



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2017

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

ATTENDANCE: Emily H., Hannah R., Craig S., Alyssa L., Yer C., David (Dave) Ronzani, Cheeneng (Chee) Yang

NOTES BY: Dave Ronzani, Chee Yang, October 20, 2017

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Dave Ronzani welcomed audience and introduced presentation. 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

Dave recapped community meeting #1 and reviewed key comments. Refer to pages 5-9 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 – currently not programmed
- 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
- Meeting #1 Key Comments:
 - Like to have a ground level spinner
 - Preference for a modern & traditional combination with visible sight line
 - Have sand for children to play
 - Like the central walkway corridor aligning the north and south entrances
 - Remove chain link fence from the east side and have ornamental fence around play area
 - Front of restroom to be visible
 - Play area users come to Sylvan Park for shade
 - Prefer to have soccer fields

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 and Dave presented the refined concepts. Dave presented play equipment, public art, and overview of athletic field type and layout. Refer to pages 10-16 of Presentation Materials.

Plan Overview: Keep in mind, concept layouts are still at a conceptual stage and will change. Concepts will change and be refined based on meeting #2 feedback.

- **Play Area Layout Concept #1**
 - Existing trees around play area removed – no shade
 - Trees removed to fit swing set
 - Separation of 2-5 & 5-12 play area
 - Looped circulation path around play area
 - Combination of artificial turf & sand for both 2-5 and 5-12 play area
 - Ornamental fence around play area
 - Central gathering space
 - Central corridor walk
 - Alignment of north and south access points
 - Open sight line to front of restroom building
 - Trees to provide future shade
 - Replace chain at service road with removable bollard to improve pedestrian entry into the park from Sylvan St.
 - Black plant icons illustrates potential pollinating garden location

- **Play Area Layout Concept #2**
 - Play area formed to save existing trees and shade around play area
 - Central corridor walkway
 - Alignment of north and south access points
 - Looped path around play area
 - Separated 2-5 & 5-12 play containers
 - Ornamental fence around play area
 - Combination of poured-in-place & sand for both 2-5 and 5-12 age groups
 - Open sight line to front of restroom building
 - Plant additional trees to provide shade
 - Black plant icons illustrates potential pollinating garden location

- **Play Equipment Layout 1**
 - 2-5 play includes:
 - Tot swing
 - Standing pods
 - Tube tunnel
 - Interactive & Developmental Sensory Board
 - Slide
 - Saddle Spinner
 - 5-12 play includes:
 - Climbing features
 - Twist climber
 - Slide
 - Platforms

- Stepping pods
 - Giant spinner
 - Swing Set (3 belt swing & 1 ADA seat)
- **Play Equipment Layout 2**
 - 2-5 play features are the same as in layout 1
 - 5-12 play equipment include:
 - Oodle Swing
 - Global Motion Spinner
 - A reduced form of the play feature in layout 1
 - The bottom right image, is an alternate structure
 - If alternate structure is preferred, either the oodle swing or global spinner will fit with the design
- **Athletic Field Layout**
 - Combination of U11/12 soccer fields
 - Remove all existing chain-link fence
 - Fenced-in soccer fields
 - Shift large soccer field further south
 - 8-10' tall fence on athletic fields on Maryland Ave & behind goals
 - Trees planted along Maryland Ave to screen tall fence
 - Seating opportunities over by mature overstory trees
 - Entrance at corners of Park St & Maryland Ave and Park St & Rose Ave
 - Retaining walls by steep slope
 - All artificial turf
 - Black plant icons illustrates potential pollinating garden location
- **Public Art**
 - Infrastructural Art – beautifying infrastructures
 - Playful Light - interactive

Group discussion on play area layout, play equipment, field layout, and public art.

- **Overall Discussion:**
 - Pollinating garden should be located in places where it will not affect public events such as the National Night Out
 - Preferred location is either behind the restroom building or west of the 2-5 play area
 - Keep existing trees!
 - Have long-living trees
 - Keep in mind the play area color palette
 - Should be different than the colors at St. Paul Music Academy
 - Lots of litter along sidewalk

- Overall, a positive response about removing chainlink fence along the east side of the park. However, if existing chain link fences are removed, there is some concern of litter getting into park from the boulevard.
 - Can add more trash receptacles
 - Will talk to park operations & maintenance regarding the potential increase of litter once the project is complete.

- **Play Area Layout 1:**
 - Prefer to keep existing trees
 - Like the ornamental fence

- **Concept 2:**
 - Preferred layout
 - Would like the alternate structure without the climbing walls
 - Enjoy having double slides and more than one set of slides
 - Like the tube tunnel
 - Like the pathway around the perimeter of the play containers.
 - Like the net climbing feature
 - Like the group swing and the large spinner
 - Preference to have group swing, large spinner, and the alternate structure without the climbing walls
 - Community member asked if it's possible to expand the play container northeast just enough to fit group swing
 - Prefer to have more play value and less rubber or artificial surfacing offsetting cost.
 - Preference of sand/rubber combo (rather than rubber/wood chips if permitted by Parks Staff).

- **Athletic Field Layout:**
 - Will soccer goals be stationary or portable?
 - Plan to have it portable which will be moved, when needed, by park staff
 - Like the 3 soccer field U11/12 layout.
 - Plan to have 2 sets of goals. Can move one set for full field play when necessary
 - Have a storage space for equipment
 - No preference for additional field lighting.
 - No need for bleachers providing flexibility to move around
 - Como has no bleachers only player's benches
 - Can have different colors for field stripes differentiating the medium & large size fields
 - Like the trees for screening along Maryland Ave.
 - Like the higher fence behind the goals.
 - Place the storage area for field maintenance equipment in a non-descript location, if on site.

- Like the potential of field markings for goal placement, in case neighborhood pick-up games want to play the full length of the field.

- **Public Art:**
 - \$17,000 budget
 - Like the mosaic art on the stairs
 - Prefer to have an interactive art.
 - Prefer the public art to have a secondary feature
 - Not in favor of the playful light since it will only be lit at night

- **Next Meeting:**
 - Will provide a materials palette – benches, picnic tables, color palette
 - Close to finish concept
 - Asked for community members to think of what colors they would like to see in the play area
 - Community members would like to have similar colors but different accent colors to differentiate 2-5 & 5-12 play area

Dave concluded meeting. Next meeting is Thursday, November 16, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Refined concept to be presented based on meeting #2 comments.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 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.