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CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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Margaret Park Improvements – Community Meeting #2: Meeting Notes

December 15, 2015

6-7:30pm – East Side Enterprise Center
804 Margaret Street in Saint Paul.

This was the second of three meetings that serve as an opportunity for the community to provide feedback during the design phase of the project. Because it had been two months since our last meeting, the presentation provided a quick review of the content from the October 5th meeting. We then presented preliminary concept designs of the park layout and new restroom facility based on previous community input received. Once the presentation was completed, the floor was opened for questions and comments. These comments will be used to help refine the concepts for our third and final Community Meeting during the design phase of the Margaret Park Improvement Project.

- There was a conversation about public Art: Art Budget, locations, possible media types, and ideas about what the community would like to see at the park.
- Plant Fruiting trees.
- Concept #1 was preferred over Concept #2.
- Concept #1 Included:
 - Removal of the parking lot
 - Restroom location closer to the hill. Front Door facing Frank Street.
 - Existing parking lot was removed in favor of more green space at the top of the hill.
 - Amenities such as picnic space, furnishings, and landscaping.
 - Larger planting beds.
- Concept #2 received favorable reviews but was less popular than concept #1.
- Concept 2 included:
 - Restroom location closer to Frank Street and facing the playing fields
 - Existing parking lot to remain, however option to remove is available.
 - Amenities such as picnic space, furnishings, and landscaping.
 - Smaller planting beds than Concept 1.
- Both concepts could be modified to remove parking lot, though concept 1 was still preferred largely due to the restroom's proximity to the play area.
- Both concepts show the majority of the existing retaining wall from the old rec center removed.
- Both concepts shared similar layouts for the larger field space at the lower portion of the hill.



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- Rock/Boulder garden is preferred over shrub and lower perennial plantings by the play area
- Space for Summer Lunch Program – food truck and picnic tables is important.
- It was suggested to add a memorial plaque for Roger Tetu and Margaret recreation center.
- It was suggested to have pictures of the former Sibley School, how this park used to like before – maybe include in Public Art.
- It was mentioned to bring back the ice rink (it was mentioned that it is not feasible).
- Add lighting and trash cans in the park
- Look into possibility of adding Nice Ride Bike Racks?
- Add an informal board at restroom facility for soccer programs, community announcements.
- Parking lot is not necessary, modify it into a food truck area or eliminate.
- Bump on Frank Street for the food trucks?
- Turn parking lot into a picnic area.
- There was a long conversation regarding whether it was appropriate to add basketball to this park.
- Adding a 1/2 basketball court by the retaining wall was suggested
- Public Art ideas must comply with the Public Art Ordinance of St. Paul
- Possible sidewalk poetry : Jesus Mendoza
- Talk to East Side Art Council for possible artists.
- The paint for the wall was donated by Valspar
- Art at the memorial.
- Grilling pads and more picnic tables would be nice
- Possibly plant fruiting trees
- Michael Huber presented three concepts for restrooms.
- The first was a smaller traditional style of restroom
- The second was similar in style to option #1, but slightly larger and included more of an awning area and provided a layout more favorable to the community's needs.
- The third had more of a modern feel, but concerns over the roof structure made this the least popular option.
- The consensus was to further develop option #2 for Meeting #3.
- All Three options may be viewed in the presentation materials.