



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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**HARRIET ISLAND PHASE II
 DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009
 WELLSTONE CENTER
 4:30 – 6:00 PM**

Introductions

Discussion of the process and where we are to date:

Tot lot and interpretive signage are components of Phase II and Phase I which did not make it through to the construction documents for the respective phases. Both components are part of the master plan and have been delayed due to budgetary concerns or perceived constraints.

Interpretive signage was considered at this time due to concern that the residual project money will not be sufficient to design and build the play area. The choice was made by the landscape architect to pursue the interpretive signage component through design development. The tot lot has been designed to the same level. Neither has had a cost estimate completed. The balancing act is estimating the anticipated cost of each/either without further developing the design.

Intent of this meeting was to discuss the interpretive signage as a project and provide a vision or goals for the signage.

Advisory team members expressed concern about the perceived "removal" of the tot lot from the project. I reiterated that it was not being taken out of the project, but that in projected budget issues have brought up concern that we may not have sufficient funds to build the tot lot with the same funding sources we currently are using for Phase II. Since the Interpretive signage was dropped from Phase I, would likely cost less than the tot lot, and would be more difficult to secure funding for in the future, we brought it back to the table.

Request for more information from Project Manager:

- Cost estimates for tot lot and for interpretive signage
- Funding sources
- Timeline
- Decision process to this point
- Protocol to change project from master plan

Discussion about interpretive elements at Harriet Island:

With the agreement that Ellen Stewart would respond to the points outlined above, the task force discussed the elements that they want to be interpreted and preferences for interpretation methods.

Preference a creative expression of the historic aspects of the island where possible. Due to the former location of historic structures in areas of the great lawn, there needs to be a solution throughout the park for depicting the history without dotting the park with too many signs. Some of the more typical types of signage may be appropriate in some applications in the park.



Concern that the signs are more focused on regional interest.
Need to be interesting to both local and regional visitors.

The list provided to the group included the following which they identified as the most important (not in order of importance).

- Harriet Bishop
- Clarence "Cap" Wiggington
- Dr. Justus Ohage (Park Establishment)
- Thomas Kelley (Kelley's Overlook)
- River History Geomorphological Role of River in History of St. Paul
- Native Americans at Harriet Island
- Immigrant communities in St. Paul
- Baths

Further evaluation of the memorials on Harriet Island as well as the interpretive signage in the surrounding area will be pursued to provide better planning for this and future interpretive efforts.

Re-appointment of what was Kelley's Landing/Overlook: The family is interested in having a bench in his honor. Perhaps a landing at Lilydale could be in his name. In any case, there will need to be a demarcation and provision of the importance of Tom Kelley and his contributions toward incorporation of the river into the fabric of the city and the lives of those who live here.

The interpretative topics put forth by the group ranged from the more regional issues like the influence of the river on settlement, industry, and the city's commerce, to pieces which are specific to the island, including the immigrant communities of West River Flats and the importance of the island to the Native Americans in the area. Contextual information about the surrounding neighborhoods was noted to be of importance.

Next steps involve getting requested information in order to make a decision about the plausibility of a tot lot and interpretive signage.