

Meeting Information

Date: June 29, 2017

Location: Juxtaposition Arts

Time: 5-8:30 pm

Number of attendees: 20 +/- at meeting, 35 +/- at Slow Roll

For each of the four topics below, participants were asked to meet in small groups, discuss the following questions, and present their ideas.

Green Infrastructure and Landscape

Meeting participants were shown a slide show of innovative approaches to green infrastructure, such as stormwater systems, ecological systems, waterfronts, and repurposing of industrial infrastructure.

1. What if we blurred the lines between park, road, and buildings along the river?
2. What if the industrial relics were used to generate revenue for the park?
3. What is one word that describes how you want to feel in this future riverfront park?

Group 1 Responses

- 1. Blurred lines between park:
 - Consider autonomous vehicles
 - Takes less investment
 - Gravel surface
 - Who is it for? Consider culture of space and making open space for specific communities, access is a concern.
 - Merge and blur bicycling/walking and more human forms of travel
- 2. Private enterprise or revenue generation in the park
 - This could be used to develop business skills. Consider Farmers Market and working with organizations like Project Sweetie Pie.

Group 2 Responses

- 1. Blurred lines between park:
 - Provide more bike trails
 - Pedestrian overpass / skyway system over the interstate
 - Underground water tunnel
 - Engage people with interpretive trails
 - Need to consider accessibility -how would blind, disabled and others move safely?
- 2. Private enterprise:
 - No problem with this

- Use warehouse for cold storage or youth center

Group 3 Responses

- 1. Blurred lines between park:
 - Yes, integrate and find ways to blur together
 - Roads should be further set back, keep pedestrian traffic/movement close to the river
- 2. Private enterprise:
 - Highest population of young people in Minneapolis
 - Mile of river for bikes/pedestrian movement
 - Small business opportunities, affordable incubator
- 3. Describe future park:
 - Educational opportunities, skill building, YMCA/YWCA, youth programming
 - Rock climbing on old structures, access
 - North community rowing, kayaking
 - Nature education and habitat
 - Cross country skiing
 - Youth jobs

Group 4 Responses

- 1. Blurred lines between park:
 - Expand out and add new things
 - Weaving circulation together
 - Use elevations – suspended
 - Create a pedestrian bridge
 - Expand the water way
 - Create safe public areas
 - Bring river deeper into the land
- 2. Private enterprise vs. park only:
 - Activate beyond park use
 - Shops, boat rentals, performance space, covered space
 - Physical activities: basketball, ice skating, winter activities, skate/snowboarding, foreground winter
- 3. Describe future park:
 - Have 2 scales of venues – intimate and larger

Gathering

Meeting participants were shown a slide show of examples of performance areas and amphitheaters that brought people together for specific shows, but were also used with no formal programming.

4. What opportunities does Upper Harbor have that no other place in Minneapolis has?

5. A live music venue on the water would be inspiring if . . .
6. What could make a gathering space a valued community asset?

Group 1 Responses

- 4. Upper Harbor has unique opportunities:
 - industrial leftovers are unique
 - corridors for animal life (connect greenspaces)
 - Environmental impact – not just for humans but also do restoration work
 - Improve the quality of the river, have an ecological focus and do environmental education work
- 5. The space could be used in many ways at different times and days:
 - Free summer concerts in high school / college
 - Attractions for Northsiders (Live on the Drive), multi-cultural
 - Appropriate music for season/holidays, etc.
- 6. Create a memorable experience:
 - Bandshell in Chicago
 - Make it unique
 - Great a combo of film and music, get the orchestra to play a film score

Group 2 Responses

- 5. Inspiring music venue
 - Steve Webber at Xcel Energy – engage audience
 - Prince tribute at Met Center
 - Open live concerts
 - Stage that feels like paradise
- 6. Valued gathering space:
 - Multipurpose stage (Freedom Square)
 - Open stage for all kinds of people and ages
 - Use for sledding
 - FREE

Group 3 Responses

- 4. Memorable experiences:
 - Dancing at First Avenue with Prince nearby
 - Spending time outdoors in Chicago
 - Paisley Park events
 - Red Rock concert
- 5. Music:
 - Small scale, local, affordable, music that brings the community together
 - Larger concerts to bring revenue in

- Riverfront and ambience of “relics”
- Community event/Northern Spark
- Soap Factory events (e.g., outdoor movies)
- 6. Valued gathering space:
 - Inclusive, grow the artists
 - Noise – should bring people in and not drive them out
 - Pool barge
 - Day/event when City taxpayers get in free
 - Music and movies
 - Indoor venue
 - Trylon
 - Yoga
 - Picnics
 - Frisbee
 - What would lead to “healing;” what would lead to/symbolize reconciliation between industry and nature?
 - A houseboat for gatherings
 - Political space
 - Space of generosity and inclusiveness, belonging and ownership

Group 4 Responses

- 4. Unique opportunity:
 - Riverfront, Industrial relics, Integrate industrial remnants
 - Racial unity / physical separation, wildlife corridor, no cell service/public address system, paradise
- 5. Music would be inspiring:
 - First Ave, Paisley Park, Chicago amphitheater, Badu, Red Rocks, Brooklyn Bridge – boredoms, 99 BOA, Drums, Mill City to Stone Arch Bridge - art events, Northern Spark
- 6. Valued gathering space:
 - Day use – safe swimming area, tethered platform barge, once in a lifetime music show, free baseball/show, taxpayer tickets, have domes open and close for performance and movies, racial healing and diversity, converge industry and nature, space is a reconciliation of conflict, space of generosity and is inclusive, create a sense of belonging and ownership, balance of formal and informal, houseboat

Social Programming

Meeting participants were shown a slide show of examples of how social programming can activate public or shared spaces, build ownership and interest, and make flexible areas meaningful places to express art and ideas for diverse community members.

7. Who should this project matter to and why?
8. What are the greatest blind spots or challenges that this project might face? How do we avoid them?
9. What was the last thing you did – alone, or with a friend or family – where you lost track of time?

Group 1 Responses

- 7. Project should matter to the working class of the neighborhoods.
- 8. Blind spots are the asphalt shingle plant south of the property – smells. We need to provide healthy air to breathe. Connect with residents and parents south of the neighborhood.
- 9. Reading, writing, music, listening to music, walking and observing, Netflix

Group 2 Responses

- 7. Project should matter to:
 - Everyone. North / Northeast first, all others should be welcome.
 - Attract adults and youth.
 - Bright lights: Juxta, Mad Dads, Northpoint, Cookie Cart, Park Board, Churches, VFW, Boys and Girls Clubs, Schools
- 8. Project challenges:
 - High end housing /housing to support space and activity
 - No industry
 - Family oriented
 - Separation between youth and adults. Don't want youth to take over and "scare off" adults.
 - Creating opportunities for youth but not becoming a place that attracts "trouble"
 - Should be for all, but keep it affordable for northsiders.
- 9. Lost track of time:
 - Conversations at vets hospital

Group 3 Responses

- 7. Project should matter to:
 - River users
 - Create a food incubator space for generation and processing (uses should build off of each other)
 - Kids, expand programming
- 8. Project challenges:
 - Farview activity
 - History of community and need for community understanding
 - Make it a pristine place
 - Emphasize nature

- Make it non-threatening and accessible
- Provide a mix of concerts
- 9. Lost track of time:
 - Conversations at vets hospital

Group 4 Responses

- 7. Project should matter to:
 - Families, community, everyone, people in the neighborhood and people coming to the area, historically unseen residents, locals need to be seen, shouldn't be too corporate/large, be a paradise to neighborhood and those who visit
- 8. Project challenges:
 - Tell a collective story
 - Concentric circle of ownership (Usage – daily, weekly, monthly, yearly)
 - Too corporate, generalists, risk adverse
- 9. Lost track of time:
 - Down by the river fishing, wandering down paths at the beach, hiking on a mountain, community garden with kids, enjoying different elevations and bright lights (observation – all of these are outdoors)

Curating the Public Realm

Meeting participants were shown a public art example where recycled rainwater was used to create a rainbow over a building with mist and sunlight and asked to consider how we can shape the experiences people have in public spaces.

10. What is beyond our reach – what is your moonshot for Upper Harbor Terminal?

Group 1 Responses

- Bright lights, Cookie Cart, Appetite for Change, Freedom Square, Sammies, small businesses
- Beyond reach: Add more property, River water quality, Affordable housing, Nice ride and Paddleshare, Capping the interstate, Employment for people in the community

Group 2 Responses

- Recreational boating
- Air BNB boats

Group 3 Responses

- Bright lights: Asian Media Access, Juxta, The Warren, Neon, Cookie Cart, KMOJ, KBEM, Capri Theater, Mississippi Mushrooms and youth programs, Artista and Homewood Studio, 4th Street Saloon, Insight News, Al McFarlane, North News

- Youth programs = stronger work force and engagement
- Connect parks
- Get rid of GAF

Group 3 Responses

- Bright lights: D.A. Bullock, Soap Factory, Midway Contemporary, Bockley Gallery, Artist on the verge – Northern Spark, Northside Fresh
- Blind spots to avoid: Don't be too corporate, too polished, too generic, Don't be risk averse
- Moonshot: Racial unity for city, huge water slide, paradise, corridor for wildlife, cell-free zone

Slow Roll Participants

Slow Roll riders were briefed on the following information and asked to consider three questions while riding.

11. Given the narrow site, a traditional parkway, separated trails, and truck route takes up a significant amount of space. Combining transportation needs allows for more space for development and park. The idea of a woonerf has been used more widely in Europe where all modes of transportation share one area. The clear message that the travel way is also a people space encourages careful and controlled vehicular use. *Do you feel that a travelway that combines bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular traffic, rather than separating them, can be a realistic solution that allows multi-modal transportation, makes a road that also functions and a plaza, and efficiently uses land here?*
12. Many cities have used industrial infrastructure in an inspiring way. We believe that the infrastructure here is striking and could create a unique destination. However the public agencies have determined that we cannot maintain this infrastructure for public use and aesthetic alone; it needs some revenue generating enterprise to make the costs viable. *If the main public space contains significant private enterprise and industrial infrastructure – is this enough of a “meaningful park space”? What are the benefits to this type of “park” vs. the parks we already have? (note that there would still be shoreline work and other green areas, but that the largest park area would be characterized by the reuse of the infrastructure. The uses in this infrastructure would need to generate revenue to maintain them).*
13. Connections to the Upper Harbor Terminal are difficult and important. We are looking at all possible ways to connect back to the neighborhood. We eventually plan to extend green space and the parkway and bicycle pedestrian connections to the north and south. Some connections may have to be temporary – perhaps we can thread some onto existing streets. *What are some*

ways we can connect to the site - especially from the parks and trails along the river to the south?

Slow Roll Rider Responses

- Like separate bike lanes for biking with kids. Bikes need to have their own intersection lights – it's very inconvenient to wait for lights designed and times around cars. Make sure that lights are triggered by bikes. Like the idea of a law where bikes can treat red lights as stop signs, and stop signs as yield signs.
- One major issue in North Minneapolis is that there is nothing for youth (described as age 14 – 18) to do. Downtown and a lot of destinations are for adults and there is a lot for little kids but little for teens. Example: There is no movie theater. Some places that do provide decent teen programming include the YMCA, and the Park Board. Parks have teen nights, open mic poetry, etc. Serving food with teen/youth programming is important – good healthy food is hard for some to get otherwise. Youth entrepreneur opportunities at the site is important – consider winter as well. Big Brothers and Sisters seems to have disappeared. Schools are too crowded.
- One problem is that people leave programs because kids act dangerously. They leave themselves or pull their kids out. Need to make it safe.
- People would need to get to the site. Use social media to arrange for pick up areas. Teens may not be comfortable on the bus.
- Do a mental health study and understand how people with disabilities could find something for them on the site. Accessibility is an issue in North. A playground that really serves people with disabilities would be well used.
- *See associated notes from Juxtaposition Arts for June engagement.*

General Comments & Questions

- *Concern about the meeting participants not reflecting the Northside community*
- *Concerns that facilitators at the tables were dominating the conversation*
- *Concerns that notes taken did not accurately reflect community comments*