



## MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: September 7, 2016

LOCATION: Palace Recreation Center, 781 Palace Avenue

ATTENDING: Anna Bruesewitz, Jennifer Verbrugge, Alice Verbrugge, Laura Sopeth, Mark Toupal, Minda Holst, Paula Faughender, Pete Regnier, Renee Pritzker, Shamus O'Meara, Shawn Devie, Alice Messer, Chee Yang

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Gibbs, Dave Thune, Dusty Thune, Halle O'Falvey, Julie Faltsek, Karen Misiewicz, Lynda Anderson, Patricia (Pat) Salmi, Thabiso Rowan

NOTES BY: Chee Yang, September 8, 2016

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### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

***Alice Messer welcomed the design advisory committee. Refer to page 2 of Presentation Materials.***

- Alice outlined the meeting's agenda

***Alice recapped the second meeting. Refer to pages 3-6 of Presentation Materials.***

- Overview of meeting #2 concepts.
- Reviewed general consensus from Meeting 2
  - One main entrance into play area
  - Concern with parking being too close
  - Liked integrating restrooms as sculptural gateway into play area
  - Provide a variety of picnicking opportunities
  - Integrate various plant species for sensory experience
  - Include artistic sand and water play
  - Use natural materials as much as possible
  - Play mound has many opportunities for play (climbing, sliding, etc.)
  - Use natural grades as much as possible and limit ramps
  - Concern for sun. Integrate shade as much as possible.
  - Include musical elements and moving panels for limited hand motion.

***Alice presented concept for meeting 3. Refer to page 7 of Presentation Materials.***

#### Concept:

- Gated entrance with restroom facilities as gateway into play area.
- Main 10' concrete path from entrance up to top of mound (10' high)
- Various climbing and sliding play features branch off from the mound
- Seat walls define different play spaces

- 2-5 year old play area
- Sand-water play
- 5-12 year old play area
- Swinging area
- Misting rocks
- Freestanding elements: Merry-go-round, swaying glider, and roller table
- The high point of the mound faces the bluff and river
  - Custom interactive panels
  - Wildlife observation/Binoculars
  - Opportunity for children to cross bridge or go down the roller slide/embankment slide
- Play area is entirely fenced
- Shade structures
- Vegetation help define and form the play spaces
- A nature path with picnic tables, tactile plants, musical instruments, rock hide-away, and rock scramble
- Native plantings on the south side of mound
- Rubber surfacing in play spaces
- Concrete surfacing in rock misting and restroom area
- Picnic and seating opportunities within and outside of play area
- Picnic shelter located outside of play area

***Questions and comments from the Design Advisory Committee***

- Many like the concept
- Like the visibility of the entrance
- Question regarding when other parts of the park will be completed in conjunction with the play area construction
  - Alice responded that the trails on the south side will be completed and then the focus will shift to the north side of the park
- Question regarding wheelchair accessibility for the bridge play element
  - A committee member suggested a wooden bridge
- Question regarding opportunity for large group to gather before entering the play area
  - Possibility to provide space before gate
  - Space to gather inside play area
- Question and concern about height of fence around play area.
- A concern about the bike/pedestrian trail around the play area and making sure kids don't run into the path.
- Comment to provide pictures for each play element for the Open House
- Committee says the play area is on track
- Many like the musical play elements on the nature path
- Question about the width of the nature path – make sure there is room for a wheelchair
- Question on if people can pull off from the nature path to interact with play features
- Many like the seat wall, has multiple use – climbing, balance, and sitting
- Would like to have benches outside of entrance as a meeting location

- A question if play area will be locked.
  - A question regarding lighting
    - Most likely lights by restroom and the parking lot will have lights. Most play areas do not have lighting.
  - A question and concern about restroom entrance and how users of the picnic will use.
  - A question regarding a second emergency exit in case the main entrance is blocked.
  - Open house holds opportunity for fundraising.
  - Park name is still unknown – Alice to reach out to Fort Road Federation to see if they are planning to submit a name change to Parks Commission
  - Comment about phasing the project and cost of play area. Alice to develop a preliminary cost estimate for the Open House.
  - Alice and Chee will develop open house flyer. Asked community members to spread the word.
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**Next Meeting: Open House – Wednesday, October 5, 2016  
from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Palace Recreation Center.**

Please contact Alice Messer at 651-266-6412 if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly.