

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Six

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

North Services Area Master Plan

03/29/2018 6:00 – 8:00pm
Webber Recreation Center

CAC members present: Jonathan Palmer (chair), Bella Anderson, Brett Buckner, Catherine Fleming, Erika Dani, Georgianna Yantos, Kesha Walker, Kevin Thompson, Mike Brennan, Olivia St. Martin, Philip Kelly, Tim Davis

Approximately nine members of the general public attended the meeting

Staff, consultants, and speakers present:

Adam Arvidson (MPRB), Dan Elias (MPRB), Siciid Ali (MPRB), Terry Minarik (Consultant), Brad Aldrich (Consultant), Emily Neuenschwander (Consultant), Casey Cox (Consultant)

1. Welcome/ Call to Order

The sixth Community Advisory Committee (referred to in this document as CAC #6) was called to order on 6:10pm by Jonathan Palmer, the Community Advisory Committee Chair.

2. Project Schedule / Next Steps

Adam Arvidson, Director of Strategic Planning and project manager, thanked everyone for their attendance. He relayed the agenda for the evening's presentation and meeting and went over the project schedule.

3. Guiding Principles

Adam presented the current draft of Guiding Principles that will be the framework for all North Parks.

DISCUSSION – GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Think about materiality, that it safe for seniors if they fall. (Accessible/ paths/ benches)
- Work to connect to the Upper Harbor Terminal Development project and Halls Island.
- Think about the Green Zone (City designated) that has been established to be environmentally sensitive.
- Recent talk about allowing ATV's in the parks – seriously consider whether we want this.
- Increase transit options to increase accessibility.
- North Commons sustainability – how we can increase sustainable activity
- Technology use—share info, communicate park availability, open rooms, etc.
- Want kids to be able to work together at the levels they wish to be at
- Partnerships important—collaboration, programming to create community



- Cool to have movable seating for different group sizes.
- Things that incorporate various sizes.
- Flexibility
- High quality parks – racial equity
- Inclusion incorporated to make sure there is balance (racial equity)
- Is there a way to think about the different amenities? Are there magnet type amenities to attract inclusion?
- In the School Board meeting we talked about how with-in 5 blocks there are 20 schools. This has resulted in violence. Parks should be used for kids to get to know each other.
- Food access: fruit trees, urban agriculture program.
- Focus on needs of the people. Different people play different games – amenities to reflect population.
- Are we making a connection between Harrison and Bethune?
- There has also been an increased interest in lacrosse.
- Food truck spots, modular kitchens, or pop up restaurants.
- Be intentional about building the community – give a reason for people to stay. Make flexible spaces for different uses.
- Sun/ Shade protection
- There is no wedding space
- Maintenance is an on-going commitment. Have things that are possible to maintain
- Comment on parking...like at Bryn Meadows, the parking lots are small, so people are parking way down the street – kids are running from the cars to the parks – think about how to safely get to the park (traffic restrictions, neighborhood impact)
- Are we programming? Pride –events like an art contest for kids, etc. Intentional about the multi-cultural community; Have a sense of who is in this neighborhood when you walk in. (culturally appropriate, awareness/ promotion)
- Like art that reflects the community.
- Reduce environmental impact. (resilient conservation), and have a positive impact in the parks not just reduce our impact.
- the park could produce its own energy, solar panels on the roof, etc.
- Also give a safe place in case of tornadoes or other natural disasters.
- Increase activity in winter. We need to be able to do things inside for year long activity.
- Creekview hill and rink?
- indoor and outdoor.
- Is there anything about technology? Activities for the youth...a movie night (projected on) a building.
- Don't want too much cross over with libraries they have computers, etc.

4. Design Questions

Adam introduced four key design questions with which the design team is wrestling. These became four separate discussions amongst the CAC and general public.

DISCUSSION – AQUATICS

- Wading pools are great for families and young kids but aren't great for swimming.
- Other than Webber there aren't many options for adults to go lap swimming.
- I have two young boys – they love variety.
- Are wading pools guarded? Response: No. There's no way we could find enough staff.
- I work for the City of Golden Valley...kids love the splash pads! Very safe for everyone!
- Equity to area/ all ages
- When I was a kid I always wanted to run through a sprinkler –good way to cool off (splash pad)
- Need variety. There are few actual pool options.
- year-round swimming indoor or ice rink in winter
- Very few natural water access – to creeks, etc.
- Teaching with water – water safety.
- Pools – highlight to a kid's summer.

Adam moved the discussion on to the subject of universal playgrounds. He explained that they are accessible to people with disabilities, while also supporting the activities of people without disabilities. He then asked the question, "Where would this type of facility best serve Northside residents?"

DISCUSSION – UNIVERSAL PLAY

- North Commons.
- What is the cost difference to a traditional play area? Response: 3-4 times more.
- Webber Park –park now is very small, could accommodate bigger one.
- Equity; something universal is essential. (all agree)
- Creekview!

Big moves were introduced by Adam as areas in the North Service area to see the most changes. After analyzing community comments and needs, he identified these parks as North Commons, receiving a multi-generational community center, sports dome, and updated waterpark; Byrn Mawr, with an indoor/outdoor conservatory building; Cleveland, expanding the park to have Penn Avenue frontage; and Creekview; becoming a major trail point with a café/ coffee shop at the Rec Center. Adam asked the questions: Are facilities of this magnitude worth having and paying for in North? Are all four big moves warranted, or should we be more targeted? Are there pieces of these that are the role of other agencies, like city redevelopment?

DISCUSSION – “Big Moves”

- Creekview –enough people to support this?
- (Creekview) Need to have beer (bike trips planned around where to get beer.
- Big moves say racial equity
- Solve issues with other government entities (multi-agency) (getting rid of liquor store, etc.)
- Creekview –opportunity zone, mayor's initiative. North commons indoor farmers market. North Commons is in the middle of North and both parks are close to funding opportunities.
- If we can do it all, we should.
- Implement policies and phases to make it happen.
- Folwell over Cleveland based on size and geography?



- This will be a big deal for the community! Signals change.
- We need these. Need to offer something to new comers!
- These could be revenue generating? Response: Maybe. Will be tax supported probably.
- Go to investors for a soft investment?

5. Service Gaps

Adam introduced Service Gaps to the conversation as two areas, one of which lacks a playground, the other lacking a park. He then explained the possibility of taking over empty lots and asked the group for their thoughts/ opinions.

- Yes (to adding playgrounds on empty lots near Russell Triangle) (give up triangle if needed)
- Expand pond area North of Cemetery? Along Victory – mobile park?
- Could you make a few blocks of a street or alley into a park?

6. Public Comment

- Youth Hockey and Figure Skating Planning. Maybe 2.5 rinks around here. Skating and Hockey together, need the boards to play hockey, want the open skate to do while other people are playing the game. Missing this in the Harrison Neighborhood.
- (Phy. Ed. Teacher) Creekview is on a trail. It needs more. We need to work with North Schools. Phy Ed teachers to take kids out to parks and it would become their park because they would know what was there. Racial equity...not just basketball here.
- Bassett Creek add a bathroom (using the creek right now). Move the playground away from the residence.
- Think about maintenance. Hill on basset. Ice from a rink will ruin lacrosse field.
- Bassett playground is getting too close to my yard. I like where is it now. Service road. Illustrate
- Boulder walls in the hillside for seating, etc.
- I would not want a dome –takes away from the natural.
- Diving boards are disappearing.
- Bassett Creek used to feel small-town. I question drawing a bunch of people. Light for hockey would be very bright in my home.
- I would rather see money go to very good rinks than just a bunch of mediocre ones.

Adjourn