



## MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2017

LOCATION: Rice Recreation Center, 1021 Marion St, Saint Paul MN 55117

ATTENDANCE: Kerry A., Emily H., Hannah R., Craig S., Chantelle K., David (Dave) Ronzani, Cheeneng (Chee) Yang

NOTES BY: Dave Ronzani, Chee Yang, September 18, 2017

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### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

***Dave Ronzani welcomed audience, provided introduction, and presented. Refer to page 2-4 of Presentation Materials.***

- Overview of project & project schedule
  - Project Overview
    - Construction budget is \$1,300,000 which includes play equipment and construction
    - Project objective is to replace and add play equipment meeting CPSC and ADA guidelines and upgrade athletic Fields to Artificial Turf.
  - Community engagement process to finish in November 2017
  - Construction documents to be completed by end of 2017 to advertise project after New Year
  - Construction anticipated to start Spring 2018 and end by Fall 2018
  - Review meeting #1 goals and community engagement process

***Dave presented site context, existing site conditions, and site analysis. Refer to pages 5-7 of Presentation Materials.***

- Overview of site context.
  - Sylvan Park is in District 6 Ward 5.
  - Metro Transit lines run down Rice St and Maryland Ave. access to public transportation located 2 blocks from the park.
  - Sylvan Park is located in close proximity to a play area located at St. Paul Music Academy.
  - 7 (not 6) park facilities located within one mile of Sylvan Park
  - Rice Street, Maryland, and Jackson Avenues present a barrier to pedestrians due to high volume of traffic
  - Sylvan Park serves residential neighborhood with mostly single family residences
- Existing Conditions
  - Restroom Facility

- Play area
- Athletic Fields
- Service road to the restroom
- Review site analysis with present conditions
  - On street parking located on Park St, Jessamine Ave., and Sylvan St.
  - Different spaces highlighted in different color
  - Trees along the West side of the fields and some trees by the play area provide shade. Otherwise very little shade offered at the park.
  - Sidewalk access on 3 corners of the park. Mid-block ADA access along Maryland Ave, mid-block stairway along Rose Ave.
  - Maryland Avenue is a high speed high traffic street.
  - Play area highlighted in yellow
  - Existing restroom building in brown
  - Three baseball fields (rarely used) and one soccer field marked.
  - Perimeter chain link fence (4' tall) in need of replacement.
  - Access point from Rose Ave serves as a service route.
  - Topography on east and south side of the park provide sledding opportunities.
  - Drainage to the park directed to the NW corner
  - “Standing water” west spot in the field caused by poor drainage and potentially a buried catch basin.
  - Two field lights and three pathway lights are operational

***Dave provided an overview of community responses based on community outreach. Refer to page 8-9 of Presentation Materials.***

Initial input from community outreach

- National Night Out
  - Swimming pool was #1 request, unfortunately funding does not cover this item.
  - A preference for modern play structure, however another modern style structure is located at St. Paul Music Academy.

***Chee presented the three concepts. Dave presented play equipment, public art, and overview of athletic field type and layout. Refer to pages 9-21 of Presentation Materials.***

*Plan Overview:* Black outlined trees indicate existing trees, brown is existing restroom building, green are proposed trees, and purple and yellow are play spaces. The orange cream color highlights are areas for benches and picnic tables. Concepts are ideas only and sketched very loose. Concepts will change and be refined based on meeting #1 feedback.

- **Play Area Concept #1**
  - Use of existing play container with 2-5, and 5-12 age groups.
  - Central Allee between the play area and field spaces
  - No development in sledding area

- Trees for shade
- Athletic Fields entirely fenced
- **Play Area Concept #2**
  - Use existing circulation
  - Central gathering space for seating and picnicking
  - Remove fence on east side of park
  - Place ornamental fence around play area
  - Athletic Field to be fenced
- **Play Area concept #3**
  - Rectilinear to reflect sports fields
  - Separated play spaces for 2-5, 5-12
  - Walkway between spaces – opportunity for seating?
  - Straighten and align circulation
  - Provide more seating and picnicking opportunities
  - 4' fence to remain in existing location.
- **Play Equipment**
  - The various types of play equipment with various movements and actions
  - The play equipment does not have to be exactly as seen. The shape and form will be different to fit the ideal play area theme
- **Play Equipment Structures**
  - The advantages and disadvantages of each different play types
  - Play Surfacing
    - Poured-in-place is really expensive. If this is what the community would like, the play area will be smaller to offset cost.
    - Artificial play turf is another option. Less expensive.
    - Combination of play surfacing is typically ideal with sand and either turf or the rubber surfacing.
- **Athletic fields**
  - Existing fields consists of 3 baseball fields and 1 soccer field
  - Football field will not fit existing field page 17
  - Lacking medium and large soccer field size in Saint Paul as determined by Blackhawk page 18 & 19
  - One baseball field superimposed on soccer field page 20
- **Public Art**
  - Per City ordinance, 1% of the entire project budget is required to go towards public art
  - The public art budget is \$17,860. More funding may be allocated towards the public art budget but will have to come out of the project budget.
  - Public Art shown:

- Mural Wall
- Sculptural furnishings
- Small metal bees
- Bench with mosaic tiles
- Concrete poetry

*Dave asked for questions and comments regarding the concepts, public art, and athletic fields.*

- **Overall Discussion:**

- Maryland is a pedestrian Barrier.
- Those in wheelchairs and with Strollers accessing from the park on the east need to enter off Maryland Avenue, which is very inconvenient.
- Maybe install collapsible bollards at service entrance to allow easier pedestrian access.
- Restrooms seem to be consistently locked around 6:00 pm.
  - Gina from park recreation will look into this
- Need more trash cans
- Spring toys are nice
- No baseball has been played in the past 6 years as seen by members of the community
- A concern with hanging spinner as it poses high potential injury risks; would rather have a close to ground spinner equipment
- Like group net climbing equipment
- Sylvan seems to have a lot of litter
- Concern with litter being stuck in play turf
- Like to have sand for children to be able to build objects from
- A concern of loss habitats for bees and wildlife
  - Opportunity to address this with addition of planting beds and planting on hillsides

- **Concept 1:**

- Like the central corridor lined with trees

- **Concept 2:**

- Like the visible sight line to the entrance of the restroom building
- Like the separation of the 2-5 and 5-12 year old play spaces.
- Like the organic forms of play spaces
- Ornamental fence
- Protection of play area from fields

- **Concept 3:**

- Like the separation of the 2-5 and 5-12 year old play spaces.
- The distinct gathering spaces
- Like the alignment of the main pathway

- Like the play area having the same width
- **Public Art:**
  - Like to see an interactive public art
  - Like 3D paint
  - Public art per ordinance must last for 10 years
- **Play Equipment:**
  - No hanging spinner
  - Ground level spinner
  - Group Swing
  - Traditional Swing
  - Tall Slide
  - Modern & Traditional Combination
  - Keep in mind to maintain sight line in play equipment
- **Athletic Fields:**
  - Like to see combination of soccer fields on page 19.
  - Keep in mind of sport fields and play area

*Dave concluded meeting. Next meeting is Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Refined concepts to be presented based on meeting #1 comments.*

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**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Rice Recreation Center, 1021 Marion St, Saint Paul MN 55117.**

Please contact Dave Ronzani at (651) 266-6410 if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly.