

PARK COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 14, 2014
4 - 5:30 p.m.
Room 319 City Hall

Meeting Minutes

Committee members present: Co-Chairs Tom Fisher and David Wilson. Members: Lester Bagley, David Fields, Jacob Frey, Brent Hanson, Penny Hunt, Eric Laska, Aron Lipkin, Tom Nordyke, Brian Pietsch

Committee members excused: Hussein Ahmed, Dan Collison, Bruce Chamberlain, Michele Kelm-Helgen, Barbara Johnson, Peggy Lucas, Peter McLaughlin, David Miller, Jim Norkosky, Mike Ryan, R.T. Rybak, Matt Tucker, Trent Tucker

Guests: Lynn Regnier, Edna Brazaitis, Claudia Kittock, Steve Berg, Tiffany Orth, Liz Wielinski, Steve Cramer, Dannon Hulskotter, Elizabeth Beissel, Carletta Sweet, John Crosby

Staff/consultants present: Kjersti Monson, Hilary Dvorak, Beth Elliott, Heidi Hamilton, Erick Garcia Luna, Brian Schaffer, Marsha Wagner

1. **Welcome.** Chair David Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:07.
2. **Committee Business**
 - a. **Approval of Minutes of 7/14/14 Meeting** – It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the minutes be approved. Motion **CARRIED**.
 - b. David Fields reported that he has entered into a consulting contract with Chuck Lutz, Interim Executive Director of CPED, to create a clearinghouse/city desk which will serve as a single source to find out the latest news about the Park and East Downtown development. Rose Lindsay, Marketing Specialist, will create a website. Mr. Fields will be reaching out to Park Committee members and interested parties, inviting them to submit news about the neighborhood and becoming actively engaged with the website.
3. **MPRB Decision on Park**

Kjersti Monson referenced the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's "Resolution Removing the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board from the Development, Maintenance and Operation of the 'Downtown East Urban Park' and Releasing the City from Further Discussion with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Regarding Ownership, Development, and Operation of the Space" [\[Appendix A\]](#). The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board decided that this park was not consistent with their policies. There were financial concerns about development and annual operating and maintenance costs, and they determined that it was not a good place for them to be spending their resources. The City will proceed with the schedule, moving the Request for Proposals (RFP) through required channels in August, and releasing the RFP in early September. The RFP will specify two construction cycles, Opening Day and Ultimate Park, with an estimated cost for both, including Opening Day construction documents, of \$10-15 million.

Tom Nordyke asked for clarification about the City moving forward after the Park Board declined to be involved, expressing concerns that the same group might decide to file another lawsuit. Ms. Monson replied that since they are on such a constrained schedule already, the City will proceed until they are told that they can't create this Park. Chair Wilson requested that someone from the city

attorney's office address the Committee at the September 11 meeting on the legal structure of the park. There was also a request consistent talking points be supplied to Park Committee members to help them communicate about and advocate for the Park.

Regarding financial concerns that the revenue model is not sustainable, Ms. Monson replied that the City is projecting that some operating costs will come from programming revenues, and she also brought up the possibility that the Minneapolis Downtown Council (MDC) will form a conservancy. Chair Wilson and Steve Cramer, President and CEO of the MDC, clarified that the role of a Conservancy is to provide fundraising and operating assistance, but not direct funding, and it will not take financial responsibility for the Park. Ms. Monson said that the City is committed to making the Park work, but right now they are focusing on getting the RFP out on schedule, and substantive financial and policy questions will be addressed and determined elsewhere.

4. RFP Update

Brian Schaffer reviewed the timeline for the RFP: After moving through the city structure, the RFP will be out in early September, closing in early October. More details on a pre-meeting for interested parties will be forthcoming. A Selection Committee and Technical Advisory Committee will whittle down the list, finalists will move through an approval process with city council committees, and the full council will make their decision in early December. The design team selected will be on the ground, moving forward in January, submitting a concept design in March. It will be a dual-track process, with Opening Day Park construction documents ready by August or September 2015, and concurrently working on the Ultimate Park. There will be opportunities for public engagement; more details on that will be known by early September.

Ms. Monson added that a single entity (consultant/landscape architect and team of subcontractors) will be selected to work on one development, with two phases. Of great benefit is the fact that Ryan Construction has already worked on demolition and site preparation pre-design; they have surveyed the land, done soil borings, and identified locations of foundations and utilities.

Regarding the makeup of the Selection Committee, Ms. Monson said that it will be made up of a lot of people present at the meeting, but the Park Committee will not review the design. At the September meeting there will be more details on if/how/when the Park Committee will continue to meet.

5. Vision/Principles/Guideline Review and Consideration for Approval

Ms. Monson requested that after finalizing changes to "DT Park: Vision, Principles, Guidelines" (VPG) [Appendix B], they will ask the Park Committee to vote and approve the document. They will also request an expression of support for the RFP. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the following Motion be approved: This Committee endorses the City moving forward at pace to put out an RFP for design services for the Stadium Park. Motion unanimously **CARRIED**.

Chair Wilson then led a section-by-section review of the VPG, with Committee Members providing input and suggesting changes while Ms. Monson and Mr. Schaffer edited the document live. Key points that were made and incorporated include:

- Under Principles:
 - "An everyday space" should be placed before "An event space."
 - There should be an emphasis on putting people first.
 - Youth (i.e. sports) activities should be accommodated.
 - The Park should be designed for all seasons, day and night.
 - The description of Minneapolis "as a spirited city that is on the move" will be removed.
 - As an event space, it should accommodate community as well as stadium events.

- Under Design Guidelines:
 - Seize the opportunity to become a signature park.
 - Strive to integrate art into the infrastructure of the park.
 - Seek to integrate opportunities for sport and exercise.
 - Emphasize linkages to surrounding buildings, including skyway access points.
 - Prioritize pedestrians and bicycles over vehicles, and accommodate bike parking.
 - Add bullet points/suggestions under “Integrate an ecological and resilient ethos into its design.”
 - Consider resilient and sustainable vegetation.
 - Consider integrating the history of the site and area into the Park’s design.
 - Move “programming” items to a separate section, but avoid programming detail except for what is already obliged.

Following the discussion and ensuing edits to the VPG, and with the understanding that Ms. Monson and Mr. Schaffer have authority to wordsmith and polish the document, it was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the final guidelines be accepted and approved. **MOTION** unanimously carried.

6. Closing Business.

- a. **Next Meeting.** Scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 4:00, Room 319 City Hall.
- b. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.