

Meeting Information

Meeting/Event: SE Asian Community Roundtable

Date: May 6, 2016

Location: Harrison Community Center, 503 Irving Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN

Time: 12:00 pm

Invitations sent: Via NCR communications with elders

Number of attendees providing input: 25 +/-

General Comments and Input Received

- Open space that feels welcoming and safe is key.
- Small stores were suggested as a desirable component.
- There was a question whether fishing and camping would be safe.
- Most members of SE Asian community are not aware of riverfront parks (what parks and facilities exist, where to go, why they would want to go), so education/information is needed.
- Even if events/programs are free, the cost to park in some regional parks is a barrier to attendance.
- Hmong veterans are very interested in a location for a statue recognizing General Vang Pao and the role the Hmong and Lao veterans played in the Vietnam War.
- Interest was expressed in large open spaces that can be available for large events, e.g., an annual soccer event that attracts many people
- When a new park area opens, having just one event to introduce it probably isn't enough. It might take multiple events/years to really introduce a park or amenity to the community.
- There was interest in a bus/van tour to take some residents in a nearby senior building to see the river.
- A concern was raised about what the impact of redevelopment would be on residential in the area and whether taxes might increase.
- It was suggested that the City and/or Park Board could hire Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association and Lao Assistance Center to assist with community engagement with those communities.