



## MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

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MEETING DATE: January 30, 2014

LOCATION: West Minnehaha Recreation Center

ATTENDING, Lara Christley, Lauren Klabunde, Jeff Arnold, Patricia Ohmans, Tony Schmitz, Danielle Salus, Seitu Jones, Kathleen Anglo, Karin Misiewicz, and Alice Messer

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Misha Liang, Melisande Charles, Mohamud Hashi, , Ahmed Anshur, Karin Misiewicz, Melvin Emanuel Jr., Hani Hussein, Soyini Guyton, Erin Pavlica, Mark Granlund

NOTES BY: Alice Messer, February 4, 2014

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### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

***Kathleen Anglo began meeting with review of final park plan and review of budget. Summarized Phase I priorities to include:***

- Entrance road
- Parking lot
- ADA path up Minnehaha
- Signage at Minnehaha
- Boulevard trees
- Concrete walk – north/south with stairs across site
- Courtyard/heart of space – place for people to gather and orient self with space

TPL is close to reaching fund raising goal and anticipate \$800,000 construction budget for Phase I.

### **Kathleen presented two options for central gathering area.**

- Option A: basic design with gravel courtyard and turf
  - Trees used to frame the site.
  - Gathering area is “temporary” in that portion will be occupied by future farm buildings
  - Propose using quaking aspen trees as they grow quickly and don’t have a strong sense of permanence like oak or other hardwood trees
  - Use movable picnic tables
- Option B – more design detail and use of artist element in central circle.
  - Explore mosaic option of Hmong sum symbol
  - Representation of artist engagement at the site

Comments from advisory committee on gathering area options included:

- Like idea of formal gathering space
- Question about amount of gravel with option A and feel turf might be more enjoyable

- Explore pavers versus concrete
- Like shady space in middle of the site
- Like idea of mosaic with Option B, but stated that mosaic on a flat surface in Minnesota is hard to manage – suggestions made on poetry placed on concrete, stamped concrete as alternative to mosaic, etc.
- Explore storm water feature as gathering area is not at top of the site
- Sister of Good Shepard interested in donating art piece to site – gathering area may be appropriate space
- Strong interest from Advisory Committee on exploring temporary art installations at site – explore hiring “artist in residents” that would be responsible for installation various art installations year round
  - Kathleen to explore if funding requirements would allow for payment of temporary art

***Discussion on park cost estimate and proposed alternatives***

- Current budget is close to \$800,000
- Alternatives proposed include:
  - a. Amphitheater
  - b. Additional lighting
  - c. Swings
  - d. Nature based play area
  - e. Native plantings under existing oak trees
- Committee would like to have grading of amphitheater to occur with Phase I work. Formal amphitheater not needed with Phase I.
- Committee would like to have conduit run for future lighting. Desire for solar powered lighting
- Swings were not a high priority element
- Would like to include nature based play area and native planting under oak trees if possible

***Other discussions/comments were as follows:***

- Request to re-engage the committee in March
  - Kathleen will organize a meeting once construction documents are further along.
- Kathleen understands overall vision for central gathering area and will rework design based on comments
- Discussion on ground blessing and ground breaking ceremony.
  - Committee proposes to wait until there is visible action on site
  - Commented on artist presentation of site (ie poem reading) in lieu of tradition ground blessing or ground breaking.

***Next Steps: Check-in with Advisory Committee – date to be determined (March 2014)***

Please contact Kathleen Anglo if any items are missing from the meeting notes or items were listed incorrectly.