



MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: December 4, 2012

LOCATION: Mississippi Market Community Room

ATTENDING: Emily Shively, John Yust, Scott Olson, Gary Brueggemann, Liz McMann, Pete Regnier, Kent Petterson, Paula Faughender, Martin Schieckel, Dan Pederson, Bill Driver, Jennifer Verbrugge, Tom Frawley, JoAnna Craighead, Lucy Thompson, Betty Moran, Tonya Johnson- Nicholie, Alice Messer, Don Ganje, Edie Meissner, Adam Robbins, Karen Koeppe, RuthAnn Smith, Gregory Bohlen, Jim Leinfelder, Tim Melander

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Karin Misiewicz, John Bentfield, Marcus Young, Halle O'Falvey, Dave Bredemus, Rory Stierler, Stephanie Vagle, Brian Bloomfield, , Bob Fossum, Manual Cervantes

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, December 13, 2012

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Emily Shively welcomed committee to meeting and held brief introductions.

Alice Messer provided summary of meeting agenda with goals of:

- 1) Refining Goals and Objectives
- 2) Receive additional input on Site Analysis

Alice Messer provided recap of Meeting #2.

- Read through Mission Statement and goals and objectives.
- Received input on goals and objectives. Revised version reflecting comments are shown on Attachment #1. Revisions made are shown in *italics*.
- Provided update on Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) decision on 7 acre parcel adjacent to Victoria Park site.
 - Comments reflected need to insure seamless transition from private development and public access to site.
 - Desire to design trail and overlook to secure easement prior to construction of housing

Gary Brueggemann presented history of site:

Victoria Park has rich history. Includes historical use of:

- Site farmed by JD Williams, who also had ferry service across Mississippi River. Williams was murdered and ferry service ceased.
- 1880- site was utilized as limestone quarry by Jacob Lauer who supplied stone to brothers who were local builders in St. Paul

- Martin Delanie stockyard in 1882 located onsite by Otto and Shepard Road
- During WWII, high demand for fuel and site became site for oil tanks. Due to site's previous use as quarry; it could quickly be converted to oil tank storage

Presentation from Gary Breuggemann posted on project website.

Alice Messer presented Site Analysis

Site Analysis included:

Historical Aerials : showed aerials from 1949, 1953, 1974, 1985, 1997, 2002, 2004, 2011

- Discussed how access to river and use of land changed over time.

Circulation maps : Looked at roadways surrounding Victoria Park and pedestrian access across and around.

- Shepard Road and West 7th have similar traffic counts with 16,000-17,000 average daily traffic counts. Speeds along surrounding roads are 35 MPH to 50 MPH.
- Public transit located at Otto and West 7th Street – need to enhance access to park from public transit
- Canadian Pacific Railroad has limited train traffic with 1-2 trains per week.
- Most streets have sidewalk accommodations, but safe, signalized crossing points of West 7th, Otto and Shepard Road are limited.

Looked at trail connections to Victoria Park. – Sam Morgan Regional Trail, 35E trail which provides trail connection across Mississippi River to Lilydale Regional Park and Big Rivers Trail.

- Gaps identified to provide connection to Highland Park via Montreal Avenue and to existing 35E trail via Chatsworth Avenue

Land use : Provided summary of existing land use and zoning requirements that come into play for Victoria Park design.

- Provided summary of agreement between ExxonMobil and use of land as parkland
- Victoria Park is zoned T3
- Victoria Park North is not within critical area
- Victoria Park South is within critical area and includes zoning overlay district of River Corridor 4 Urban Diversified as well as floodway under Shepard Road Bridge and a small portion of flood fringe by tunnel under Shepard Rod
 - Implications of zoning requirements summarized

View sheds : Presented views into Victoria Park as well as views out of site.

- Consider views from Thurston and Montreal as entrance points into site
- Consider view of site from Shepard Road and bike trail
- Sholom Home blocks views of site from Otto and West 7th

Street

- Limited views of park from Perlman Street

Migratory flyway : Discussed importance of site for migratory flyway versus permanent residents

- Limited bird counts available from St. Paul Audubon Society due to restricted access to Victoria Park

Issues and constraints : Presented existing issues and opportunities on site that inform site design. Focused on critical connection points, barriers, water flow and existing pathways as described on Issues and Opportunities board.

Questions/Comments from Committee:

1. Request to have Victoria Park be first project in Minnesota to receive Sustainable Initiative Program (SITES) accreditation.

Response: City stated that SITES has not been adopted by City of Saint Paul. City has concerns about expending funds towards a policy that has not been adopted by the City. City committed to referring to SITES guidelines as mock SITES accreditation.

Request for information on SITES and following link provide:

<http://www.sustainablesites.org/products/>

2. Request to include committee involvement in development of trail and overlook in adjacent 7 acre parcel to be sold by HRA to developer.

Response: City stated that trail access through the private development and overlook of Mississippi River are critical connections for Victoria Park. City is committed to continuing to work with HRA to secure adequate easement to implement trail and overlook with seamless connection between private and public development.

3. Request confirmation that Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission request for planning dollars to design an Urban Regional Sports Center as identified in 2012 Legislative Agenda will not supersede Committee's work in development of Victoria Park

Response: City is committed to community process for Victoria Park and funding request will not supersede work of Committee.

4. Public comments received via email on Thursday, December 6. Comments were noted by City and included as Attachment 2.

Actions:

- City to prepare for Meeting #4 which includes design charrette of Victoria Park by Committee members
- Presentation materials posted on project website at www.stpaul.gov/victoriapark
- Optional winter walking tour of Victoria Park scheduled for Saturday, December 29, 2012 beginning at 10:00 am. Tour will begin at intersection of Thurston and Adrian Street behind Mississippi Market

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 22, 2012, 6:00–8:00 pm

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