



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

400 City Hall Annex
25 West 4th Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
www.stpaul.gov/parks

Telephone: 651-266-6400
Facsimile: 651-292-7405

McQuillan Park – Play Area Improvements

July 12, 2016 6:00 p.m.

Minutes – Community Meeting #2

In attendance:

Staff

Bryan Murphy, Parks Design and Constructions
Alice Messer, Parks Design and Constructions

Public

Ann Brockman
Kate Heider
Marilyn Natz
Laurjie Lundgren
Jill Maltrud
Rob Reid
Martin Lorenz-Meyer
Joseph
Mark Tande
Eli
Lisa Stigall

Jill Ross
Peter Koudelka
Peter Carlson
Susan Hotzler
Bridget Daly
Todd Walker
Jane McClure
Kyle Bauman
Kelly Deignan
Steve Morse
Bethany Gladhill

Patrick Reese
Erika Hermann
Dick Wyland
Andrew Wyland
Andrew Wyland’s friend
Charlie Neimeyer
Jens Werner, Summit-
University Planning
Council, Executive
Director

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

1) Introduction/Overview

- a) Meeting is follow-up from June 9th meeting.
 - i) Recap of the last meeting
 - (1) Presented survey monkey data
 - (2) Presented site inventory/analysis
 - (3) Presented and discussed three site layout options
 - (4) Presented and discussed play equipment options
 - (5) Presented and discussed public art
 - ii) Request made to prepare concept with the tennis court retained
- b) Goals of meeting
 - i) Present two park concepts, discuss, and get recommendation for preferred overall park improvements/play container layout
 - ii) Present four play equipment styles, discuss, and get recommendation for preferred play equipment



- iii) Present options for art, discuss, and get recommendation on preferred direction of art
- 2) Design Options
- a) Concepts
 - i) Concept A – Existing container and tennis court remains
 - (1) Removal of existing play equipment and replacement with new equipment within existing container
 - (2) Minimal repairs/improvements to tennis court
 - (3) Additional ornamental railing along Laurel and Mackubin to define edge of play area
 - (4) Addition of picnic tables
 - (5) Replacement of site furnishings
 - ii) Concept B – Expanded Play area and other park improvements
 - (1) Expand play area and offer a variety of play experiences including main play structure, swings and climber/spinner area
 - (2) Remove tennis court and define open space
 - (3) Additional planting area
 - (4) Addition of picnic tables
 - (5) Tree allee
 - (6) Expanded open lawn area
 - (7) Additional ornamental railing along Mackubin

Comments:

- **In concept A, it would be nice to close off angled walk to Mackubin and open up the open lawn space**
 - **The side entrance/walk on Laurel could be removed as well...it isn't that far for people to walk to get to the main entrance**
 - **Add fencing so balls don't get into street**
- **Some of the trees are overgrown and block light at night. Explore trees thinning/removal to improve sightlines and effectiveness of site lighting. The blue spruce near the tennis court is overgrown**
- **Existing tennis court**
 - **Tennis court gets use as general 'open space' for activities such as whiffle ball, skateboarding, biking, or off leash dog run in addition to tennis activity**
 - **There are a lot of vines growing on the tennis court fence which has led to the decline of the tennis court**
 - **There is inconsistent maintenance with the tennis court – system plan calls for removal of court and ongoing maintenance of court will not occur**
 - **The tennis court serves mostly two people at a time. This is not an efficient use of the space, but offers recreation opportunities for older adults**
 - **Discussed possible repairs to tennis court**
 - **One option is the use of Flexcourt product. City of Eagan uses this product on courts that are near the end of their useful life. Flexcourt allows them to get another 5-10 years out of a court. People commented they would prefer to repair existing court than use the Flexcourt material – Parks will evaluate budget to determine**

appropriate amount of investment in court repairs.

- **The picnic area on concept A is in an area that doesn't get much use**
 - **Consider moving the picnic area to the area east of the play area – this would provide better visibility to the play area**
 - **Question was raised about adding grills to park – staff will review with budget**
- **Walking and pedestrian safety should be considered for those that walk between Selby and points south.**
- **There should be a four-way stop at the corner of Mackubin and Laurel – Staff to follow up with Public Works on request**
- **The McQuillan historic sign to remain**
- **There could be 2 -3 picnic tables**
- **Is it possible to connect alley to the park? There is existing trees and landscaping along that edge and probably wouldn't encourage the connection.**

Poll conducted on preferred concept.

Concept preference:

A – 17 votes

B – 2 votes

Comments:

- **Is there room for swings?**
 - **Concept A will not have adequate budget or space for swings or expanded playarea**
 - **It was suggested that the area at the front of the park could be used for swings.**
- **The online feedback showed people preferred traditional play equipment but the examples at the meeting show modern.**
 - **Feedback from the last meeting indicated there was an interest in the way the modern equipment kept the kids moving.**

Poll conducted on play equipment preference:

Option 1 (Loop) – 0 Votes

Option 2 (Core) – 1 Votes

Option 3 (Core) – 4 (Core) Votes

Option 4 (Modified Core) – 0 Votes

Option 5 (traditional equipment) – 11 Votes

b) **Public Art**

i) **Literary options – F. Scott Fitzgerald**

- (1) **Stamped concrete**
- (2) **Bookcase railing**
- (3) **Typewriter strikers**
- (4) **Keyboard**
- (5) **Stack of books**

- ii) Trades options – McQuillan
 - (1) Stop valve spinner
 - (2) Decorative floor drain paving pattern
 - (3) Pex piping header and lines

Comments:

- **Chalk art could be interactive and updated**
- **Sidewalk poetry...kids have poetry**
- **Little Library with a radiator base**
- **Lore of F. Scott Fitzgerald is a tourist attraction in the neighborhood...art with this direction is preferred**
- **Interactive aspect of the art is important**
- **HPC will need to approve public art**

The next meeting will be on August 8, 2016 at Hallie Q Brown Community Center (270 North Kent Street, St. Paul MN 55102) in the Canteen from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.