

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #4

Cedar-Riverside Recreation Centers Predesign

1/21/20 5:30 – 8:00pm

Brian Coyle Community Center

[Oromo and Somali interpretation provided via headset]

CAC members present: Abdirizak Bihi (Chair), Aburazak (Sisco) Omar, Adam Ugas, Ali Saleh, Amber Wiebe, Bosteya Jama, Furtune Del, Patrick Slaven, Teri Kwant

CAC members absent: Abdi Gurhan, Amina Hanafi, Jamie Schumacher, Yusra Arab, Abdul Sero, Commissioner French Appointee [Vacant], Khadra Fiqi, Kwangja Kwon

CAC Alternate members present: Pete Munene, Ahmed Mussa

Members of the Public: Approximately 25 members of the general public were present

Staff, consultants, and speakers present: Susan Olmsted, John Slack (Perkins+Will); Name Unknown (Oromo interpreter); Name Unknown (Somali interpreter); Daniel Elias, Siciid Ali, Abdirahman Mukhtar, Paul Jaeger (MPRB); Amanda Novak (YMCA); Steve Peacock (Augsburg University)

1. Welcome

The fourth Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was called to order by Abdirizak Bihi, the CAC Chair, who welcomed everyone present.

2. Project Overview

Daniel Elias (MPRB project manager) invited those in attendance to sign in, and to enjoy the light dinner provided before the small group exercise began. He reviewed the agenda and previewed the small group exercise which will determine what programs and uses should go on the proposed east or west sites.

He reminded everyone that Somali and Oromo interpretation headphones are available at this and every CAC meeting. Since photographs are taken during the meeting, Daniel said anyone not interested in being photographed and having their photo included in project documentation should indicate that by placing a colored dot on their name badge. He reviewed the charge to the CAC from the MPRB [PPT 5], which includes making recommendations on this Predesign to MPRB Commissioners for their review and approval. He referenced the resource binder [PPT 6], [project page](#) on MPRB's website [PPT 8], what this project is and is not [PPT 9], and what we know and don't know about the project [PPT 10]. It has not yet been determined if one or both of these projects will be funded, but the Predesign is required as part of the State of Minnesota bonding request. The best-case scenario, if State funding is allocated to this project in the next bonding cycle, is to have a grand opening by 2024 or 2025.

Following this meeting, there will be a four-month break before the next CAC meeting which will allow time for MPRB staff and consultants to draft the report and work with the partners to develop appropriate operational and ownership models, understanding the land use for both



locations. The intent is that at CAC Meeting #5 on May 28 the proposal for recreation center(s) in Cedar-Riverside will be presented for review by the CAC, with a vote approving Predesign taking place at CAC Meeting #6 on June 16.

3. Introductions

CAC members and the general public in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and to answer two questions, “What do you do to stay active?” and “What do you do to stay healthy?”:

- Teri Kwant: Swim and yoga. Staying connected to family and having meals together.
- Ali Saleh: Weight lifting.
- Furtune Del: Walk every day. [healthy – inaudible]
- Abdirizak Bihi: Walk every day, 5-10 miles.
- Adam Ugas: Play soccer and coach. Eat goat meat.
- Patrick Slaven: Not enough; has two small children so taking care of them. Eat lots of vegetables.
- Amber Wiebe: Yoga. Walk around lakes.
- Aburazak (Sisco) Omar: Running after son; works at Brian Coyle CC so spends time in gym with the kids; going to gym more often. Stopped eating red meat.
- Bosteya Jama: Work with healer [?]; high heels; running around in Brian Coyle CC. Look after herself and eats [inaudible] sometimes.

Members of the general public in attendance introduced themselves and answered the same two questions.

4. Project Updates

Daniel said the online survey tool has been closed on the project website. He invited those who have any completed meeting-in-a-box surveys to hand them over to the planning team.

Susan Olmsted shared the results of the small group exercises at CAC #3 and the online survey. [PPT 17-18] Priorities included pool, gym, individual fitness, technology lab, group fitness, indoor soccer, art/creative space, indoor playground, food shelf, and education/classes. At this meeting key program spaces will be determined and placed within the confines of the proposed community centers. To aid in tonight’s small group exercise Susan presented program images for the following spaces: entry and reception, gathering, gymnasium, teaching pool, fitness center, wellness and group exercise, multipurpose meeting, enrichment and cultural, kitchen and culinary arts, innovation and performance. [PPT 20-30]

Regarding the pool, she mentioned that the Phillips Recreation Center has a new pool with availability for programming and swimming. It is operated by MPRB and is located not far away. Pools are very expensive to operate and take up a large space that would eliminate other types of spaces. Susan acknowledged that there has been support for a pool, particularly from mothers advocating for their families. She added that there has been discussion about making available nearby resources more accessible.

At CAC #3 participants were asked to select the most important program spaces to fit into the bounding box until it was full. [PPT 32-33] The spaces that were selected as most important by the four small groups were:

- Child sitting, teen activity center, and computer center (4 times)



- Gym, teaching/therapy/leisure pool, indoor playground, and maker space (3)
- Quiet space, info hub, early childhood education, demonstration/teaching/catering kitchen, fitness center, and health and wellness suite (2)
- Food shelf, gathering space, multi-purpose classroom, group exercise studio, gym, and futsal space (1)

Some types of space were not selected at all. [PPT 34] Several types of spaces were prioritized in both the online survey and small group exercise at CAC #3: pool, gym, individual fitness, computer center and indoor playground. [PPT 35]

Susan said they conducted a neighborhood analysis and came up with some key findings. There are two recreation study areas under consideration: the Brian Coyle CC area on the west side and the Augsburg campus on the east side. At CAC #2 they asked people what they love about Cedar-Riverside. The responses were displayed in graphic format, with the words used more commonly appearing larger and bolder. [PPT 37] Responses about desired amenities in the neighborhood are also displayed in graphic format, with larger dots representing those that were mentioned most often and are considered by the community to be most important. [PPT 40] In terms of connectivity, they looked at available transit options (bus and LRT) and determined that this area is well-served by transit. However, there are some challenges in getting around: bike lanes not well-connected to other routes, pedestrian walks are not easy to navigate. Concerns about safety have also been expressed, i.e. particularly from the youth who have a clear perception of after-hours crime.

5. Group Exercise – “Where should everything go?”

CAC members, staff and attendees gathered around four tables. Each small group was asked to place the highest priority programs in each of the boxes (C-R West and C-R East) until they were full, keeping in mind the possibility of themes for each of the locations. [PPT 46-52] After the two boxes were filled, they were to identify spaces/programming that could be placed at nearby facilities. At the end of the exercise each of the groups reported back.

6. CAC Q/A

Amber: Will the upcoming meetings be held at the same time (5:30 to 8:00pm)?

Susan: Yes.

Patrick: In the presentation it seemed like the language around looking at two different spaces has firmed up. Looking at materials from earlier on in the process it seemed like there was some uncertainty about whether we would have one or the other. I’m wondering what changed.

Susan: To reiterate what Daniel said earlier in the meeting, they are planning for two separate Predesigns but neither of them is guaranteed because they are not yet funded. The planning has to be done in order to apply for funding, and hopefully something will be funded.

7. Public Comments

Members of the General Public were invited to ask questions or provide comments. There were no questions from the General Public.

8. Wrap-up & Next Steps

Susan reviewed upcoming office hours and CAC meetings. [PPT 56]



Question: Will flyers be posted prior to the next meeting (May 28) when the Draft Predesigns will be presented?

Answer: Yes. We will work with Abdi to get flyers posted and distributed.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Handouts: Agenda, Phillips Aquatic Center Programs and Schedule