NOTE: these are meeting notes, not official minutes of the above meeting. They reflect the general conversation and are not an exact transcription.

CAC Members: Alberto Monserrate (Chair), Josh Hausmann, Thelma Hardman, Steve Barland, Allan Schaefer, Jane Tigan, Mike Shogren, Ben Kappelman, Dr. Heather Hackman, Jeanne Massey, Maribel Osorio, Greg Fedio, Pat Jackson, Gary Gudmundsen, Roberta Hedemark, Paola Buenos, Tony Ghiliani, John Oakgrove, Dennis Stockmo, (Mpls. Mayor appointee-vacant)

MPRB staff in attendance: commissioners Tabb and Musich, Forney, Mimi Kalb, Elise Niedermeier, Andrew Weber, Kristen Krueger,

Meeting began at approximately 5:35

Introductions and agenda review

Highlights from Target Survey Results

What do you do in the park?

Spanish and English – self-directed activities highly rated

Family/group activities, quiet enjoyment

Virtually no organized sports use among neighborhood Spanish and Somali speakers

Most like to see improved?

Picnic tables, bathrooms (Spanish), basketball court (Somali), wading pool, playgrounds

New features?

Picnic shelters #1 response among nearly all groups

Splash pad #2 (English) #1 Somali

Outdoor gym (Spanish)

Un-programmed field space, soccer field (tie for first among Somali responses)

Interesting Question from Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) Survey: Do you know how to register for MPRB programs? 78% of Spanish speakers said ‘no’; 78% would like to learn how
Concept Discussion

CAC Feedback

Q: Logistics: in pinwheel the walkway stops, does not connect to the street. Intentional?

A: yes, functional, could carry all the way over; trying to focus heavy athletic activity back and forth between parking lots and fields

Comment: not going to be sufficient parking in any of these concepts, supports path connecting to street because there is ample street parking

Q: All fields currently to be fenced?

A: Yes.

Q: Is field lighting included?

A: Yes, subject to available funding. Next step as group gets into budgeting exercise.

Comment: Lot of really good components, like the idea of mixing and matching, like general feel of concept A but not upper (NE) right hand corner.

Comment: Like lots of concept B but would want to have more picnic spaces

Comment: Like 2 basketball courts, like splash pad

Comment: Overall very nice

Q: use of soccer fields inside baseball diamond – how often in competition for timing of using them?

A: based on discussion with PAC, baseball field used by HS in spring only. During summer and fall the field is used for other things; lots of open unreserved space that is youth soccer sized, don’t want to program it (to keep for neighborhood/flexible space)

Open use field areas would not be reserved space, they would not be used for programs; youth soccer inside baseball field is seen as potential for youth soccer programs to get more use of the space

Q: In spring all soccer clubs come out (non MPRB), fields are in really high demand; concepts would not allow for programmed soccer at a critical time; allocate some of open field for programmable (outside) soccer space

AW: Currently we/MPRB don’t offer soccer in the spring or summer; it is offered in fall; youth soccer in baseball is seen as an opportunity for MPRB program space; don’t foresee changing priority for HS diamond for baseball in spring, availability for youth soccer for outside groups is not really being
accommodated in this plan, soccer spaces are in other parks, the concepts offer flexible open field space for community use based on feedback, not full soccer fields for soccer programs

Comment: Making a field multipurpose destroys a field; makes it not useful for anything; mutually exclusive to have multiple things on the same field and have quality

Comment: Agreed, shouldn’t be part of the plan; do something right for baseball here.

Q: design perspective with un-programmed green space near the street – natural or other boundary to make it clear that space is more than just grass between fields and street, to make space appealing

SK: we will try to make spaces large enough that people can see themselves doing activities in those areas; matter of scale- making sure they are large enough, how spaces are graded and maintained

Q: Any reason to have 2 softball fields disconnected from other 4? Can we connect 6 softball fields in design? Likes Eagan Diffley design

SK: not enough space for 5 or 6 wheel; could look at fitting it in, but site constraints of the hill and sloped area in NE corner, existing building are fixed to work around; can look at trail system for connections between these

SK: Which in 3 configurations shown feels best?

A: First one feels best.

Comment: SE corner at Bossen floods out. Don’t put softball fields down in that corner. You can’t get away from the water problem.

Comment: Softball field at Neiman is best in system but is improperly laid out, sun right in batter’s eyes, planners need to look at baselines and orientation, where batter will face; pathetic, horrible joke

Comment: Prefer to see 4 lighted fields build immediately than 6 unlighted build immediately. Double the use as mentioned earlier, if lights don’t go up now they never will

SK: We are assuming we are moving an average of 2 feet of material underneath the entire field for significant re-grading for these options.

Q: Is that enough? Is drain tile needed?

A: We will let the consultants handle the technical design details.

Q: Parking overall: are all the same in terms of number of spots?

SK: Each options is intended to be parking neutral, A 40-60, B 60, C equivalent all have same # of spaces

Overall voting:

Which concept do you like best: C at 39%, B at 36%, A at 25%
Which concept do you like best for the NE corner of the park?

B at 56%, C at 37%, A at 7%

Public comments:

Comment: Youth baseball: Field discussion at Nokomis was tabled for what’s happening at Bossen CAC; Nokomis CAC has questions about fields, baseball; tournaments have to happen outside the city b/c the fields aren’t flexible; are base anchors flexible in the fields? Mounds? Not enough quality baseball fields in the city that are tournament ready; no girls travel program in the city; flexibility would be a great asset for a girls program

SK: A base anchors will be flexible, 4 different base-lengths will be included to accommodate age groups

Follow up: There are least 8 different base-lengths.

Comment: Concept C seems like the area in the NE is very isolated for rest of park, potential for it still being underused; way to work more traffic flow across the park to that area

Comment: Parking: Option C doesn’t’ re-use any of the existing parking, as far as budget reusing existing parking vs relocating is better

Comment: Australian football needs a large space to play, has used Bossen in the past, Nokomis is going to be remodeled, focus is on pinwheel softball, is taking away large green space; focus on single use as opposed to multi use; limited places to play; how can we work with the city to manage that?

AW: This is an important concept; all these plans show a shift from overlapping/multiple use into single use/dedicated field, this number of fields is supported by demand we have, will help us with maintaining the quality; contact Mimi Kalb for field conversations about use for other activities; plans for Nokomis have not been finalized, they are dependent on what happens at Bossen.

Musich: good time to talk about swapping concepts?

Q: Has the area and the population and the age been considered as far as use?

AW: In preparation to get project started we did look at neighborhood demographics for adjacent neighborhoods; differences among the neighborhoods as far as age, families with young children, communities of color; can bring more info to next meeting about this

Follow up: That would indicate the use of the space, important thing to look at so that everybody is able to have access, usability of space

Q: Pearl Park neighborhood: are all fences supposed to be 300 feet on all diagrams?

SK: Yes, all the same on all fields.
Q: How will you adapt fields for youth play? 300 feet is adult fence length, baseball diamond #1 looks like it has a shorter fence on

SK: the plan will be to use temporary fencing for youth play

Follow up: Pearl wants to use temporary fencing and has always been told that that is not acceptable and is a safety issue

SK: we will follow up and get an answer to that question

Maribel; (via interpreter) soccer fields – could they be moved to a different area?

SK: suggestion to what area?

Maribel; would like to see them more like on option C on the East side of the park

CAC member: concept 1 had wading pool, other 2 had splash pad, think we should do splash pad because that is what we’re hearing; like idea of 2 basketball courts for community; really really like NE corner on concept B but like idea of more picnic tables as well, heard that from every source, room for taking one of those components out or adding to it so you can enjoy that space and picnic at it; think it would be really utilized

Comment: Can’t have a parking lot 310 feet from home plate of softball fields, ball will hit cars and no one will park there; keep careful track of this or lot will be useless; same thing for walking paths, look very close to outfield fences, cars don’t move and they do get hit

Comment: Love concept C but agree with parking lot space, can move to open fields area? Move it more north, love the garden concept for NE but would like to see more picnic tables too

Maribel: if it is in respect to the parking, in concept C I agree with her too, that area there are a lot of children running that come to the park, this would be dangerous area, I would like to have some signs that say ‘children playing’ in this area because in summer many cars zoom by just like being on freeway, everything in the park area should have information that states that are children out playing so they should decrease their speed [not sure if this is MPRB or city domain]

Comment, CAC member: Are open field areas designated soccer fields? South HS men’s soccer uses Bossen for all 4 of their teams practice sites, would be a good idea to make designated soccer fields

Comment: mixed use of fields at Nokomis, cars that park over there for pond hockey – fields get destroyed because park board allows cars to park there; need to have single use fields

Commissioner Musich: shared the feedback she has received from the public – a lot of the questions are about how to reduce conflicts between neighborhood and athletic facility; she asks that we are thoughtful about how we’re allowing young families in affordable housing to use the area – how do we get them to the park, how do we allow them to use the park w/o interrupting softball; we should be conscientious about how we allow various uses to interact with each other. We should discuss edible
landscaping as part of garden components. Still working through how these uses work in park system, but there are lots of interested people in community; maybe can be incorporated if include new gardens

CAC member: open fields for soccer, echo comment on need for soccer space, need to know how much demand there is for pickup soccer in neighborhood vs organized soccer in neighborhood, would be almost impossible not to have some reservable soccer space in this part of town; need reservable space for outside groups for soccer

CAC member: Anecdotally, I play out there every Tuesday night – there is always a pickup game with neighborhood kids going – definitely happens, not an empty space except for the softball players

CAC member: Piggyback on that – the Hispanic kids are out over there all the time playing pickup soccer, key component need dedicated space for soccer fields, got to provide space for kids to be able to play

Alberto – wrap up, next meeting, homework

Thank you!