



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Parks for All 2021 Comprehensive Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #2

2/6/2020 6:00-8:00pm

Board Room, MPRB Headquarters, 2117 West River Rd N., Minneapolis

CAC Members Present: Carly Bad Heart Bull (CAC Chair), Alyssa Olson, Dan Miller, Daniel Cheng, David Hartwell, David Motzenbecker, Eleanor Skarbalus, Hilary Lovelace, Lolita Davis Carter, Lynne Crockett, Mary McKelvey, Mira Klein, Zev Radziwill.

CAC Members Absent: Gerrod Williams, Jake Virden, Lisa Marie Thiel, Saed Y. Haji, Shree Varuna

MPRB Staff Present: Carrie Christensen (Project Manager), Radious Guess, Siciid Ali, Madeline Hudek, and Alyssa Gilmore, Zoe Hollomon (Youth Design Team Instructor) and 6 members of the Youth Design Team.

Public Attendance: 1 member of the general public present

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Parks for All Community Advisory Committee Meeting #2 (CAC #2) was called to order around 6:04pm by Siciid Ali. He passed the microphone on to Carly Bad Heart Bull (CAC Chair) who began the meeting by going over the agenda for the evening; she then asked CAC members, staff and members of the public in attendance to introduce themselves, who appointed them/what brings them to the table, and to share a personal experience in a park/park setting.

After introductions, the CAC was reminded to utilize the “Seed Bed”, a place to plant ideas, thoughts, questions, and concerns throughout the CAC process. This is one tool to collect feedback, suggestions and critiques in addition to the evaluation sheet. Project staff also went over a few housekeeping items, reminding the CAC members and public present where the bathroom locations are and that there will always be hot meals provided at these meetings. Staff also did a check in with CAC members to make sure that they could access the CAC Site.

ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carly Bad Heart Bull (CAC Chair) read off the CAC charge, clarifying the roles that the CAC will take on during this process.

The list of who should be at the table, generated by the Stake and Power exercise at CAC Meeting #1, was circulated around the group. CAC members were asked to think about how they could play a role in being a liaison/connector and how they could more deeply brainstorm groups they want to be involved and present in these conversations.

The CAC members were reminded of the possibility of subcommittees forming. Project staff clarified the role and formation of subcommittees, where if big topics arise there is an option for additional public meetings surrounding these topics.

(Project Staff) A CAC member came in to do a deep dive about the community engagement data that's been collected. It was wonderful to be able to think through our data with him. This is an example to show that there could be a data subcommittee. It would be a public meeting, advertised in the same way we advertise the CAC meetings. As conversations emerge, we can set up these subcommittees, we can also schedule one on ones with CAC members.

GROUP AGREEMENT

Carly Bad Heart Bull introduced the group agreement that the CAC came up with at Meeting #1. These are the meeting rules for the present meeting and all meetings beyond, it provides a basis for how the CAC will interact with one another. The group agreement is also a living document which can be added to throughout the CAC process.

(CAC Member) Would it be possible to get a copy of the group agreement for our binders?

(Project Staff) Yes, we will make sure to have copies available for you at our next meeting and will make sure the group agreement is also posted on the CAC Site.

RACIAL EQUITY

Project staff highlighted that CAC members will be grounding themselves in an equity lens every time they meet. Radius Guess provided an overview of the equity presentation from Meeting #1, highlighting the difference between equality, where everyone gets the same thing, and equity which is giving people what they need. Radius talked about the MPRB's Racial Equity Action Plan that represents the heartbeat of the work the organization is doing to advance equity. Race equity for the organization has a standardized definition: when race is no longer a predictor of access. Within the plan there are 5 goals with actions, indicators, and resources needed attached to the outcomes.

Radius asked CAC members, staff, and the public in attendance to do an exercise, asking them to fill out post it notes regarding what they believe an equitable park and recreation system would look like to them. These post it notes were attached to The Wall of Park Equity, and Radius read some of them aloud [a digital version of this poster will be available on the project site].

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Siciid Ali talked about the Project Scope and the Project Timeline for the Comprehensive Plan. At Meeting #2 the majority of the meeting is dedicated to talking about innovations in other

systems and going over the community engagement data to get a better sense of the information available. The next CAC meeting (Meeting #3) will be thinking about what the future we are planning for may look like. The cumulation of the work that has been done will be at the Park Summit in May which will be two afternoons in May. The idea is to bring together the seven workgroups, CAC members, Youth Design Team members, PAC members, and the commissioners to share out their recommendations and look for cross over. The Park Summit will be open to the public as well. The Park Summit will allow for all those who have been involved in the process to connect with each other, hear each other's recommendations, and look for connections across the topic areas and perspectives.

(CAC Chair) Is attendance expected for both days? Is there a particular date/time that folks should aim for?

(Project Staff) We will be sending out a more detailed agenda soon. May 7th (Thursday) is when folks will be sharing out their recommendations, we would hope that everyone will be there that evening. May 8th (Friday) will be a deep dive into what systems we have in place at the MPRB already, where we are now and how we can move forward with recommendations.

(CAC Member) Will these be night meetings like the CAC meetings?

(Project Staff) they will be held in the late afternoon/ early evening.

After the Park Summit the draft plan will be available for public review for 45 days after its completion, then there will be a public hearing and board adoption by the end of 2020.

(Project Staff) Any questions regarding Project Timeline, Scope, CAC Roles and Goals?

(CAC member) I didn't have time to ask my community about innovations, can I still be asking community about that?

(Project Staff) Yes, we are creating an innovation database, building out these ideas. The innovations will be shared out at the park summit and will be shared with the commissioners before the next CAC meeting to keep them involved in the work we're generating.

(CAC Member) Part of the Park Summit will be starting the drafting of the plan, what is our role in writing the plan?

(Project Staff) Will all the groups we have engaged around the comprehensive plan we are moving into strategy and goal recommendation mode. As we continue to meet with these groups, we will flesh out the recommendations. It's a joint effort that will look similar for the CAC as well; thinking through and drafting values, goals, and strategies. The Park Summit will allow us time to look across topics and get our initial thoughts down on paper. Leading up to the Park Summit there will be opportunities for online review. Staff are going to take on the actual drafting following the Park Summit. They will write the plans based on the recommendations of the CAC and workgroups, it will be graphically designed, sent out the community for comments, and then the CAC will

come back together during this time when the plan is out for public comment so that we can have very focused conversations about the draft.

PARK INNOVATIONS

CAC members were asked to do some research about what is happening in other parks or cities that is inspiring to them, things that the MPRB should consider doing in the next decade of work.

- Looked to [Singapore](#) for inspiration. Singapore has a green city goal and has been integrating parks throughout the city, enclosing freeways, creating pedestrian connections. Doing this work to bring people green space, with the recognition that this has an impact on people's health and wellness. This has been a successful undertaking because the government has gotten onboard with these goals and have been pushing heavily for open spaces.
- Another thing that brings inspiration as a landscape architect are parks that can have multiple functions. Spaces that function as stormwater treatment facilities to provide clean water, that can also be beautiful spaces for recreation. Drew inspiration from [Atlanta's 4th Ward Park](#) which is a park but also functions as a stormwater retention pond and cleansing facility. These kinds of spaces if there is adequate access could function as pocket parks throughout the city.
- Thought a lot about balancing active and passive uses of green spaces/parks. See a lot of active uses of the parks and less passive spaces. There is less ability to use parks passively than there is to use parks actively.
- Would like to see better wellness platforms, think about how we can use parks to engage with wellness platforms. (Ex: [Forest Therapy](#))
- Has spent life innovating things, instead of focusing on innovation he believes the focus should be on excellence. How can we improve facilities, programs, maintenance, etc. How can we make what we have better, rather than looking for something new to do? Created a list of questions surrounding this idea of excellence and how it could be achieved by the MPRB (included in the innovation presentation).
- Looked to New York City to show how the MPRB could be more transparent in data initiatives; showcasing [partners](#) and [capital project investment initiatives](#).
- Looked at New York City's [Community Parks Initiative](#) which looks at parks and public space and how these spaces can be connected together. NYC is tracking performance to speak to those who don't typically use parks. Indicators that they've established have shown that parks are a central function of the city. [Reimagining the Civic Commons](#) is another example we can learn from.
- We should also think about collaboration between parks and health, this could allow for additional funding streams, how can we support this?

- Emphasize trees. Would like to see more trees in urban areas, the downtown core, every park should have trees. Trees play into the health of our communities, have effects on ecosystem functions like stormwater quality. Trees are critical to have.
- Innovation around community engagement. There are lots of older adults (65+) that utilize the park system. It's important for youth development for there to be intergenerational uses of the parks, it allows for respect in the parks. There should be older adults working in the parks, engaging with youth. Multigenerational programming.
- Looked at permeable pavement (in use at Edison High School). The permeable pavement allows for stormwater to be stored in an underground tank. The recycled water is then able to be used for irrigation.
- Would like to see the MPRB using as many locally sourced materials as possible to see money given back to the local economy, as well as a reduction of carbon emissions from transporting materials over long distances.
- Looked at Philadelphia, take empty parking lots and other under-utilized spaces and fast track projects that benefit the community (ie. Community gardens, shade structures, places for passive recreation, etc.) One example of a project they've done has been to create a trail that is based off of native landscapes. It incorporates education, history of the area, and being in nature. They also install ping pong tables and shuffleboard tables which are easy to keep in parks and allow people to access them.
- Wants to focus on communications. If someone didn't grow up in the United States they may not know that the parks are for all, that they are publicly accessible and free to use. Folks may not know that what is happening in a recreation center as they pass by is free and they are eligible to step into that space. Looking for multilingual, interactive signage and engagement tools that communicates to the community what is happening around them and that these spaces/activities are for them.
- Looked at innovations related to safety. Found that renovations can decrease crime rates in parks.
- Looked at rooftop gardens; could be installed on top of recreation centers and then would be able to use the gardens to provide food for cooking classes or to provide other programming.
- Would like to see MPRB partnering with organizations that provide services for people currently experiencing homelessness. Park and recreation spaces could provide storage for people's belongings, could provide access to showers, etc. Parks should be dignified spaces for all to use.
- When looking at 4th Ward Park in Atlanta, the improvements to the park have led to green gentrification in the surrounding area with nearly 100% property value increases. It is important to make sure that investments align with anti-displacement work.
- Would like to see more community engagement. Would like to see plans for snow days for kids outside of school, providing activities and programming that is family friendly. Programming the parks during the day time for use by the elderly. Would like to see the



multigenerational use of parks with kids in the parks with elders. Would like the parks to be more family friendly, to bring more adults into the parks.

- Looked at alternative sources of energy. Would like to see solar panels and green roofs on more of our buildings. Liked the idea of exercise equipment that can power a recreation center. There are lots of innovations that can be made in relation to switching where our energy is generated.
- Would like to see more nontraditional sports in the park system. Not every kid like soccer or baseball, would like to see other alternatives like archery, rock climbing, dog sports, etc. anything that would allow for kids to try new things and get more active.

(CAC Member) What are dog sports?

(Youth Design Team) Activities that you can do with your dog, like agility training with them.

- There are apps for the Nation Parks from the National Park Service. I don't think that as an organization you'd want an app for every park in the system, but it would be helpful to have an app that would allow users to access information about the parks system. Having an app could help people overcome barriers that prevent use; could provide walking routes to parks, restroom locations, etc. Allowing for information to be more accessible and easily available.
- Libraries in parks—intermix public functions, would love to be able to sit in a library and look at a park
- Lounge furniture—a lot of times there isn't a lot of lounging in parks, a lot of space dedicated to active use, but some prefer to lounge more when outside. Think that part of the lack of lounge furniture is because we don't want to encourage people to sleep in parks overnight, but there are also rules against hanging hammocks, etc.
- It would be helpful to get guidance around what other park systems we should look to that might be models for us.

(Project Staff) We will share the plans from other park systems that we have been looking at. We are a bit unique in our independence, but Vancouver has a great Comprehensive Plan as well as Denver and Edmonton.

(CAC Member) You'll share these plans with us on the CAC Site?

(Project Staff) Yes! We will have a folder up so that you can do a deep dive on these plans.

- Activities that invite people who don't typically use the parks to use them. We should make a point of communicating what we have in the system, showing our offerings to people. Recently Three Rivers had a winter activity day that allowed people to try different activities out. If people don't visit their local park, we should think about how

we can find out more about that (ie. If it's physical access that prevents them from visiting, a lack of activities for them, etc.)

(Project Staff) A city wide random phone survey was conducted with questions surrounding park use barrier. We can share the results from that with you.

- Previously lived in Seattle. There was a pea patch program where neighborhood would take care of vacant lots and make a community garden. Can see the MPRB having a role in establishing more community gardens around the city, provide community cohesion as well as have impacts on climate change adaptability.
- Would like to make sure that new park facilities respond to the needs of current residents. There are minimal ways that the parks system can mitigate the increase in property values, but can at least provide relevant programs and activities. Should look to Trust for Public Land for guidance, they have done a lot of work regarding gentrification and parks.
- Would like to see nice vantage points where you can look at the City, although understand that's difficult because of the topography. The bluffs around the river could provide a beautiful vantage point.
- Can't speak to other park systems, but her vision for the future is looking along the lines of climate change. The MPRB has the ability to be the posterchild for sustainability. We also have to consider financial sustainability.
- Innovation doesn't always have to be rooted in what is bright, and shiny and new. Believes that the most energizing innovations are pulling from the past—initiatives that recognize indigenous story and context. Would like to see more work around history, perspective, language, story, plants, etc. that ground people in their space and provide more than just one narrative. For example, the Little Big Horn monument in Montana for a long time only told the non-native side of history around the battle that took place. Now, as a result of community engagement there have been changes made to that space. There are interactive public art pieces that tell the indigenous perspective, and you can hear native people telling their stories by using an app.

Staff Presentation

- These slides will be posted as a resource. They provide an overview of the ongoing research effort based on the topics that have emerged as most important from community.

(CAC Member) What innovations do we already have in our system?

(Project Staff) One of the major ones is that our organization exists independently from the City of Minneapolis.

DATA JAM

After a short break, CAC members were asked to do a 'Data Jam' in small groups. The goal of the Data Jam was to allow CAC members and the public to work with the data that has been collected from the vision and scoping portion of this process. A data jam allows multiple perspectives to be a part of the data analysis and allows a group of people to make meaning of the qualitative data together. Participants were asked to first analyze the data individually; highlighting the good ideas in the data set, as well as making notes on themes they saw emerging. Then, within their small groups, participants were asked to write down the list of themes, gaps, etc. they identified in their data sets. The small groups then shared out the themes that they had seen.

PUBLIC OPEN TIME

Constance Pepin asked CAC members to think beyond the human species in their work. She spoke to equity and inclusivity expanding beyond humans to think about the other species that use our parks. There has been commentary in the StarTribune recently that says humans cannot survive if we keep damaging our ecosystem. As a result of human activity birds and insect populations are plummeting. Need to broaden perspective to include all the wildlife that depend on park land, because we need them too. Concerned that we are on a path of more (more pickleball, more spaces for sports, etc.) but aren't thinking about the species that are already in those spaces that are being converted.

EVALUATION, THANKS, AND NEXT STEPS

ADJOURN: 8:05pm