hwy 61.
- Question/Comment: Crosswalk at 61. How can we find out what the federal requirements for pedestrian? Response: We will talk with PW and get that information to the group.
- Will the construction be for one season? Response: Yes, construction is anticipated for one season during the summer of 2019. If we find something with the geotechnical survey, we will review the finding with the community and delay the project.

### Removal of existing park signs:

Parks staff brought up that we are looking to replace the existing signs that were installed many years ago and don't provide a respectful and accurate information about the Indian Mounds Park Area. Brett Hussong asked the attendees if they have suggestions for the process of removing and replacing the signs.

- Some attendees asked to not removing them entirely
- Some attendees were not aware of this issue. More information needs to be provided.
  - Question: Is there a maintenance plan for the Mounds? A maintenance plan will be coordinated with MIAC.

- A park maintenance and management plan is part of the deliverables of the The Cultural Landscape Study and Interpretive Plan.

**Great River Passage:**

- Two other studies – one of 17 miles of the river and land along it – want to have an interpretation of the full stretch. Cultural landscape plan for the river.