

Indian Mounds Phase I Implementation  
PAT Meeting 04

February 08, 2023

Attendees:

Maggie Lorenz, LPCP  
Franky Jackson, LPCP  
Jim Rock, UofM Duluth  
Crystal Norcross, Oyate Hotanin  
Tom Le Blanc, Oyate Hotanin  
Laura LaBlanc, Oyate Hotanin  
Jane Prince, Council Representative  
Stephanie Hart, Legislative Aide  
Dylan Goetsch, MIAC Cultural Resources  
Noah White, Prairie Island THPO  
Samantha Odegaard, THPO Upper Sioux  
Adam Robbins, Nat Resources Supervisor  
Pat Williamson, Nat Resources Technician  
Ellen Stewart, City of St. Paul Parks  
Andy Rodriguez, Natural Resources City of St. Paul Parks  
Katie Kelly, TEN x TEN  
Maura Rockcastle, TEN x TEN

NOTE: Outstanding questions or action items highlighted in BLUE

**Meeting Minutes:**

**1. Welcome (Ellen)**

- a. CLS + Messaging Plan reminder – long term vision for this project through extensive community process
- b. Vision proposes significant physical changes and proposals to change how people are present in the site and their perception of the site. Long term removals of elements – need to move slowly
- c. Addition of more prairie is a key part of this

**2. THPO Recommendations (Franky)**

- a. **Guidance on preferred orthography and translator for Dakota text on signage** - moving forward we support the use of the University of Minnesota Orthography. We also offer the names of Neil McKay, Arthur Lockwood, Janice Bad Moccasin and Vanessa Goodthunder as possible translators for the spoken text.
- b. **Overall review of text and themes/stories/content-** as outlined in the CLS the proposed text for the messaging cues and the establishment of themes and subthemes corresponds with goals outlined during the planning stages of the CLS. We make the following recommendations related to text. To have the contractor work with THPOs to ensure that language and verbiage moving forward is consistent with messaging plans outlined in the CLS.

- c. **Overall review of location and quantity of messages-** It's the recommendation of participating THPOs that the quantity of messaging be reduced to keep with the minimalist approach that came from consultation regarding the Messaging Plan. It is also the recommendation of participating THPOs that stones should not be used for messaging. For these and other concerns we recommend the Talking Circle be removed all together, that the Life Stages messaging be removed from this phase of planned messaging. This includes reducing the Mitakuye Owasin messaging by removing the proposed Fish Nation, Wolf Nation, Eagle Nation, and Plant Nation signage and text from the conceptual plans.
  - i. **Confirming with THPOs that use of stone is acceptable assuming no alteration or drilling of the stones**

### **3. Project Updates (TEN x TEN)**

- a. Review CLR and Phase I Proposed features
  - i. Phase I messaging and prairie are following outline of recommendations of CLR
    1. Prairie to protect sacred ground and reflect history of site
    2. Threshold of Cues: band of messaging along existing trail using minimal signage and natural materials (stone) or respectful durable materials (washed metal, red finish)
    3. Gateways: to signify to people entering the site from either side of Mounds Blvd. that they are entering a sacred place
    4. Gathering Circle: removed from scope
- b. Updates based on THPO Recommendations
  - i. 4-5 signs remaining in the project
    1. Origins of the People
    2. Mounds Myths and Truths
    3. Maka Paha
    4. NAGPRA + Airway Beacon
    5. Mitakuye Owasin – Introduction (confirming that this can remain based on THPO recommendations)

### **4. Pause for group discussion**

- a. PAT shared experience and concerns about inclusion in this process, City and THPOs discussed expectations and roles and committed to future discussions with local Indigenous community.

### **5. Project Updates cont.**

- a. Gateways (located at east and west entrances to site)
  - i. Current design proposes 7 posts (wood or metal) and two stones with opportunity for artwork to represent the 7 tribes of this site.
  - ii. Alternative option was suggested and is being explored with a planted mound at either entrance, using a significant tree species (cottonwood, birch, dogwood were discussed)
    1. Sam expressed preference for something smaller to avoid ground disturbance over time
    2. Will need to be tested and reviewed

## 6. PAT and THPO Feedback

- a. Group reviewed the messaging design and content of remaining messaging in scope. *See presentation file for specific comments.*

## 7. Next Steps

- a. TxT will explore Mound + tree Gateway idea – will need feedback
- b. TxT will send the presentation from today, with the addition of the text panels recommended to remain, and meeting minutes, [please send any additional feedback within 5 days.](#)
- c. [Please send artist recommendations – will need to secure/confirm that artist is willing to participate](#)
- d. [Franky will get the answers about using the reclaimed rock and if the Mitakuye Owasin Intro piece is still OK to remain](#)