MEETING #2
Design Advisory Committee
December 14, 2016
5:30-6:30pm
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

Jimmy Lee Play Area
Agenda

Welcome & Introductions
Project Recap & Updates
Concept Plan Introduction
Concept Plan Details
Discussion
Next steps
Project Overview:

Project Goal: Create a concept plan for improvements to Jimmy Lee Play Area to improve the play area and create a vibrant public space.

www.stpaul.gov/JimmyLeePlayArea

Meeting Goals:
- Update committee on project status
- Review proposed play area layout and equipment options
- Discuss plan and get feedback from the committee
- Discuss community preference for public art
Project Schedule:

**July – September 2016**
- Internal meetings and Discussion
- Community outreach: Pop Up meeting at Family Fun Night, assemble Design Advisory Committee, and Manage online survey

**October 12, 2016 – First Design Advisory Committee Meeting**
- Introduce the project, review survey results, discuss site organization options and determine main priorities for the site

**December 14, 2016 – Second Design Advisory Committee Meeting**
- Review concept plan options, determine preferred play equipment type, select plan to develop

**January/February 2016 – Final Design Advisory Committee Meeting or Project Open house**
- Present final design for Jimmy Lee Play Area

**March – April 2017 (tentative) – Develop construction documents**

**To be determined - 2017 – Bid Project**

**Summer 2017 (To be determined) – Construction starts**
Project Background:
The Jimmy Lee/Oxford Recreation Center has the highest recorded attendance in St. Paul (343,364 annual visits)
Serves 6183 children ages 0-14 (1/2 mile radius)

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory and Evaluation (2010):
- Play ground could be upgraded based on the other facilities having a more city-wide appeal
- Small parking lot off of Oxford that could be re-purposed
- Winter-Extensive indoor activities exist, no outdoor activities at the site
- High quality fenced fields do not allow for much site flexibility

Site Observations:
- Consider alternate uses for small parking area by the playground
- Consider upgrading playground equipment and making it a larger area based on the facility’s city-wide draw
Project Funding:

Project: Jimmy Lee Play Area  
Location: 1063 Iglehart Ave., St. Paul, MN

Description:
Removal and replacement of existing play equipment and parking lot improvements located at the Oxford/Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, including associated parkland enhancements. This project also includes investigation and site cleanup required if contamination is found. This is likely due to the proximity to the improved Jimmy Lee Recreation Fields, where extensive contamination was found during Field reconstruction in 2011. Play area enhancements include resilient surfacing to meet ADA compliance installed under new play equipment, equipment replacement, and other site amenities such as seating and landscaping. The most recent improvements to the play area were over 19 years ago, in 1995.

Justification:
The play area is over 19 years old. It is ranked number 1 of play areas to be replaced due to safety, access, and existing condition of the park facilities. The renovation of the play area also creates the opportunity to address the contamination that most likely exists well below the existing play area, though contamination does not pose a risk until the ground is excavated.

This project will replace the existing play equipment that is inaccessible to those with disabilities and does not meet current CPSC playground safety standards.

The recreation center and park serves a significant portion of the surrounding population. Single family and multi-family homes are adjacent to the park space on the East side. The Jimmy Lee/Oxford Community Center are located directly to the west of the play space, where the Great River Indoor Water Park is located. The play area is an existing asset to the community that requires improvement and updating to meet current standards.

The play area is located in a residential neighborhood of Saint Paul where the number of school age children is around 3,925 according to US Census data and 23.3% of households have children under the age of 18 which is similar to the city wide percentage (25.3%). 48% of the households have an income less than $35,000.

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Additional Funding Source:

Capitol Region Watershed District  
1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4 • Saint Paul, MN 55108  
T: (651) 644-8888 • F: (651) 644-8894 • capitolregionwd.org

Jimmy Lee Play Area  
design advisory committee
Existing Site: 2011 Aerial
Pop Up Meeting Results:

What will improve this play area to make it a fun and positive space for children and families?
Survey Results:

An online survey was available in August 2016 to October 2015 for community members to give their feedback on the play area and site improvements of Jimmy Lee. 82 people participated in the survey. 51% of them live 5 min walk within the park. 14% visit the park weekly and 30% visit the park on a monthly basis.

What will improve this play area?

Q: What do you like about the play area and the park?

- Love the shape and shade
- Like the variety of play areas
- Climbing structures & Monkey Bars
- The sound of children laughing

Q: What would you like to see in addition to new play area equipment?

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<td>Landscaping</td>
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<td>Additional seating</td>
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<td>Additional shade</td>
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<td>Open Lawn</td>
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Q: What type of play equipment would you like to see in the new play area?

- Traditional: 3%
- Modern: 32%
- Net Structure: 11%
- Combination (Modern - Traditional): 73%

Q: What type of equipment would you like to see in the new play area?

- Climbing: 83%
- Swinging: 79%
- Spinning: 20%
- Balancing: 62%
- Spring Toys: 6%
- Sensory Elements: 48%
- Sliding: 99%

Q: Should the parking lot remain?

- Yes: 36%
- No: 40%

Suggested Art Ideas:

- Big animals & plant sculptures
- A big chair
- Reflection of history
- Vertical garden
- Colorful play art
- Community mural
- Youth artists
- Playground art
- Imaginative play experience: space rocket, boat
- Homage to Rondo with modern elements to represent other cultures of the neighborhood

Suggested Artists:

- Sellu Jones
- Heidi Gicalone
- Mary Foote
- Caron Bell
- Iris Logan
- Melodee Strong
- Sam Douglas
- Tacoumba Aiken
- Wing Young Huie
- Planet Giggies
- Ernie Barnes inspired
- Lori Greene
Site Analysis: Constraints and Opportunities

Opportunities:
- Play area is nestled within the bowl created by surrounding topography
- Trees provide ample shade
- Play areas are ample for each age group
- Picnic Knoll gives nice views to surrounding fields and neighborhood

Constraints:
- Sidewalks are deteriorating
- Many trees are ash trees requiring treatment
- Sand gets kicked around
- Weeds growing in sand indicate unused areas
- Equipment needs to be upgraded to current safety standards
- Erosion on hillside from trees and steep slopes
- Parking Lot for 11 cars is deteriorating
- Previous reports indicate soil contamination is present and will need to be addressed during play area renovation
- Signage needed to give identity

Considerations:
- Removal of parking lot creates opportunities for more play space
- Topography could be utilized for interesting play opportunities
- Celebrate the connections to the field space, the Jimmy Lee building, and the neighborhood and create safe access ways
- Seating and picnic areas could be increased to accommodate larger groups
- Create a unique play area that will have its own identity
- Celebrate this vibrant space and community!
Site Design: Organizational Concepts: PREFERRED OPTIONS

Preferred play area organization schemes
Site Design: PROCESS

Slide
TWO OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPED Organizational Concepts
PLAY AREA LAYOUT: Option 1:

- Swings 1,644 sf
- Play Equipment for ages 5-12 2,890 sf
- Play Equipment for ages 2-5 1,368 sf

- Picnic slabs and grill area remain but replaced with new concrete
- Enlarged picnic space for two tables
- New concrete pathways start here, using existing entries from the sidewalk
- New shade tree and garden space
- Parking lot is removed to create an open lawn space for play and running around
- Central shared paved space adds seating areas and a focal point for art, gardens, or a water feature
- New concrete pathways start here, using existing entries from the sidewalk
- Perimeter fence is added to enclose the lawn area
- Hillside is reseeded and re-graded and replanted for erosion control

Jimmy Lee Play Area
design advisory committee
PLAY AREA LAYOUT: Option 2:

- Play area container is entirely new.
- Picnic slabs and grill area remain but replaced with new concrete.
- Enlarged picnic space for two tables.
- New bench seating area.
- Sign.
- Parking lot is removed to create an open lawn space for play and running around.
- Earth mound for play: Rolling, jumping, sledding, viewing.
- A central shared paved space adds seating areas and a focal point for art, gardens, or a water feature.
- New concrete pathways curve around wind through the site creating opportunities for 'looping.'
- Area for embankment slide.
- Perimeter fence is added to enclose the lawn area.
- Hillside is reseeded and regraded and replanted for erosion control.

Jimmy Lee Play Area
Design Advisory Committee
Play Equipment Options
Discussion

1. Which is your favorite layout plan?

2. Which is your favorite type of play equipment?

3. What sorts of themes can inspire the central space?
Moving Forward....

Next Meeting: January/February 2017