

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting # 9

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Southwest Service Area Master Plan (SW Parks Plan)

June 10th, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Bryant Square Recreation Center

CAC members present:

Brian Nalezny, Anj Petsch, Katie Jones, Craig Wilson, Jane Schommer, Tony Sterle, Aria Campbell, Larry Moran

CAC members absent:

Shaelyn Crutchley, Cha'foxe Mitchner, Paul Ragozzino, Jenel Farrell, Jarret Folley, Mayumi Park, Jana Griffin, Chris DesRoches, Aron Lipkin

Public Present: Around 30 people

Staff, consultants, and speakers present:

MRPB staff included: Colleen O'Dell, Adam Arvidson, Madeline Hudek, Alyssa Gilmore

SRF Consultant staff included: Nikki Schlepp, Alexandra Olson

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to start at 6:06pm. CAC members, MPRB Staff, and SRF Staff all introduced themselves to the members of the public attending.

GROUNDING

Colleen O'Dell led the group through a grounding exercise to open the meeting.

WELCOME AND REVIEW

Colleen O'Dell gave overview of where we are in the project and briefly explained the timeline. Talked about all the data collected by the team. Different activities, uses, CAC member ideas, outreach, data jams, fall engagement, design week, initial concepts, etc. completed over the last year. Last week the CAC sorted through the Northeast, Central, and Southeast park groupings of revised concepts, categorizing them into "warrants further discussion", "warrants further discussion on field balance", or "consensus towards recommendation".

SORTING EXERCISE

Colleen O'Dell introduced the system that was being used to sort the parks. Parks would be explained briefly by staff to the CAC and public then they would turn the floor over to the CAC chair to run the short discussion before sorting into three categories: Warrants Further Discussion, Warrants Further Discussion on Field Balance or Consensus Towards Recommendation.



MPRB staff and consultants presented the revised concept for each park starting with the SW geographic grouping and in alphabetical order. The discussion from the CAC and the public and the resulting sorting decision is summarized below.

SOUTHWEST Park Grouping

Armatage

- Online comments had concern with the larger diamond being eliminated, Southwest high school not being able to play here anymore, disappointment with bike park/all wheel park being taken out, need shade added to the pool area.
- Is there a risk of balls hitting homes or cars? Field size and main users should allow for a safe distance.
- Diamond advocates letter handed out with recommendations on balance and setup for fields/diamonds.
- Twins grant for baseball fields may tie in here.
- Could a bike facility be added back here? There is a skate park in this plan.
- With more pollinator plantings and orchards, how is maintenance budget working. There is worry neighborhood will have to take care of them. Budgets will be addressed in the written text portion of the document. MPRB is trying to be more strategic in maintenance practices and there has been shown desire from the community for more of these types of spaces.
- What is "Universal Play"? A fully accessible play area, like is proposed at Whittier.

This park warrants further discussion including field/diamond balance.

Lynnhurst

- This park is a coordinated project with the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan project. Since it is in the two area plans there is a subcommittee with members from both CACs that will have their first meeting Monday, June 17th, 2019 from 6-7:30pm at Lynnhurst Recreation Center. Meeting is open to the public.
- Online comments varied and had a lot of feedback. Reactions to new circulation, concern on how to read plan, and if it limits access to Lake Harriet.
- Will there be a gym space in the new rec center? Yes, that is the plan.
- Is there more parking on this plan? Possibly, yes. Would need to discuss this further.
- Could the rec center move back out to the corner?
- Would this interrupt the Grand Rounds system? This would be a discussion item at the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan.
- Why is the bridge narrower on 50th? There are no turn lanes on the bridge.
- Gym in the rec center would be good and glad it will be there.

This park warrants further discussion and will be brought to the joint subcommittee.

Penn Model Village

- No current online comments, but initial concept comments were positive.
- Could bike parks be put in since they were removed from so many other places?
- Why are the bump outs added to the other blocks instead of the park? It is better for traffic to have a safer "T" intersection with this configuration.
- What is an art gateway? It is the definition the city uses. It is public art that welcomes users to the space but is not necessarily a gateway.

This park was recommended towards consensus.



Pershing Field

- Online comments frustrated at Southwest High School's lack of a high-quality field
- What is the underground flood storage? Worked with the city as they developed plans for stormwater retention basin and irrigation, and this was the recommendation.
- Concern with the all-wheel park in this location and the highly programmed space. Many people use unstructured space including high school students coming over for lunch. Suggestion that many of the other locations where it was proposed were good for it but says not this spot.
- Disappointment that pickleball is not in this space anymore.
- Multiple comments concerned with the underground flood storage not being enough. This was a part of a larger study that recommends that the space allotted will be enough.
- Where will the utilities be placed for the underground storage? This is a detail that will be addressed in detailed design, but others like it have been put underground.
- This space would be large enough for premier baseball. MPRB youth programs have need for two smaller diamonds in this location.

This park warrants further discussion.

Washburn Ave. Tot Lot

- No online comments at the time, initial comments were positive.
- Will the paths be permeable? They are not currently designed to that detail, but they were likely not going to be permeable.
- Is there a sidewalk around the playground now? Not around the whole playground.

This park was recommended toward consensus.

WEST Park Grouping

Alcott

- Online comment wants to leave space as it is and another that says thanks for listening.
- What is "Flex Seating"? Leaves the option of different seating open to design later.
- Could triangles be used to look at adding bike parks back to the plans?
- Neighborhood said they would like a water spigot.

This park was recommended towards consensus.

Chowen

- CAC members request to know the square footage of all the triangles. (*note: this information is available on the MPRB website, under "Parks & Destinations" > "Parks and Lakes" > Triangles and Other Tiny Parks" by clicking on "+ Details & History"*)

This park was recommended towards consensus.

The Dell

- Online comments were positive and would like a crosswalk.
- Neighborhood requested a crosswalk on the east side and a dog statue.

This park was recommended towards consensus with crosswalk addition.

Linden Hills

- Online comments positive on the design with concerns about the fields/diamonds.
- Could the courts be flooded for winter ice? The neighborhood funded the courts, so they will not be flooded as there's concern for maintenance implications.



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- Could benches be added near bocce ball and striping be added to the tennis courts?
- Why is there seating near the ramp? It was put in to have it be integrated into the design.
- Can ice be looked at when discussing field/diamond balance?

This park warrants further discussion.

Linden Hills Blvd.

- What would an enhanced crossing look like? Painted crosswalks and possibly bump outs.

This park was recommended towards consensus.

Park Siding

- Online comments disappointed the bike pump track was taken out.
- Worry about the existing berm being removed during Southwest LRT construction.

This park was recommended towards consensus with the re-addition of a berm.

Reserve Block 40

- Why add a meditation garden when the adjacent lake is so peaceful?
- Why take out the play equipment for nature play when there isn't much equipment in the area?

This park was recommended towards consensus with traditional play and no meditation garden.

Saint Louis

- Why not put a bike pump track here? Was not well received when it was in the plan before.
- CAC member wants the rest of the CAC to think about putting these in places with good air quality and not just where there is already high traffic in the area.
- All triangles will be looked at as a part of an effort to add more bike/wheel spaces.

This park was recommended towards consensus following a triangle discussion.

Waveland

- Online comments were lengthy and varied. Some included wanting full court basketball, wanting the bike track back, loved the clay courts, thought asphalt courts were better, etc.
- Can pickleball be played on clay courts? No, it will not have the same bounce.
- What is the benefit of having clay courts? They are better on your joints
- What are the maintenance needs of clay courts? MPRB would partner on the maintenance. It is a daily upkeep.
- There was concern about the sound of a basketball court and of a tennis backboard.

This park warrants further discussion.

West End

- Would like this to be added to the triangle discussion.

This park was recommended towards consensus following a triangle discussion.

NORTH Park Grouping

Fremont

- Neighborhood would like the trees to not be replaced when they die off since this is a garden area.

This park was recommended towards consensus with a recommendation to forestry.

Kenwood



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- School likes the small wetland/wet meadow area for education opportunities.
- Online comments disappointed the mountain biking was taken out and not wanting the park to be over programmed.
- Concern about the midblock crossing and adding more signs to the area.
- Concern with location of the sand volleyball.
- Concern with connecting the Grand Rounds thru Kenwood and the maintenance of asphalt.
- Why is there no full court basketball here?
- Will the path take away the sledding hill? No, that was not the intent.
- Appreciate bikeway.

This park warrants further discussion.

Kenwood Parkway

- Online comment wants to know why the median is being changed.
- Concern with the 500-foot connection to the regional bike path.

This park warrants further discussion.

Levin

- Will shade be added since the big tree is gone? Yes, it is in the plan to have shade structures.

This park was recommended towards consensus with a neighborhood check-in.

Smith

- Online comments show skateboarders like the plan, ping pong is silly, and question on why this is a skate spot.
- Will be a part of the larger skate/ bike facility discussion.
- CAC member concern with antisocial behavior happening under the arbor. Other CAC member doesn't believe that would be a problem with this design.

This park was recommended towards consensus with the MPRB looking at a rework of the arbor area and representing the plan.

The Mall

- Online comment doesn't want the plan to displace the homeless people that use the area.
- Concern with cars and pedestrians sharing a space. This design is based on successful designs of the same nature mixing cars and pedestrians with raised plaza-like space as drive zone.
- Disappointment that there was not a more progressive and recreation focused design for such a large amount of park land. This area is more of a parking and pass-thru zone.
- Disagreement because CAC member uses this space in the current way it is configured.

This park warrants further discussion.

The Parade

- Recommendation that this park be added to the further discussion group.

This park warrants further discussion.

Thomas Lowry

- Neighborhood does not want to take care of additional gardens and without them the new path becomes repetitive.
- Concern that kids will not want to use the climbing boulders when the fountain is there. The fountain has signs not to use, but the kids have played with it for decades. They will play with it anyway so there is no need for new play elements.



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- Concern that the park is only serving one demographic.

This park was recommended towards consensus with removal of new elements.

Vineland

- The Walker has been maintaining this small triangle of land near their parking ramp.
- Staff recommendation for divestment.

This park was recommended towards consensus.

THANKS AND NEXT STEPS

Colleen wraps up and thanks everyone for coming in and giving their comments. Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 25th at Fuller Recreation Center.

ADJOURN (8:06 pm)