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## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

400 City Hall Annex  
25 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102  
[www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks)

Telephone: 651-266-6400  
Facsimile: 651-292-7311

### **Margaret Park Improvements – Community Meeting #1: Meeting Notes**

October 5, 2015

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

This is the first of three planned meetings that will serve as an opportunity for the community to provide feedback during the design phase of the project.

The scope of the project includes a new restroom facility, restoration of Athletic Fields, signage, erosion control, and additional walking path. Construction is scheduled to start spring 2016 and be completed in fall 2016.

#### General Notes:

- After a round of introductions, a brief history of the park was discussed along with the roles of STOMP and the CIB funding available for the park improvements.
- The scope of the project was also explained, followed by:
  - The community engagement process leading up to this meeting
  - A Summary of the Pop- Up meetings and online survey
  - Overall context of the site as it relates to Saint Paul and the surrounding amenities
  - Site analysis of the Existing Conditions
  - Concept diagrams

A group discussion followed the presentation. These comments included as follows:

- The summer lunch program uses the parking lot for the Space for Summer Lunch Program.
- Parking lot is usually used for non-park purposes and can become a problem.
- Can we remove the parking lot and add a curb cut? Bump out the curb? Maybe make the parking lot smaller or modify it to service only food trucks and parks vehicles?
- Turn parking lot into a picnic area
- It was undecided whether or not the parking lot should remain in place.
- Park has a history of crime
- New design needs to improve sight lines. Try to remove as much of the remaining building remnants and “debris” as possible.
- On top of the park improvements for the sports activities, (soccer, football, volleyball) Can we install a basketball court? Lengthy discussion about this.
- Basketball court can disrupt the neighbors, may not mesh well with the play area and younger kids.
- Basketball in the area feels like an underserved activity in the community
- Softball is not a very popular sport at the park, but the space is still occasionally used for this purpose.



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- We had a positive response to removing the agrilime infield of the existing softball in favor of natural turf to make the space more flexible.
- Backstop would remain and softball could still be played.
- It was suggested to add a memorial plaque for Roger Tetu and other historically memorable people/events historically at the park. A small butterfly garden would be appropriate to compliment the Tetu memorial.
- It was suggested to have pictures of the former Sibley School, how this park used to look before.
- It was mentioned to bring back the ice rink somewhere in the park. Does this still fit the demographic of the community?
- More lighting and trash cans! More benches would be nice too.
- Please preserve the hill for sledding
- Add an informal board at restroom facility notes and community announcements.
- Important to retain the fence along Margaret and Earl Street to prevent sports balls entering the street creating vehicular and pedestrian conflicts.
- There was a consensus that a single stall ADA compliant restroom would be appropriate for this site.
- Due to past issues, there is a preference for trees rather than shrub plantings.