



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
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Dickerman Park Conceptual Design  
**Design Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Notes**  
January 12, 2015

**Project Manager:** Ellen Stewart

**Committee Members Present:** Sam Carlsen, Scott Coggins, Shirley Erstad, Jenna Fletcher, Steve Johnson, David Johnston, Karin Misiewicz, Betsy Mowry, Sara Joy Proppe, Jon Reynolds, Abigail Stone, Jun-Li Wang

**Committee Members Absent:** Tony Messner, Jihan Burdah, Brian Kirk, Karen Kormann, Nell McClung

**Others Present:** Mohammed Lawal, LSE Architects; Lauren Ryan, Tesfa International School; Becky Magnuson, Tesfa International School; David Dominick, YMCA; Samantha Henningson

Purpose of this meeting was to review refined concept and images that would inform discussion and comments on preferences for the layout, style and amenities in the park. Review of the comments of the 4 concepts from the previous meeting was followed by the presentation of the design theme and material types including furnishings, lighting, water features and art.

**Program**

Dickerman Park will be an iconic park with a strong identity that can be activated to serve the neighborhood and transit users.

- Connect to transit and businesses
- Connect the park supporting an image, internal circulation, artistic amenities
- Connect to the environment including gardens, vegetation, interpretive elements, environmental art
- Connect to neighborhood by telling the story of the historic, geographic and cultural significance of the area
- Resting and relaxing – providing seating, views, sun and shade, vegetation
- Socializing – varied sized attractive spaces with seating, tables, lighting, vegetation
- Outdoor classroom/performance space – seating, stage area, backdrop, solar and acoustic considerations, electrical, lighting



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- Walking – support walking through the park - walkways wide enough to pass, marked distances, lighting, flexibility
- Play – safe places for informal play. Artful interactive features with play value and interest.

### **Design Direction**

- Historically, railroad was the building block for the neighborhood
- It is occurring again as a result of the Green Line
- Halfway point between the cities
- Connections
- Strong lines
- Wild and developed areas along railroad
- Rhythm of the tracks and vertical elements when passing through on a train
- Warm industrial feel to elements

### **Concept Layout**

- Arcing walkways provide east west connections through the park
- Straight walks interrupt the curved walkways and connect the sidewalk on University to the
- Prairie plantings and seat walls provide interest and direction and serve to buffer the street
- Two plazas areas are have paving patterns that run perpendicular to the walkways and continue as features into the planting areas
- Plazas have lighted seat walls and fixed benches, moveable tables and chairs for flexible gathering space
- Water features would be included either as part of the plaza space or adjacent to provide a noise buffer from University Avenue
- Interpretive and artful lighting and other features would reflect the history and culture of the neighborhood and the site and could include vertical elements, paving features, playful and interactive art that is engaging and visible.

### **Discussion:**

- *Like the curved lines. No need for a walk straight in front of the buildings*
- *Feel like there is a need for the walkway across the north side of the park to delineate park vs. private. Provide ample lighting and planting strip and trees between buildings instead of all along the north side.*
- *What will it look like in the winter? Need it to read like a park still and not the front yards for the buildings.*
- *Who is responsible for clearing snow? If there is a walk on the north side and it requires snow removal it will be hard to find space for the snow.*
- *Like paving pattern continuing in to the planting area.*
- *Seems like there may be too many curved paths west of Wheeler.*



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- *Would like to have a larger lawn area*
- *Would like to have it clearly denoted that it is a park with a sign.*
- *Provide artist designed sign – iconic, sculptural like gold medal – create letters of Dickerman Park*
- *Understand the need for signage but it feels like it would be good to have an intriguing enough park for it to be inviting on its own without signing it. Provide iconic elements that attract people and identify the park.*
- *Have a series of pieces that draw people through the park and tell you more about the park as you walk through – a history path that incorporates artful elements*
- *Combine old and new.*
- *There is an unofficial sculpture park by the Hamline Park Plaza building that has sculptures that need to find a home. Could these work either temporarily or permanently in Dickerman Park.*
- *Prairie areas – does the city have the capacity to take care of the plantings?*
- *Maybe there could be some other party helping with that – community gardens in the park currently have a lot of attention from the MN Horticulture Society and master gardeners. That could provide a pool of stewards for the plantings.*
- *Would be nice to continue community gardening that the YMCA has started there.*
- *Consider the tree size for street trees v. the park trees in the rendering.*
- *Show seating*
- *Provide more perspective drawings that help you understand the spaces within the park*
- *Show an option with a larger lawn area*
- *Provide multiple examples of art to get comment and direction – include interactive art*
- *Show options with/without linear walk on north side of the park*

### **Written Comments:**

#### **For art I would like to see:**

- *Creative, whimsical objects that promote exploration and play*
- *Mix of natural/animals and industrial/technology*
- *Functional/multi-purpose*
- *TBD*
- *Light rail or tie into history of University Avenue*
- *Kid friendly, cool end caps to introducing park*
- *More flexibility, whimsy*
- *Artful seating or signs*
- *Round breaks up the flat*
- *Objects that allow play & clearly say “park”*
- *More sculpture, perhaps on east end*
- *Interactive pieces*



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**For water I would like to see:**

- *Bubbling, low water in/near natural areas*
- *Interactive*
- *Not sure about this \$\$?*
- *Not a splash pad. Still don't see this as a place for unsupervised kids with University Avenue and Wheeler so close*
- *Potential interactive splash pad in plaza by YMCA*
- *Something interactive*
- *Small bubblers*
- *Bubbler/splash pad/stream*
- *Small bubblers in plaza*

**For furnishings I would like to see:**

- *Flexible, colorful, practical*
- *Organic*
- *Prefer no removable furniture*
- *Moveable? seats close (to entice) to entry/bus stop/etc.*
- *Something colorful – no preference on material*
- *Concrete/timber/durable/easy graffiti removal*
- *Benches/shade/gardens*
- *Moveable tables/chairs*

**What is missing?:**

- *Neighborhood launch party when park is complete*
- *What would lighting look like in the winter when much is covered in snow*
- *Public Works to build innovative crosswalk over Wheeler*
- *Walkway connecting 1745 directly to wheeler in order to get to crosswalk and bussing*
- *More green space.*
- *Add color/shapes for walking path distance*
- *Anchor at ends*
- *Lots of lighting*
- *Trees on north boundary*

**Other Comments:**

- *Like the vision a lot. Good work. Consider a temporary way to show outline of the vision and temporary tables and art*
- *It's a lot of paths. Maybe a little simplification.*
- *I like the "rail" pattern in plaza and extending up /out to plantings. I hope they can be walked on all the way into the plantings.*



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- *Thanks! Great work*
- *Nice plaza location and like the natural planting*
- *Study whether natural grass is practical in such an urban setting*

Thank you all for your participation. I am excited to move forward from here and provide additional illustrations and images for the open house. Look for the doodle poll in your email as I work to nail down a date for the open house. Please feel free to call or email me with anything I may have missed in these notes.

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