



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
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Hamline-Hague Park Play Area – Meeting #1 Notes

1) Introductions

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| a) Bryan Murphy | f) Heather Muller |
| b) Kaitlen Hallett | g) John Boracci |
| c) Suzette Peterson | h) Kristen Sherman |
| d) Jennifer Germain | i) Donovan Nelson |
| e) Jennifer Adam | |

2) Project Introduction/Overview

- a) Replace play area equipment
- b) Other park improvements including walkways, benches, landscaping, and/or signage **as funding allows.**
- c) Construction budget is \$238,000.00

3) Design Process

- a) Analysis and Programming – Meeting #1
- b) Concept Design – Meeting #1
- c) Design Development – Meeting #2
- d) Construction Documents – Meeting #3

4) Analysis and Programming and Concept Design

- a) Goals and Objectives
 - i) **Enhance Appearance/Environment of Park/Play Area**
 - Remove/Repair/Replace dilapidated park features
 - Provide park elements in scale with the park
 - Minimize erosion of slopes
 - Promote retention of existing vegetation
 - Encourage new planting (shrubs, perennials, etc.)
 - Utilize ‘Green’ products and practices
 - Encourage infiltration of storm water
 - ii) **Enhance Park Safety/Security**
 - Utilize durable products
 - Retain sightlines
 - Employ CPTED guidelines in development of park plan
 - Provide accessibility for all park users



iii) Enhance Users Health and Well-being

- Provide activities for all ages
- Provide a balance of active and passive activities

b) Site Inventory/Analysis

- i) Hamline Hague Park has a beautiful setting with large trees which would be worth protecting as an amenity in the new plan.
- ii) There is a wonderful ornamental railing along the north side of the park which was salvaged from the Selby Avenue Bridge which would be great to retain. However, renovation of the railing recommended. Of note, there is more of the railing in storage. If funding and park design allows, maybe additional ornamental railing could be useful.
- iii) Many of the houses in the neighborhood were built in the early years of 1900. Popular design styles of that time are Art Deco and Arts and Crafts represented by the railing on the Hamline Avenue Bridge (art deco) and signage at the community garden on the south side of Ayd Mill Road (Arts and Crafts). Either of these design styles could be utilized in development of park details to strengthen the character of the neighborhood.
- iv) Knolls in the southern part of the park provide interest to the park. However, the shady condition, slope, and foot traffic leads to erosion of the slopes. The walk in the south eastern corner of the park has become covered with eroded soil. Coupled with the fact it parallels a walk just on the other side of the fence, this walk could be removed. Abating erosion of the slopes should be addressed.
- v) The existing walk from the Northwest to southeast corner of the park divides the park into two halves: green, wooded, open space and active, developed space. This relationship should be retained in the new park plan.
- vi) The North easterly entrance to the park faces the neighborhood and could be treated as the main entrance. However, the existing northwest entrance of the park is heavily used. The two northerly entrances should be developed as key park entry points.
- vii) The existing concrete walls with bike racks pose some safety concerns. Alternate uses or removal is recommended.

c) Needs/Wants

i) Needs

- (1) 2 toddler swings
- (2) Equipment for 2-5 year old children which they can actually get on
- (3) Climbing wall
- (4) Swings
- (5) Slide
- (6) Benches
- (7) More trees
- (8) Sand play area
- (9) Surface

ii) Wants

- (1) Spring riders (Turtle)
- (2) Log roller
- (3) 'Dome' monkey bars
- (4) Restrooms
- (5) Drinking fountain
- (6) More railing
- (7) Art (interactive)
- (8) Picnic Table
- (9) Nature based play

d) Concept Review

i) Concept 1 - Irregular

- The walk along the fence in the southeast corner has been removed. However a connection is made from the entrance at Scheuneman and Laurel to the Northwest corner of the park. One large play area fills the space of existing play area. A couple locations are identified for benches. Plus points of this concept include Redundant path is removed, there is an opportunity to stabilize slopes, and larger play area than the existing one. Negative points include a new park trail infringes on the open space and a lack of order to the park.

ii) Concept 2

- The ornamental railing along the north edge of the park provides a backdrop for a symmetrical central play. A secondary play area sits between the central play area and the fence along Scheuneman Ave. Two seating areas could be located along the northern edge of the park. Plus points of this concept include an order to the park and a clearly defined separation of 2-5 and 5-12 year old play areas. Negative points include a lost connection to Scheuneman Avenue

iii) Concept 3

- This concept provides a main entrance oriented toward the northeast (in the direction of the neighborhood) and a central seating area at the entrance. A large central play area is on axis of symmetrically aligned paths to the northwest and southeast corners of the park. Plus points of this concept include a welcoming main entrance oriented toward the neighborhood, a central seating area for people to supervise their children, and separated play areas for 2-5 and 5-12 year old play equipment. Negative points include tight corners in the small play area are hard to fill with play equipment.

iv) Concept 4

- This concept is very similar to Concept three in layout. The difference is a rectilinear order versus the circular order in Concept 3. A large central play area is flanked with two smaller play areas. Plus points of this concept include lots of planting pockets to beautify the park and good accessibility and circulation. Negative points include possible redundant paths and the smallest play area of the four concepts.

ii) Concept Summary

- Concept three is the preferred layout. If the secondary play area is removed, and the two walks are tightened up to the adjacent fences, the central play area could become a little larger. As long as a separation of the 2-5 and 5-12 year old play equipment is made, the large central play area should work well. Instead of providing one large central seating area, it would be nice to have individual benches located in several spots throughout the park. It is requested to include a bench in the open space as well.

- 5) Play Equipment
 - a) Manufactures
 - i) Big Toys
 - (1) Leads industry in recycled content of play equipment
 - (2) Color choices are earthy
 - ii) Gametime
 - (1) Company is a member of the USGBC (United States Green Building Council)
 - (2) High play value
 - (3) Traditional play equipment can interface with Xscape product line
 - iii) Goric
 - (1) Very unique play equipment
 - (2) Very durable products
 - iv) Kompan
 - (1) Strong colors
 - (2) Rounded and friendly shapes
 - v) Little Tikes
 - (1) High play value
 - (2) Traditional appearance
 - vi) Landscape Structures
 - (1) Evos equipment provides continuous play
 - (2) No entry or exit points provides infinite play possibilities
 - (3) All ground level events allow parents to interact with children throughout equipment- 6) Next steps
 - a) I'll be refining the concept in the next couple days. This will be provided to the play equipment manufacturers along with our wish list of preferred equipment. I'll also stress with the play reps an interest in providing play equipment that is 'different'. Something which is unique to Hamline and Hage Park. At the next meeting, these plans and pieces of equipment will be presented and discussed.
- 7) Next meeting – Week of January 5, 2009?