



MPRB South Service Area Master Plan

Meeting Minutes

Community Advisory Committee Meeting #11

Thursday, May 5, 2016

6:00pm-8:00pm – Central Gym Community Room

6:07 pm, Meeting Start Time

1. Project Update and Recap (Adam Arvidson, MPRB)

Welcome and Introductions, room logistics

Recap of CAC 10 meeting and group discussion of racial equity, focus on remaining parks to discuss for this meeting

Questions posed by the CAC members and answered by MPRB/Parks and Power are available

Overview of what the CAC will be doing tonight per the agenda

Recap of where we are in the project timeline; what a park plan does and doesn't, what the objective of this project is, what tools we are using for park decision making (i.e. lenses and actions)

6:15 pm

2. Discussion of Preferred Park Concepts (led by Amy Arcand, with Adam Arvidson)

NOTE: discussion of each park, in the following order, is limited to a maximum of 20 minutes. The CAC may opt to revisit parks as necessary after all four have been discussed.

Powderhorn Park: Overview of the concept design and community engagement

Public comment: handout to CAC members. Emphasize that the Park serves a large number of people, including youth. All four playgrounds should be in the park due to serving so many children in this area. Confusion about what a nature playground is and what this experience is for people. Think of moving the video recording facility somewhere else and converting back to a warming room. Don't need a community garden here, would rather have park space. Opposition to a wood burning community oven due to air quality concerns and the effect on public health, especially near a playground. Concern about picnic shelters being rentable by permit to due economic inequities in the neighborhood.

Public comment: this park should not have artificial nature play areas; not comfortable with fields on both the south and east side, this changes the experience for people living on the edges. Opposed to artificial fields in the park.

Public comment: New field in NW corner should not be a developed field area and should be a low key area for pick-up games. Fields on upper plateau are opposed by neighbors across the street; don't want formal fields in this area because of the activity in this area not positive for the nearby neighbors. Clarification of the concept design for the patio area. Loss of the warming house inside the building is unfortunate; tacky to have the trailer there in the winter.

Public comment: Soccer in this park is the most popular activity in this area; the surface is unsafe and condition of fields is terrible. Artificial turf surface should be pushed to be used here in a health and safe manner; it is short sighted to say no artificial turf when the field condition is so



bad – materials can change over time. People who live on the edge should have no more say than people who use the park and have to travel there because they can't afford to own prime real estate on the park's edge.

Public comment: PPNA is asking that the CAC not consider putting Powderhorn in the mix because they want all these perspectives considered in more depth and to have more time.

CAC comment: Go back to the Lenses, as the CAC has talked about the underlying assumptions of using non-toxic materials, so this point will be recommended to the Board in the overall CAC recommendations. The problem is that people aren't following what has already been decided as we have considered these perspectives.

CAC member, Motion to place this park concept design back to the community for more input and revisions. Add more community engagement and include in plan without CAC review.

Motion second

CAC Vote: Unanimous. Motion passes.

6:37 pm

Todd Park: Overview of the concept design, alternate design with 4 diamonds, and community engagement

Public comment: Have 600 signatures on a Baseball petition, this petition favors that all four diamonds stay in the park and has seen soccer played at the same time as baseball games.

Public comment: PIRC and MYBA member, lives near Todd and familiar with the programs in the park. Todd has different base lengths and this makes them more appropriate for older youth; supports the alternate concept. Make sure there is high quality turf by adding irrigation to this park.

Public comment: PIRC board member, all fields are used most nights of the week; keep all the fields as shown in the alternate concept.

Public comment: No one in my neighborhood is aware this process is going on; her neighbors aren't aware that this is going on and she is in shock. Concerned that her neighbors haven't been informed of this process.

CAC comment: Months of outreach and events in the park, plus a representative for your neighborhood has been here attending meetings representing your neighborhood. Have attended multiple neighborhood association meetings to update them on the project.

CAC member, Motion: Motion to approve and move forward the alternate concept with Field #1 having a 90 foot base path for the park.

Motion Second

CAC Vote: Unanimous. Motion passes



6:52 pm

1. Currie Park: Overview of the revised concept design per community requests (Adam Arvidson)

Public comment: Community access to the dome – is it a rental? How is this going to be used and scheduled for the community to use?

CAC comment: Second this issue and think it's important.

CAC comment: This issue is part of our recommendations in the Lenses and Actions; this recommendation could be made stronger

CAC comment: rental rates and ability to pay for the community are important

CAC comment: authentic community engagement and how do you measure it; online survey results and what are the criteria for this work or the indicators of success

CAC comment: access to this facility and sharing it with the community; works out of Brian Coyle now and reservations made on this field made a priority for community use

CAC comment: We are planning for 20 years so how do our decisions impact the community in the long term? We can't debate the programming, but we can move ahead in approving the design proposal to put the projects in the pipeline for capital improvement.

CAC comment: programming and community access is an overall issue, and integral to this design process

CAC comment: cover one of the community gathering spaces, and make sure there is a bathroom for public use.

CAC member, Motion: Move this revised concept forward with addition of a covered shelter at one of the community gathering areas.

Motion Second

CAC Vote: Unanimous. Motion passes.

7:06 pm

2. Diamond Lake Park: Overview of the preferred and alternate concept design per community requests (Adam Arvidson)

CAC comment: Recommends the preferred concept due to boardwalk expense and environmental damage due to the boardwalk. No longer in favor of the alternate concept but would like access to the lake enhanced with environmental principles.

CAC comment: In favor of the alternate concept because of increased access; would like to know from staff what the environmental impact and costs of the boardwalk are – Staff response: we can't be specific about the impact without analysis, and costs of the boardwalk will be affected by the grade change and the amount of dry land v. lake area.

Public comment: Master's thesis on this area; intentions for this area was not to have private residences around this lake and should have had park space around the lake as originally envisioned. Favors putting a Boardwalk around the full lake, and discouraged by the privatization.



CAC comment: worried by the costs of the full Boardwalk.

CAC comment: Wants to phase the access to the Lake; need a safe loading zone for Boat Launch; favors Boardwalk in the red line zone as drawn on the alternate concept.

Public comment: Resident that wants CAC to know that MPCA has classified this as a wetland; its current depth and the fact it is a wildlife resource. Friends of Diamond Lake has no position and wants the CAC to understand their mission and neutrality in this issue.

Favors the red line trail, and the blue line trail presents real issues with security and safety due to lack of lighting and consistent patrol. This should be balanced with the wildlife needs.

CAC comment: like a middle ground idea; develop the canoe area for programming needs

CAC comment: no lake loop due to wildlife impact; strongly opposed

Public comment: comment on water quality issues and need to clean the water

CAC member, Motion: Motion to approve the alternate with the red and brown lines, but not the blue line section with an environmental management plan to be completed

Motion Second

Discussion on phasing and CAC preferences on the trail/boardwalk lengths and access.

CAC Vote: Four yes, eight opposed. Motion fails.

CAC member, Motion: Motion to approve the preferred concept with the prioritization of a lake management plan.

Motion second

CAC Vote: Seven yes, five opposed. Motion passes.

7:35 pm

General Discussion and the Way Forward (introduction by Adam Arvidson, topics determined by the CAC)

Adam raised several possibilities for moving forward (slide).

- Recommend the consensus parks and the Lenses and Actions
- Create a Racial Equity Subcommittee that would work during the public comment period on additional engagement
- Develop a neighborhood-centric engagement plan for non-consensus parks (Powderhorn), and include the plan in the final document without CAC recommendation
- Further CAC discussion (schedule meeting #12)
- No recommendation by the CAC, SSAMP moves forward without.

Parks and Power members provided to the CAC a list of additional recommendations.

CAC discussion on proposed options:



- 1) These options are not mutually exclusive. Like to see parks that are in the general consensus move forward to public comment period, and to put Powderhorn in a neighborhood-centric engagement process.
- 2) Likes the option of creating a Racial Equity subcommittee; have other recommendations for the CAC based on a handout given to the CAC a few minutes ago.
- 3) Chair: The recommendations handed out to the CAC tonight by outside parties are out of scope of the CAC charge, so what would the CAC like in the recommendations for the parks designs? Adam: There could be a set of recommendations that are done independently and given directly to the Board of Commissioners, as additional to the scope of the SSAMP recommendations.
- 4) Staff and Commissioner Training should be done explicitly, but not exclusively in regard to racial equity. Do not favor having a racial equity subcommittee during the comment period, but would like to make this statement to be larger.

CAC member, Motion: Provide to the Board of Commissioners and include in the document the additional recommendations provided by Parks and Power, understanding they not directly affect the SSAMP itself.

Motion second

CAC Vote: Unanimous, Motion passes.

CAC Member, Motion: Move to modify the Lenses and actions for weight toward reservations favoring community access to facilities and to leverage lessons learned from other CACs.

Motion Second

CAC Vote: Unanimous, Motion passes.

Motion: Pull the Pearl neighborhood park plan out of the general consensus toward recommendation.

Motion Second: None. Motion fails for lack of second.

CAC member, Motion: Move to recommend the consensus park concepts to the Board for public comment period and develop a neighborhood-centric plan for Powderhorn Park without further recommendation from the CAC for this park. Move to put forward the Lenses and Actions as modified in earlier discussion.

Motion Second

CAC Vote: 9 yes, 4 opposed, Motion passes.



3. Next Steps (Adam Arvidson, MPRB)

Overall document itself will take time to produce; overview of timeline and process to do this. The opening of the comment period is approved by the Board in a resolution; this is a 45 day public comment period with print copies and a survey in all rec centers and media outlets. Would like the CAC's help in encouraging and publicizing public comment during this period.

Generally, the work of the CAC is complete according to the scope of their charge; future communication through email, expression of thanks, and wish for future gathering to celebrate their work together.