COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN
Project Title: 2015 Bryant Square Park Improvements

MPRB Division: Planning
Project Manager: Deborah Bartels

As required by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Code of Ordinances, every construction or redevelopment project undertaken within the MPRB Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is to have a community engagement plan. The plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process through the multiple phases of planning and project development. The plan may be modified as circumstance warrants during project duration. Substantial modifications are to be communicated to stakeholders and the MPRB Board of Commissioners.

Project Description
Bryant Square Park is located at 3101 Bryant Ave. S within the CARAG neighborhood of Minneapolis and within Park District 6 (Commissioner Brad Bourn). Almost $1 million in the 2013-2015 Capital Improvement Project budget is designated for improvements to the playground, wading pool and building.

The playground equipment will be replaced within the existing two containers. The routes to the containers are accessible (compliant with the American with Disabilities Act), although there are a few heaved concrete panels which need replacement. New ramps into the containers and to the equipment will be provided. New engineered wood fiber surfacing will replace sand as the resilient surfacing in the containers with poured in place surfacing under swings, slide exits and on access ramps within any safety zones. If community engagement is completed in a timely manner, construction would occur in the fall of 2016.

According to staff, the wading pool and all related systems need replacing. A new mechanical building may be needed. The pool itself will have a zero depth entry to meet accessibility standards. Currently the only play feature within the pool is a concrete seal; the water spout out of its mouth has not functioned for several years. The fencing around the pool does not meet code and there are no shade structures. Since construction documents are not likely to be completed before summer, the wading pool project would be best bid in late 2016 or early 2017 with spring 2017 construction.

The building improvements are fairly scripted: a new roof, removal of asbestos-containing flooring and refinishing of existing concrete surface beneath, replacement of furnaces and addition of air conditioning. Accessibility issues will be addressed to the extent and budget possible. It is hoped that these improvements can be made over the summer of 2016 (the Rec Plus program will be relocated); the building will be closed for a month while the flooring is replaced.
### Project Funding Source(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital Sources</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Expiration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 Capital Levy – Bldg Improvements</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013 Net Debt Bonds – Bldg Improvements</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Net Debt Bonds – Wading Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Capital Levy - Playground</td>
<td>$270,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARAG contributions</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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### Engagement Recommendation

**Level of Engagement: Consult.** Some of the improvements require a consult level of community engagement: the amenities for the wading pool (spray features, shade structures, benches) and new playground equipment. An inform level of engagement is required for the mechanical expenditures for the pool as well as building improvements (new roof, asbestos abatement in flooring, flooring surfacing, HVAC and ADA modifications) because they address code, hazardous material abatement, accessibility, safety standards, and facility functioning.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Inform</th>
<th>Consult</th>
<th>Collaborate</th>
<th>Partner</th>
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<td><strong>Engagement Goal:</strong> To provide stakeholders with factual, balanced, and timely information to help them understand the project.</td>
<td>To obtain stakeholder feedback on project analysis, alternatives, or decisions.</td>
<td>To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that perspectives are consistently understood, considered, and reflected in project decisions.</td>
<td>To partner with stakeholders in each aspect of decision making in order to develop and implement collaborative project solutions.</td>
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This level of engagement is being reviewed by staff knowledgeable of the surrounding community including Service Area staff and District 6 Commissioner Brad Bourn.

MPRB planning staff has contacted the neighborhood organizations representing the two nearest neighborhoods: CARAG and Lyndale Neighborhood Association. CARAG has agreed to help with outreach to the community.

A [non-appointed](#) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is recommended, based on the MPRB’s Community Engagement Policy, because the project will not result in a change of use for the park and because the wading pool and the new play equipment will be generally installed in the existing locations. Park Board staff recognizes the need to engage the community during the planning process and believes that input from community engagement meetings will help shape and define the proposed improvements. Park Board staff and their team of consultants will work with stakeholder groups during the schematic design process in an effort to develop a successful plan to address pool and playground upgrades, and perhaps a new mechanical building.

The non-appointed CAC will be formed by meeting attendees. MPRB Planning staff will reach out to the following groups to form the non-appointed CAC.

- CARAG
- Rec Plus parents and children
- Whittier International Elementary School, Lyndale Elementary, Kenwood Elementary
- Neighbors within a three block radius of the park
- Other groups identified by the Community Outreach Department at MPRB

**Anticipated Project Outcomes:**

The project will improve Bryant Square Park by upgrading the aging play equipment and wading pool to meet current codes and accessibility and safety standards. The building repairs will increase its life expectancy and functionality and make its maintenance more efficient. The added air conditioning will improve programming opportunities by making the building more comfortable in summer months.
This project is supported by the 2007 Comprehensive Plan’s Vision Theme 3: “Dynamic Parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs” with the following goal: “Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility, and beauty.”

**Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities**

All stakeholders are expected to work collaboratively to create and refine design concepts and provide input toward final project recommendations for approval by the Board of Commissioners. Participants are expected to engage in the process in a manner that promotes respectful civil discourse and enhances mutual understanding of all stakeholder viewpoints. Any requests for public or project information should be directed to the project manager.

**Identification of Project Stakeholders**

*Stakeholders (developed through conversations with staff and neighborhood groups)*

- CARAG residents
- Rec Plus children and parents
- Hispanic and East African children and their parents/caregivers

**Project Advisory Committee**

- Staff will convene a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of MPRB staff, including representatives from maintenance, community outreach, park police, forestry, and recreation departments. The PAC will meet regularly throughout the project.
- MPRB Planning staff has already met twice with recreation, trades, and maintenance staff to define a scope of work for the project.

**Outreach and Research Methods**

1. **Appearances at Events and through Existing Organizations**

   MPRB staff will work to reach as many people as possible, especially frequent playground users, by attending existing events or organized gatherings. In addition to soliciting initial input at these events, staff will work to distribute more project information to invite park users to fully participate in the community engagement process.

   MPRB staff will meet with a group of Rec Plus children (and if possible their parents) at Bryant Square Park to discuss the playground improvements and wading pool amenities.

   MPRB staff will attend
   - Bryant Square Park Mosaic Workshop
   - CARAG Board meetings (2)
   - February Chilly Chili Fest event (if scheduled)

2. **Community Meetings**
Three community meetings will be held in order to garner input and feedback from stakeholders. To reach the children who will be the primary users of the playground and pool, CARAG suggested holding at least one of the meetings on Saturday and starting the planning process in the spring, rather than winter.

- **Meeting #1:** anticipated for March 2016. The meeting will give an overview of upcoming improvements and the proposed schedule, scope and budget, and gather input on the current use of the park amenities. Staff will discuss building improvements, trends in playground design, and present site analysis and inventory compiled to date about the park, and some playground design options based on input gathered during the earlier engagement events.
- **Meeting #2:** anticipated for April 2016. Staff and the playground designer will present a few design options for the containers and work with the participants to arrive at a preferred alternative. Staff will also present options for the amenities for the wading pool.
- **Meeting #3:** anticipated for May 2016. Staff and the playground designer will present the playground equipment preferred alternative and incorporate any final changes desired by the community.

3. **Public Hearings**

- A public hearing for the Concept Plan is anticipated for June 1, 2016.

4. **Miscellaneous Communications:**

- Project page on website providing information and updates
- Voting boards, comment cards, surveys collected at community meetings
- Two online surveys posted on project website
- Gov-Delivery email notifications
- Project manager stakeholder email list for key project communications
- Two postcard mailings: an invitation to the meetings and planning process, and a second mailer to announce the public hearing
- Publicity through CARAG and Lyndale Neighborhood Association’s typical means of communication
- News releases and public notice
- Public hearing notice published in the Star Tribune

**Project Schedule**

- **December 2016** Meetings with CARAG, Commissioner Bourn, staff
- **January 2016** Community Engagement Plan, web page, and project communications, selection of play equipment manufacturer and pool engineer, determine strategy for bidding building improvements and the need for
additional consultants; set project schedule

- Feb-May 2016  Community engagement. Prepare and bid construction documents for building improvements
- Summer 2016  Building improvements construction
- July 2016  Building closed for flooring replacement
- Fall 2016  Playground equipment replacement
- Jan 2017  Bid wading pool reconstruction
- Spring 2017  Begin wading pool reconstruction
- Summer 2017  Grand Opening celebration

Resources
- MPRB Planning Department: support staff will prepare bid documents for building improvements and may help with preparation for community meetings
- Project funding will be used for project “soft costs” including surveys, testing, mailings and other communications.
- The MPRB Project Advisory Team, composed of trades, maintenance, and recreation staff, will meet up to four times to review design and plans for construction.
- A professional engineer will be hired to prepare plans for the pool replacement.
- An architect may be needed to design a mechanical building for pool equipment and perhaps a related shade structure.
- MPRB Planning staff will work with a play equipment manufacturer to design, furnish and install playground improvements.

Evaluation Summary
The project manager has analyzed the effectiveness of the engagement process from both stakeholder and organization points of view and provided a brief summary statement. The summary statement indicates how the process has advanced policy goals and will assist the Board and staff in evaluating and informing an ongoing community engagement process.

Summary Statement:  *Statement pending plan completion.*