



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 22, 2017

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Headquarters

Meeting Notes

Committee members present: Arlene Zamora – Chair, Lynne Crockett, Brian Nalezny, Emmanuel Ortiz, Beth Hart, Phil Rooney, Kathy Engen, Larry McKenzie, Ede Holmen

Committee members excused: Ali Warsame, Jovita Morales, Ahmed Ismail, Delano Lee, David Kaplan, Al Jueneman, John Lilly, Katrina Nygaard, Hershel Ousley, and Bob Fine

Guests: Jake Virden, Jeanette Kolby, Maria Lee, Chris Meyer, Kenny Jo Felder

MPRB Commissioners present: Scott Vreeland

Staff/consultants present: Jamie Neldner, Chief Jason Ohotto, Heidi Pope, Tyrize Cox, Christy Tuuri, and Radium Guess

Although portions of these notes may appear to be in the first person, they are not direct quotes of staff, consultants, CAC members, Commissioners, or the public. These notes are intended to paraphrase or summarize the key points of the discussion.

1. Welcome (*Tyrize Cox, MPRB*) 6:10
2. Youth Development Programs (*Heidi Pope, MPRB*) 6:13
 - a. *How do you decide where Youthline programs are located?*
 - i. *Study of demographics biannually, demographics of crime and community resources.*
 - ii. *Review to ensure we are still meeting needs - programs target inner city youth.*
 - b. *Is the youth crime prevention created from blue print?*
 - i. *Started in 1991 – originally put together by Mayor Frasier – it was a cost matching effort to money given to police for youth crime prevention.*
 - c. *Is the format of dollar for dollar the same?*
 - i. *Not any longer, I don't know the current breakdown.*
 - d. *Is RecPlus affordable?*
 - i. *We stay under the other rates for school age care; we work with different counties for funding. You attend sites based on school bussing. The cost is less than MPLS Kids.*
 - e. *What is the overall budget for Youth Development?*
 - i. *Roughly 2 million, I don't know the exact budget number. Rec+ is a self-supporting program.*
 - f. *How do you measure economically disadvantaged youth?*
 - i. *11 criteria set – i.e.: income, crime, language.*
 - g. *Are your programs full?*

RecQuest, led by the MPRB, is a comprehensive planning, design, community engagement, and recreation program evaluation and needs assessment for Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board recreation centers. The plan developed from the assessment will serve the next 25-30 years of capital improvements for recreation centers, and is an opportunity to tailor recreation center facilities and programs to meet the current and projected needs of communities across the city.

- i. *Most are, generally well received and attended.*
- h. *What is the level of demand on other sites?*
 - i. *Many parks would like someone there to work with teens – ability to have programs at other sites is dependent on what we can financially cover (depends on funding). Not for lack of need, it's where the budget falls.*
- i. *What programs are free for youth and what would be needed to expand free youth programs (what is affordable for many may not be affordable for all)?*
 - i. *For Youthline, all programs are free. MPRB funds staff wages and a small budget, and a small amount of money from MPRB for office supply needs. Works with City Wide budget. Staff provides a lot of leadership themselves. May need to find volunteers for specialty training. What is needed: more funding for full time positions and add to parks on the need list. 10 staff full time at 17 parks, some move between multiple parks.*
 - 1. *What could exist and what would it take to get there?*
 - a. *Rec Centers could benefit from more programming money.*
- j. *How does a kid get involved and hear about Youthline?*
 - i. *Staff goes into neighborhoods and schools. Kids go to where they feel welcome. They see welcoming staff and want to participate. Seasonal outreach pushes information through different youth agencies.*
- k. *Are you the Director of all these things?*
 - i. *Yes*
- l. *Is there any data to support impact of parks?*
 - i. *I have numbers to show participation (reported seasonally)*
 - 1. *Nothing related to less violence where a park is located?*
 - a. *We work with the City to choose locations based on police input of crime, etc.*
 - i. *But has it shown a decrease?*
 - 1. *Hard data to capture, we can't measure what didn't happen. More kids are having positive interactions with caring adults (we know this leads to positive effect).*
 - ii. *Do the kids involved go on to get further involved in other youth programs?*
 - 1. *Some. Hard to merge data in different programs and with different youth serving agencies.*
 - iii. *What's the end goal of a pop up park?*
 - 1. *Safe positive presence and positive adults – to connect kids to our parks and help to connect with resources for other needs where applicable. We do have the data of how many kids we have helped. I can get that to you. 271 of 23,787 contacts were given/referred to a resource that was needed. Main purpose is to have a safe place.*
 - iv. *Where does funding come from for that?*
 - 1. *For pop up- MPS Public Health partially, other funding through MPRB. Supplies are not replenished each year. StreetReach is MPRB funded. No money from Police.*
 - v. *How many events each year?*
 - 1. *Pop up – 91 in 2016*

2. *StreetReach- 66 large group gatherings in 2016*
 - a. *Weekly reports*
- vi. *Did all this start with the Frasier era? Did they not have Teen Teamworks before that? Was it born there and MPRB has continued it? MPRB wasn't necessarily geared for outreach and came alive in 1991?*
 1. *Started in 1991 – before then there was a summer team of outreach staff to serve youth. RecPlus started in the late 1980s based on community needs (tuition funded). Always been programming in our parks. Frasier wanted a strong focus on teens*
- vii. *Are the Outreach Staff consistent and who is the staff comprised of?*
 1. *Full time staff, mostly with degrees in youth development, etc. We do a push each season to bring in more kids. We hire part time leaders for camps. Some part time, year round teachers (a lot of summer teachers) who want to work with youth and provides a nice continuum for youth from the school year into the summer. There are highly skilled people working with us.*
- viii. *What are the barriers current youth are facing and what they are saying? What is a common theme?*
 1. *Many are highly mobile or have younger siblings they need to care for/issues at home and obstacles. Hope is to give a positive introduction to other options.*
 - a. *Do you keep of data on that?*
 - i. *Yes – numbers of youth, ethnicity, and risk factors (needed in Teenworks to qualify).*
 - ii. *We provide things kids ask for (i.e. - basketball), but we want to introduce new activities to youth as well.*
 - b. *What are the ages?*
 - i. *RecPlus is a tuition based, school aged care program. Youthline is primarily drop in for 12-17 year olds.*
 - c. *What about kids under the age of 12?*
 - i. *We let kids in- we don't kick out if they are not in the parameters.*
- ix. *What is your vision for the 20 year planning for RecQuest growing/improving and expanding? What are the priorities? What do you want to do but are financially limited?*

1. *We have made huge strides collecting data and working with other agencies. Would be nice to have more information of a broader picture of resources and where we could refer kids within the City of Minneapolis. More data would allow us to make better decisions in the youth we serve.*
 - x. *Phil: a challenge for after school funding is that it is school based. There will be a greater demand in the next few years. Funding for after school programming is decreasing. Low quality programming can have a negative effect on youth.*
 - b. *RecPlus is completely fee based?*
 - i. *Yes, wages and supplies. Any profits assist in the replacement of park needs (for example - furniture).*
 - c. *Youthline budget, who decides that line item and the timeline?*
 - i. *Commissioners.*
 - ii. *Tyrize: we are in our budget season now. Once we hear the overall direction, a proposed budget goes to Commissioners and then voted on, and in turn sets the budget for the following year. Hiring for the summer programs happens in the spring.*
 - d. *Who do I talk to for more funding for youth programs- you said you work closely with the police (what does that mean)?*
 - i. *~Transition conversation to Ohotto~*
 - e. *What is the cost of one Youthline worker?*
 - i. *Starting annual salary is around \$40,000 plus benefits.*
 - f. *As a daycare provider – I see a big gap. Governor says go to preschool, but there are crazy hours and prices. The RecPlus locations are great but 90% are in affluent neighborhoods that can afford the programs and preschool care. We always have preschool availability, but support money is not in the right spots.*
 - g. *Can this committee recommend a budget?*
 - i. *Not necessarily our job, but we should talk through it (great thing to focus on).*
3. *Park Police (Chief Jason Ohotto, MPRB) 7:08*
 - a. *Chief Ohotto – there is a positive impact of youth programs, to positive interaction with youth and police, and the decreased numbers in crime.*
 - b. *Chief Ohotto: We are the initial 911 responders to park calls. Explains secondary investigations with burglary, vandalism, or if a youth is involved. Some crimes are forwarded to the City (murder, abuse) and some are then ‘redlined’ back to us. Example: molestation on Minnehaha female joggers (MPD did not find enough information) – MPRB-PD found similarities and did a media release, had a suspect in a week and were able to end in an arrest.*
 - c. *What would happen if a kid was pointed out as selling drugs?*
 - i. *Not always that simple. We look into reports. Adult vs. Kid crime reports are a different story. May have to involve social services for kid reports. Goal is to solve a problem and not ruin a kid. Each situation is special. Most problem solving occurs outside of court system.*

- d. Do you see a lot of mental illness in teens?
 - i. We take a medical approach to a kid in need – not the time for detention but for medical help.
 - 1. Does MPD feel the same way?
 - a. Yes
- e. ****Pause for Time Certain Public Comment****
- f. Can you speak to the diversity of your force?
 - i. 60 employees, 50% are employees of color. In the cop ranks, 17% officers of color. We are looking to increase our people of color. There is demand across every department in the metro for officers of color. We don't have an applicant pool with candidates of color.
 - 1. What is 17%? 6 officers?
 - a. Yes
- g. What entails security cameras in the park?
 - i. We are coming up with a unified procedure on how we fund, place and maintain security cameras throughout the parks. Folwell was a priority, and it came out of the recreation budget.
 - 1. Starting with most densely used parks
- h. Who was this up to? The Board?
 - i. This is important to both staff and police. Want people to feel safe and be safe.
- i. Does the public know that there are cameras in the parks?
 - i. No exceptions of privacy in public.
- j. The cost of camera surveillance - police budget?
 - i. Not surveillance in the downtown level, but I believe it is budgeted through IT.
- k. Overall budget is 5 million for police?
 - i. Yes.
- l. Do you patrol Meadowbrook?
 - i. Yes.
 - 1. Do you have the same authority with other police concerning Meadowbrook?
 - a. Yes, distance, we go when asked. Both Hopkins and St. Louis Park also have authority to patrol. Called by both staff and users.
- m. Funded how?
 - i. MPRB – through the Board.
- n. What do you do if you see someone going over their fish limit at Harriet?
 - i. We are licensed peace officers, and therefore have authority. I am not proficient in fish and game law. I would contact a DNR Officer and ask for information. Conservation Officers do license checks.
- o. What are the Park Hours?
 - i. There is an ordinance- developed parks (those with pathways and artificial lighting): 6:00 am to 12:00 am. Undeveloped parks (on Mississippi with no artificial lighting) close at 10:00 pm.
- p. If you had the ability to effect the budget- you would hire more outdoor supervision?
 - i. The organization needs to do more with outdoor supervision in summer months. StreetReach has proven to be highly affective.

4. *Public Comment - facilitated by Arlene Zamora, CAC chair- 7:42*

- a. *Kerry Jo- has worked for MPRB. There is a difference of resources on the Northside and Southside. Just got into the Memorandum of Understanding with Minneapolis Public Schools, and Phillips Pool is a part of that. We do not have that on the northside. We don't have a skating rink, stage, or a pool. I wanted to point out the differences that kids have in the north and south parks. I think a lower price at North Commons would be beneficial. Powderhorn has a preschool that would be beneficial as well to the North. Too many differences that I wanted to bring here and address with the changes and funding.*
 - i. *Tyrize: I am the liaison with the Memorandum of Understanding and I would love to talk with you about MPRB and what we are doing between organizations. We priced North Commons at \$12.50 for the season – and it had a great response. We can keep talking about what we can do differently. There and ice rink at North Commons in the winter. With the loss of Victory indoor ice, this only leaves Parade and North East- discussion for electives.*
 - 1. *I would like to bring forth the Memorandum of Understanding to show what they are doing – not reopen Victory. We need to show equity*
 - ii. *North Service Area Master Plan is under way – please note the one Rec+ site on the Northside. The other things mentioned we have a North Service Area Master Plan. This CAC is focusing on Recreation Centers and what happens at these Recreation Centers.*
 - 1. *We have shared budget information and have provided side by side.*
- b. *Voice Recording: North Commons provides football to my son and my family. This is our family park. Prices have doubled since we started paying at the park. Our kids deserve our safe parks, but too many families are cost burdened. Current minimum wage, we cannot afford the sports. Please prioritize free programs for MPLS Parks.*
- c. *How are young voices incorporated into your decisions?*
 - i. *We have been having conversations with youth groups. We have not made the connection happen and have not bridged that gap. I really want youth participation that would feel comfortable at a high level, and feels valued or heard. Please connect with any young person that serves on a youth council that would be interested.*
- d. *Hope – when your recommendations are made for your 20 year plan, it is my hope that there are suggestions for feedback to create a framework to grow.*
- e. *From Cedar-Riverside- is there a plan for youth programs in that area? I don't see much in that area. Are there specific plans for Currie Park?*
 - i. *Not specifically at this point, but we are working toward one. Brian Coyle is located there but not fully operated by MPRB.*
 - 1. *CAC Member Phil does some work there – we are trying to get some of that work going again. To the principal values is that there is youth engagement in decision making - I would love to see Youthline involvement in these decisions and incorporate engagement.*
 - 2. *Currie was included in the South Service Area Master Plan, 2015. Connected to Comm. Vreeland to help answer specific questions.*
- f. *Public: look at Juneteenth and how it is dying in the neighborhoods. This is a cultural celebration and will be brought to the Board. It's held at North Mississippi Regional and the petition is to move it back to Wirth (they are also open to another park).*

5. Closing Remarks (*Tyrize Cox, MPRB*) 8:15

This constitutes the author's understanding of items discussed and decisions reached. If there are any omissions or discrepancies, please notify Jamie Neldner in writing.