



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #10

4/27/2022 6:00-8:00pm
Board Room at Mary Merrill MPRB Headquarters

MPRB Staff and Consultants Present: Emma Pachuta (Project Manager), Adam Arvidson, Madeline Hudek; Maura Rockcastle (TENxTEN), Erica Christenson (TENxTEN), Zakcq Lockrem (Asakura Robinson), Pat Conrad (EOR)

CAC Members Present: Aaron Shaffer, Adam Braun, Alice Lehman, Ben Surma, Constance Pepin, Craig Wilson, Drew McGovern, Jim Romlin, Joshua Christensen, Laura Kinkead, Linda Mack, Win Rockwell (CAC Chair), James Reid (Alternate), Will Stensrud (Alternate)

CAC Members Absent: Anna Eleria, Eric Gangl, Lilia Theisen, Michaela West, Nan Dreher

Public: Throughout the evening approximately 12 members of the public joined the meeting

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Emma started the meeting by thanking everyone for joining the tenth Cedar-Isles Master Plan Community Advisory Committee Meeting (CAC #10). Emma asked the CAC to quickly introduce themselves. Emma then reviewed the agenda, guidelines and meeting format. Emma then reviewed the draft project timeline followed by a more detailed CAC meeting timeline outlining meetings from May 2022 through July 2022 (*see slides for details*).

(CAC) What is the timing for the preferred park concept? Concerned with releasing it to the public before the CAC vets it.

- (Project staff) The public and the CAC see the preferred park concept at the same time. Wouldn't be able to show the preferred park concept to the CAC before the public sees it since the CAC is a public committee and meetings are always open to the public.
- (CAC) I don't want to just get the preferred park concept via email, would like the preferred concept to be explained at the kickoff of the public.
- (Project Staff) I'll check with our procedures and see what we can do for this next round.

Emma reviewed then reviewed the agenda topics (*see slides for details*).

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

MPRB project staff introduces a CAC member to give an update on the Water Quality subcommittee work to date.

(CAC): There's been a lot of concern about water quality. Subcommittee has met three times so far. Overview of the three meetings:

1. Kickoff: Was more qualitative where the group met each other and the consultant and brainstormed high-level goals.
2. Content Learning: Meeting was very science based, and discussed watershed contribution, inherent challenges about nutrients and where the lakes themselves are sitting.
3. Goal Setting: Meeting started with the Clean Water Partnership goals but reviewed MPRB Comprehensive Plan goals and confirmed metric targets but also added managing for climate change.

The CAC can influence the goals and strategies that happen within the park boundaries but still need a way to influence goals/strategies up scales. One example of how to work up scale is the creation of a cross-jurisdictional public committee to influence city-wide policies

Following the Water Quality Subcommittee update from one of the CAC subcommittee members, Emma reviewed the scales of the potential goals/strategies: Immediate Scale or Lake Management Plan, Master Plan Scale (that will happen with this process) and Watershed Level Scale. She then read the goals (*see slides for details*) and explained that there are "Themes" for the master plan level goals. She then reads the goals and objectives under each goal. This is followed by doing the same for the high-level watershed goals.

CAC and Public Discussion

(CAC) Clarifying the chloride use on the paths. They don't maintain the trails to remove snow.

- (Public) Don't think they use salt
- (Project staff) We use very little, only in trouble areas

(CAC) Do the goals get at improving defunct practices and elements?

- (CAC) Can the scope of the master plan assert a recommendation to improve those elements outside of the master plan boundary?
- (CAC) We have metrics that the lakes will have to meet and a recommendation for improvements will be more detailed in the respective planning.

(CAC) Invite suggestions about the big picture

(Public) Please look at the SWLRT drainage and its effect – embedded in FEIS. Look at City of Minneapolis Stormwater Management Plan - the 2021 data and Stormwater Management plan that's submitted to MPCA and there are lots of public comments

- (Public) I think that's really important to show something about monitoring the SWLRT corridor.

(Public) Concerned about high water levels and troublesome flooding

(Public) Will the things moving forward be reviewed through the lens for the water quality?

(CAC) There's going to be a Cedar Lake Park Working Group. (*passes information around the room*) It's a new working group to be involved in this process and should be a part of feedback loop.

INITIAL PARK CONCEPTS TOPICS

Following the Water Quality Subcommittee share out and discussion, the presentation transitioned into a discussion about some topics related to the initial park concepts. Zakcq introduced the goal of the discussion, which is to discuss topics that have been raised through ongoing community feedback regarding concerns about some elements that haven't been talked about yet and weren't in the draft initial park concepts. The first discussion topic for the CAC is parking.

Parking and East Cedar Lake Beach

Concerns have been heard from the community about the need for parking for the beach and park use, especially if anything new were to be added. Parking is already an issue in this area. There's also a concern for how to do it and keep it from being a park and ride. Should we consider adding parking near East Cedar Beach?

(CAC chair) Start comment with for or against to tell us where you are first.

CAC asks a community member if this is needed.

- (Public) Not basing my answer on programming. The lightrail will bring people to the space.

(CAC) Don't look at parking here without looking at the system around the lake.

(Public) First I've heard of it. All my neighbors will hate this idea. Difficult to add enough parking to make a difference

(CAC) Are we proposing this?

- (Project staff) No, we are not. Just asking the question if we should.
- (CAC) I don't recommend, but if we do, prioritize ADA. Street parking could be time limited. What would the neighbors think?
 - (Public) Time-limited would be fine

(CAC) I am the outlier, so I think parking issues are going to get worse if we don't look at this. Get pedestrians safely parked on the park side? Could meter it to avoid the park and ride.

(CAC) Would be opposed to impervious surface. I'm hearing support for better parking management not a parking lot.

(Public) More bike racks.

(Project staff) Hearing no real support (except for one CAC member) for new parking but better manage existing parking within the neighborhood.

Parking and Water Quality

Zakcq next moved to asking the CAC for feedback on inclination to prioritize removing parking for water quality treatments like those shown on slides (*see slides for details*).

(CAC) Depends on what removing one space could do – if you get good bang for the buck

(CAC) As long as it not a slippery slope and we're losing accessibility on a scale that is problematic.

(CAC) Devils in the detail. It's an idea, but does it do something?

(CAC) Supportive of removing parking for bioswales. You can get a good bang for your buck.

(CAC) All for it but not affecting Cedar Lake Parkway because there's so little on-street parking there.

- (Project Staff) It would be more effective on Lake of the Isles, but could also be effective in parking lots

(CAC) Could you also go into the boulevards?

(CAC) Supportive of the good practice – seems to get at reasonable solutions.

(Public) It depends on where it goes. If it's the public boulevard who maintains it?

- (Project staff) It depends on where the slope goes

(CAC) Grand south of 38th is a good example

(Public) South of a hill near assisted living would be a good location – it's right on park land. Optimize ability experiences.

(Public) Would it impact trees?

- (Project staff) It might but that would be looked at in the next round.
- (CAC) Make sure that any solutions don't impact trees

(CAC) I support this. One of the goals is to address 100% of the runoff, don't know how we do this without these.

(Project staff) We've heard support to investigate this option, but how we pair mobility solution with water quality solutions even if it results in some loss of parking.

(CAC chair) Public comment time is flexible tonight, so use your time now.

Lake of the Isles Parkway and Franklin Avenue

Zakcq next moves to discuss the northern part of Lake of the Isles near Franklin Avenue. It came up at the last CAC meeting to remove the redundant parkway road segment parallel to Franklin Avenue at the northern tip of Lake of the Isles Parkway. Want to discuss with CAC in case there is interest in pursuing this idea. Pros would be that it connects to Kenwood Park and reduces impervious surfaces. Cons are traffic concerns. Should we propose removing the portion of Lake of the Isles Parkway that runs parallel to Franklin Avenue?

(CAC) Concerned about traffic backup and confusion.

(CAC) Does it help to remove impervious surfaces here?

- (CAC) Could treat all the water from Lowry Hill in Kenwood as better solution.

(CAC) How much of impervious are we thinking?

- (Project staff) About 1600 square feet.

(CAC) In support. Not aware of traffic patterns, but as a runner the intersection at Logan and Franklin is problematic. Thinks the new "T" would help traffic.

(CAC) Also in support. Traffic calming potential here.

- (CAC) I don't think we're talking about traffic calming here. Needs to be talked about anyway. Really need to talk about Kenwood Park as a larger scale option.
 - (CAC) Kenwood is not included in the planning boundary. Do people agree with the recommendation to support stormwater in Kenwood?
 - (Project staff) A wet meadow in the southern part of the park is proposed at Kenwood Park.
 - (CAC) clarifying that also want to consider slope adjacent to the Parkway.

(CAC) Agree with taking out the parkway and concerned about removing programming from Kenwood

(CAC) What about a roundabout?

(CAC) If we pursue this, we need a traffic light.

- (Project staff) Wouldn't need a traffic light.

(CAC) Can you clarify what the master plan for Kenwood Park includes?

- (Project staff) Stormwater enhancements balanced with program approved by CAC and board

(Project staff) Some support for removing the pavement. Also concerns about traffic patterns. Maximize the amount of stormwater management on the north side of the Parkway.

(Public) Concerned with back up

(Public) What's the benefit really to water quality? Very against this because I live on this street.

(Public) Have you done a traffic study?

- (Project staff) No, but we know traffic counts.

VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES DISCUSSION

The draft vision and guiding principles were revised by project staff to reflect feedback to date and are shown in red below the original text in black.

CAC Chair: A CAC member had edits to the project staff revisions to the draft vision and guiding principles. Let's start with the version that includes edits from the CAC member. *(The vision and each guiding principle with the latest edits was read out loud. What was read out loud is shown below.)*

Vision

(Read out loud by CAC chair) Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake, as part of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, contribute to a vital, urban natural ecosystem with unique experiences that protect and sustain people, wildlife, and natural resources, while prioritizing the health of the lakes. ~~wetlands, water bodies and forests. Centering the health of the lakes is foundational to the development of the master plan.~~

(CAC) "Lakes" only is a concern. Takes away the people part of the parks.

(CAC) Protect and sustain....AND "instead of" while prioritizing

(Public) Support the parks for people. Hope we don't leave out human (balance of recreation and ecology)

(Public) Replace sustain with connect. Trying to connect people.

- (Public) Protect and connect and sustain

(Public) Why do we want to eliminate the word "prioritize"

(CAC) Emphasis instead of prioritize

(CAC) Like sustain

(Public) "Always maintain" while maintaining the health of the lake.

CAC member reads revisions and everyone agrees.

Protect

(Read out loud by CAC chair) Protect and enhance existing natural spaces and water bodies while adapting to a changing climate. ~~Adapt to a changing climate by mitigating impacts to infrastructure and expanding natural spaces and habitat.~~ [As written, this last sentence distracts from the Protect guiding principle.]

(Public) Wants some definition of what natural space.

(CAC) These are high level

(CAC) Instead of natural spaces how about "park land" "park spaces"?

(CAC) Does this prevent us from doing a better welcome for people? Will support if it doesn't discourage us from welcoming people

(Public) Concerned that these areas aren't natural, and the existing NE corner of Cedar is altered woodland and scrub.

CAC member reads revisions and everyone agrees.

Respect

(Read out loud by CAC chair) Honor the uniqueness ~~that exists at~~ of each lake by maintaining current uses and valued features, ~~across seasons,~~ while accommodating ~~desired~~ improvements that sustain biodiversity and strengthen visitors' understanding and experience of ~~relationship with~~ the land and lakes.

(Public) Would like to have a specific reference for original park planner's vision – the romantic, picturesque.

- (CAC) I think this "unique features" covers this, "including LOI historic status".
- (Project staff) The document will have the historic chapter that covers all of that.
- (Project staff) Could change it to "contributing"
- (CAC) No doesn't make sense

(CAC) Include "history"

- (CAC) History isn't always great, so careful with how we describe i

(Public) If any of these new issues that were brought up tonight make it into the preferred plan, can the public still comment?

- (Project staff) Yes, preferred concept is for public commentary and then revisions.

CAC member reads revisions and everyone agrees.

Invite

(Read out loud by CAC chair) Welcome diverse users, both people and wildlife, ensuring safe connections to and through the park and creating a sense of arrival and intuitive orientation and education for visitors. ~~and opportunities for formal and informal interaction with the park.~~

(CAC) All wildlife except geese

(CAC) Wants to welcome diverse users first before the wildlife.

- (CAC) Second this
- (CAC) disagree with downgrading wildlife in the list.
- (CAC) question of how we word this. The sentences were switched so people and wildlife were last
- (CAC) Just want to make sure we are welcoming people and bringing people to it is the priority. That's why I'm on the CAC
- (Public) Wildlife, this is why people come here – wildlife needs to be in this.

- (Public) MPRB wants a diversity of users but most of the comments are about people from around the lake. Haven't we heard from diverse users and people with mobility issues.
 - (Public) We're talking about ecosystem. Can't separate humans from plants/ animals
 - (Public) MPRB has done an awesome job of including folks. My favorite part of the process.

CAC member reads revisions and everyone agrees.

Connect

(Read out loud by CAC chair) Create flexible and clear circulation networks for all transportation modes ~~that can adapt over time~~ to clarify and improve connections links between people, wildlife, land, water, and neighboring places and natural resources.

(CAC) Add the word safe after flexible

(Public) Cedar lake is unique. The residential development on the Cedar Lake makes circulation a daunting task

CAC member reads revisions and everyone agrees.

Tell Stories

(Read out loud by CAC chair) Acknowledge and respond to ~~the different~~ layers of history related to the land and lakes and ~~share~~ value authentic stories through education, interpretation, ~~design~~, and stewardship ~~of the lakes~~.

(CAC) What does acknowledge and respond – what does respond mean?

- (Project staff) More of an action word
- (CAC) Does interpretation cover it?
- (Project staff) Respond could be offering free parking/permit to Indigenous community members, use that's not interpretation.

CAC member reads the unchanged language.

Celebrate

(Read out loud by CAC chair) Celebrate the many ways people ~~use and will use~~ experience the parks and interact with the natural environment. ~~support ways for people to come, stay, and foster a love for the outdoors through a gradient of uses and spaces.?~~ [People already love the outdoors.]

(Public) Don't know what this means.

(CAC) Do we need this one?

- (Project staff) Was for acknowledging different types of park spaces.
- (CAC) We don't celebrate every way that people use

(Public) What does this mean?

(CAC) Invite, Tell Stories could take this on.

(Project staff) This was a response to support for programming

(Public) Could programming be captured in another principle?

(Public) Bring this support of programming to the Invite guiding principle.

(CAC) Invite the CAC member who made revisions to work with project team to write directly.

(Public) Want programming to be explicit. Important bridge to connecting with people

(CAC) Like the new and equitable opportunities. Create new and equitable ways and add that somewhere. Plus add programming.

(CAC) Surprised we don't have equity

(CAC) Could we just name it Promote Equity

(CAC) Also likes the word Engage

(CAC) "opportunities for use and gathering" and then add engage

(CAC) Invites CAC to be in working group as a sounding board for drafting revisions.

- *Aaron, Josh, Laura, Alice volunteered to participate*

CAC chair) Liked the interaction (*with the public*)

- (Public) Support this

(CAC) Appreciate Emma for initiating the in-person meeting

(CAC) Shares letter from public

(CAC) Park lane project – doesn't look like it will trigger stormwater so you should look into it.

(CAC) In the past when the preferred plan goes out to the public before the CAC sees it, CAC members got a lot of comments that they couldn't answer.

(Public) Programming at East Cedar Beach. Wants to send out a calendar event. Programming includes: 612 Sauna, yoga, Thai Chi, edible plants, bike enhancements and safety checks.

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Due to the in-person format, meeting content, and facilitation style, the community members were invited to comment in a more integrated fashion with the CAC members, so there was no distinct public comment time.