

Perkins&Will

Meeting Minutes

Date: 3.18.2025 Authored by: Ali, Siciid

Meeting Details

Meeting Date:	3.13.2025	Project Name:	North Mississippi Regional Park Plan
Meeting Time:	6:00 PM	Project Number:	[Insert project number]
Meeting Location:	Kroening Nature Center	Attendees:	[Insert names]
Next Meeting Date:	TBD	Cc:	[Insert additional names]

Introductions

- **Johnathon Palmer** – This park is an incredible amenity we are lucky to have. We have an opportunity to open it up to more communities through design and access. Currently, there are not many features that draw people in, but parks and green spaces are amazing.
- **Latoya Grier** – I am so excited about parks and love being outside. All kids should have the opportunity to experience the parks.
- **Marlena Okechukwu** – I live in Lyn Bohanon and am always visiting this park. I am also connected to the neighborhood association and want to ensure that the community knows about this hidden gem.
- **Marco Cruz Blanco** – I am a McKinley resident and frequent this park three times a week. I understand historically how our parks have worked and for whom. If we are serious about land acknowledgment, we need to rethink the purpose of our parks and reimagine our relationship with the land, especially as we are in a vulnerable area facing gentrification. This park should be by and for the community.
- **Katie Fitzpatrick** – I primarily bike through this park and enjoy seeing the birds.
- **Devin Brown** – I live in Folwell. Connecting to nature is important for mental health. We need to encourage the community to engage with the grass and soil, learn about connections to the earth, and understand the climate crisis. I work for the Mississippi Parks Connection and believe we need to bring more residents to the park.
- **Alyson K Quinn** – I believe a connection with nature is essential, especially for young children. I run a nature-based preschool, and it is important to consider accessibility and representation in the park. How do we ensure that this space, situated between a highway and the river, is safe for children? We should encourage greater interaction across generations.

Please note: The foregoing constitutes our understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Other participants are requested to review these items and advise the originator in writing of any errors or omissions.

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- **Emilie Peck (Alternate)** – Nature is healing and should be accessible to people of all ability levels.
- **Dick Carlson** – I grew up on this site, in the housing project, and have a deep interest in the history of the area.
- **Jessica M Miller** – I work in insect outreach. Accessibility is important, especially for aging in place. Stewardship of the land is crucial for community building.
- **Louis Raymond** – I serve on the board of the North Loop neighborhood and am involved in two parks in the area. I consider myself an original tree hugger. Nature is restorative and fosters connection. There are so many interesting aspects of this park, and these connections matter.
- **Madeline Vang** – I work in the nature center and am excited to be part of this project.
- **Nancy Abts (Alternate)** – I frequently drive past this park. I am a city planner in Fridley, and I believe parks serve as a "third place" where people can connect with others.
- **Annika Johnson** – I am passionate about transit accessibility and general accessibility, whether digital or physical.
- **Adrienne Bernard** – I live in the Victory neighborhood and come to this park to bicycle. It is not a well-known park, but it should be.
- **Susan Breedlove** – I have lived in North Minneapolis since 1969 and am the founder of NorthPoint Clinic.

General Comments

- How was the consulting firm selected, and what was the selection process? What made the selected team the strongest candidate?
- Is the paddle share free? Are there free passes available for BIPOC residents?
- How were the roles and responsibilities defined? What might be missing? Can CAC members amend or add to the roles?
 - The roles are adapted from previous projects and approved by the Board of Commissioners. If the CAC wants to update them, we would need to bring amendments to the board.
- Members should get a feel for their role before deciding if something is missing. The roles are designed for the community. Engage with neighbors and community groups, and if something is not included, we can add roles as necessary. This process is meant to be cooperative and inclusive.
- How long will this process take?
- The entire group is invited to define what is missing in the CAC rules. We need diverse perspectives and interests. How do we ask the hard questions and create a space for healthy, robust conversations?
- The roles and responsibilities have worked in the past, but for whom? We are all here in good faith, but these guidelines were set forth by an organization with a controversial history. We are not here because this process is easy.
 - Before criticizing the framework, engage with it. Speaking from experience, past CACs have been historically negative for people of color. We are not changing the park board itself, but we can discuss these issues. My advice is to understand the process, identify what is wrong or missing, and recognize that all processes need to evolve to better serve current and future generations.
- Thank you to both of you. Instead of simply "stepping up and stepping back," consider "taking space and making space." Thinking about ableism should be part of this discussion.

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- **Meetings** – A Doodle poll would be useful for scheduling. We should encourage hybrid meetings to accommodate those who cannot attend in person. Hybrid meetings are essential.

Questions on MPRB 101

- A link to the presentation will be provided.
- Can we have a printout of the slides at the beginning of the meeting?
- Can we use a microphone? The HVAC system is loud.
- What is the relationship with Three Rivers Park District? They partner with MPRB to implement the regional park plan.
- Does Three Rivers levy taxes on properties? Three Rivers does not levy taxes in Minneapolis but serves the suburbs.
- Are there any national funds available for this park? MPRB does not receive significant federal funding. There is no standard federal funding stream for MPRB. However, this is a partnership park—the only one in the national park system—aimed at maintaining the health and beauty of the Mississippi River. MPRB collaborates with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) for joint programming.
- Which body is responsible for the welfare of the flyway and Indigenous people, animals, and plants along it? MPRB stewards the land and consistently considers Indigenous stewardship and how people interact with the land. This is why we are creating a 30-year plan.
- MPRB is currently undergoing an Indigenous reconciliation and action planning process. A Native Parks Advisory Council has been established to guide the park board in prioritizing key initiatives.
- Can you address the historical inequalities of the past? Where are we now, and how are you addressing them? There is still much work to be done. A deep and transparent review of MPRB's history has revealed significant inequities, particularly in park development and acquisition. North Minneapolis has fewer acres of parkland than other parts of the city and less water access throughout the system. The Grand Rounds remains incomplete in Northeast/North Minneapolis. We are working to address these disparities in acreage and water access.
- Do demographic changes in the region impact park planning? North Minneapolis has changed over time—from a historically Jewish community to a predominantly Black community. Is there data that links demographics to community needs?
- Ultimately, MPRB makes the final decisions. These are elected officials responsible for ensuring equity and programming in the parks.