Regional Trails Working Group: East of the River Master Plan

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
North Services Area Master Plan

3/19/2018 12pm– 1:00pm
Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Offices

CAC members present: Del Hampton, Kjersti Monson, Ted Tucker, Lisa Hondros, Chris Linde

Approximately 15 members of the general public attended the meeting.

Staff, consultants, and speakers present:
Carrie Christensen (MPRB), Adam Arvidson (MPRB), Mo Convery (Perkins + Will Consultant)

1. **Opening:12:05 pm**
   Carrie Christensen opened the meeting with an introduction to the East of the River Master Plan and describing the recent formation of the regional trails working. The group began by reviewing previously drafted plans - including the Grand Round Missing Link - during a previous East of the River Master Plan community advisory committee meeting and there was great interest in diving into this area of the project in greater detail. Carrie described that there have plans adopted by MPRB in the past that have not been adopted by Met Council.

2. **Introductions and Experience Share Out: 12:10 pm**
   Meeting attendees were asked to introduce themselves, share what had interested them in this meeting, their knowledge of previous bike trail planning processes, and any specific interests or requests they have a new trail plan. The following are items that the community members addressed in their introductions:

   - The East Bank trail has been a huge success and would be nice to go further along the river
   - Granary Road needs formalization
   - Think of other uses for the trails – including running
   - Need for public drinking fountains
   - Current trails are missing crucial connections including
   - where 18th Ave meets railroad bridge
   - 18th Ave and Johnson
   - Johnson and Stinson
   - Marshall Terrace gap
   - Need for tunnels
   - Recommendation to take a holistic systems approach
     - Think of the connections to public transit
     - Engaging with the public works committee
     - Connections to the regional park system
     - Engagement with Hennepin County
   - Think of a new name for the “missing link”
   - Interest in conserving Stinson Blvd as is

- The previous Grand Rounds Missing Link Plan would take out owner occupied homes. This was very contentious with the community.
- Need for integrated storm water infrastructure
- Connections to Prospect Park
- Raingardens
- Creation of natural spaces
- Importance of natural spaces
- How to integrate in Stone Arch Bridge
- Development should respond to the need for green space
- Integration into the Towerside innovation district- develop partnerships
- How to connect with non-park properties
- Connections and opportunities for local businesses
- Other existing green spaces
- Other areas within the public realm
- Review how park dedication fees work
- Are there ways to spread the funds equally?
- Identify areas to invest money
- The river first – think about neighborhood and green connections
- Vertical greenery
- Urban agriculture
- Review the process to get funding
- Interest in Industrial Blvd segment
- Connect to Ridgeway trail
- Improve the safety on Stinson Blvd
- Activate the golf course as a potential trailhead
- How do we cross 280?
- Balance with other traffic
- Think about the range of bicyclist and different needs (from commuters to kids)
- The new Towerside Park is a great opportunity to be innovative and transformative
- There are currently pieces of the plan that are underway – Ridgeway Pkwy crossing at 35W
- Other projects in the city are changing areas that would also be effected by new regional bike trails. The Audubon-Stinson enhancements have increased Stinson traffic levels
- Reach out to WSB for inclusion in the project
- Connect neighborhood parks to river tails
- Having an approved plan needs to happen to integrate into other future projects. The trail under 35W was able to happen because there was a plan in place when the bridge needed to be rebuilt.
- Can Stinson's bike boulevard be a bike route?
- Stinson and 88th is a dangerous intersection but could be a great public space (currently private)
- Left turns for Stinson cross median and is dangerous
- What if the Towerside parks were more trails?
- How do we create systems that keep our destinations/pit stop in mind? i.e. coffee shops

3. **Closing Remarks : 1:00**
    - **A.** Attendees were thanks for their attendance and asked if there was interest in have a second working group meeting. After some discussion, there was interest in having a second meeting to talk in greater detail of routes and areas of special need/interest. Carrie said that a time would be set for an evening in April.
    - **B.** Other next steps: The East of the River community advisory committee is gearing up for design week to be held April 30th- May 4th. Carrie called for all interested parties to attend. There is a CAC meeting on April 30th from 6-8 pm at Luxton Rec Center that is open to the public and a review of the park design drafts on Thursday, May 3rd from 4-7 pm at MPRB HQ.

4. **Adjourn 1:10 pm**

Handouts: none