

Cedar Isles CAC Introduction Meeting Part 1

July 13th, 2020 // 6-8pm // Zoom Call

CAC Members in attendance: Adam Braun, Agleska Cohen-Recountre, Nan Dreher, Anna Eleria, Eric Gangl, Laura Kinkead, Alice Lehman, Linda Mack, Drew McGovern, Win Rockwell, Jim Romlin, Aaron Shaffer, Ben Surma, Michaela A West

CAC Members absent: Lilia Theisen

Staff, consultants in attendance: Dan Elias, Alyssa Gilmore, Madeline Hudek, Colleen O'Dell, Emma Pachuta, Maura Rockcastle (TxT)

Public: about 5 community members were in attendance.

INTRODUCTION (6:00-6:20pm)

Welcome introduction, overview of why we are holding two virtual meetings. CAC Chair Win Rockwell, said a few words. Land acknowledgement; honor past, present and future indigenous people. Ground rules and online forum—will have spaces for everyone to speak tonight. Outlined the project site map; anticipate questions about things outside the relevant area, but this map shows the area where the CAC will be recommendations to the Board on.

Topics we've heard already (in person questions, online and virtual engagement)

- Water quality
- access
- amenities and use
- Visitor projections
- Safety and welcome
- Preservation
- Emergency response

Went over CAC charge. Talked about transparency during the process (CAC rules related to the open meeting law)—nothing happening behind closed doors; cannot meet/talk about the business of the CAC.

CAC Question: Can you clarify what you mean by business of the CAC? Not discussing items on the agenda?

Staff answer: gut check there, we want to make sure that CAC members are able to build relationships with one another, okay to connect with folks and get to know them. We want to make sure that any conversation around a possible decision, recommendation, vote isn't a conversation for behind closed doors, have those conversations in public, make sure the public feels they are a part of and privy to those conversations.

CAC INTRODUCTIONS (6:20 – 7:05pm)

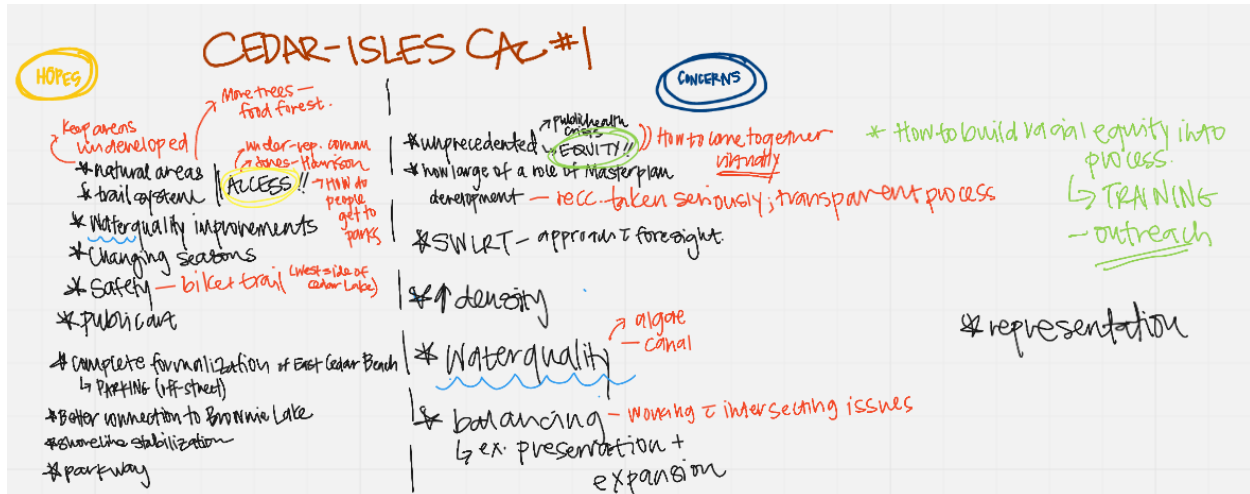
All CAC members given 2 min; feel free to use the chat box to say hello

- Name (preferred pronouns)
- Why did you apply to sit on the CAC (connection with Cedar Isles)? What is your connection with the Cedar-Isles area?
- What are you excited about in the process?

- What questions do you have about the process?

HOPES AND CONCERNS AND ICE BREAKERS (7:05-7:30pm)

Screenshot from the miro board:



OPEN DISCUSSION TIME (7:30-8:00pm)

CAC member: Main things to share as a user of cedar/isles—cedar walk to twice a day, would love to see maintenance of north shore (existing rustic state—unique opportunity to have that close to the water); prairie grass on the north side, unique ecosystem. Keep in an undeveloped state. Connections to Brownie are important.

CAC Question: Part of charge is to understand the history of the area/planning of the areas- what resources will be provided?

Staff answer: Have two consultants focused on historic preservation and cultural landscape, all previous planning documents, state historic preservation office. Compile information, summary report that will serve as part of the basis for design work moving forward in the future.

Part of CAC role is to help us see what gaps are missing, working with folks to pull information, still might be missing some things, have eyes on these pieces and make sure we have all that information. People live in the area, know of resources that we don't.

Community member: Citizens Advisory Committee from late 1970s from the Lake of the Isles (Win and others); separated ped and bike, went to one way traffic around the lake. Confirm Cedar-Isles project team have these documents.

CAC member: Looking at the map, talking about expanding access to chain of lakes, expand access to RCAP and CAPS, tend to be farther away from the lakes. City seeking comments on reconstruction between Hennepin and a few blocks eastward; as we look at this, think about how Franklin can be used as a gateway for the parks.

Staff: E-line or D-line, express bus that will be coming down lake street, bus stop right near isles also. SWLRT was mentioned, but there are other future transit projects that are being developed and implemented. If we can work them into the future of the parks, it will function well.

CAC member: terminal at the west lake LRT station, connecting bus plan outreach effort going on by metro transit; not sure what the timeline is, opportunity for public engagement in how transit could integrate better and interface once it's operational. Coming up within the next 2 years.

CAC member: How will this process work? Is there a set schedule for how milestones will be hit? When will we focus on that structure?

Staff: We do have a schedule that we did set up with the goal of having the plan adopted by the end of 2021. Hope to speak to them in August about realistic timeline and whether we can do meetings virtually. There is an impact to relationship building and comfort level to talk about challenging topics over zoom. Don't want to rush through or push through bc we can't have the conversations in person. Planning on bringing a few different scenarios at the meeting in August, give guidance to how you want to proceed forward with this project.

CAC Question: What is the role of staff, the CAC, the TAC, throughout the master planning process

Staff: CAC process is essential, recommendations are what's brought forward to the board of commissioners. All the public meetings will all feed into the draft document and be reflected in the recommendations. The draft plan is reviewed by the public (feedback), brought before the board for a final vote.

Staff: In terms of staff's role, we will bring information from CAC meetings to the TAC meetings, have folks from other organizations and entities, help us find gaps. Staff are working behind the scene, community engagement, compiling data, provide information that is needed for the CAC to help them make well informed decisions.

Staff: Online engagement options for the public for the moment

Staff: Plans don't just happen and sit on the shelf, doing planning now with funding from NPP20 agreement, trust that the things put forward will come to fruition.

Wrap up

Next meeting is unpacking who has the ability to engage in this process to ensure we create an equitable process. Also aim to answer do we try to do this in person at all, completely virtually, or do we wait?