

Meeting Information

Date: June 27, 2017

Location: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Time: 7pm

Number of attendees providing input: 35+/-

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:
 - Balancing daily use and event use, eyes on the site daily, weekly, even if there aren't big events
 - Rivers edge should be public and feel public, even if other edges are blurred
 - Highline park – park infrastructure integrated with urban infrastructure, would be amazing to group with that approach
 - Want to go back to the River First plan. Wide natural parks plus some amenities and housing and no industrial (not active industrial), Racine and Buffalo
- 2. Private enterprise or revenue generation in the park:
 - Commercial with support amenities
 - Concerned about maintaining the structure and buildings and keeping area safe. Things fall into disrepair if they aren't being used in the way they're envisioned to be
 - Sea Salt made Minnehaha Park popular, better, more eyes, more programming
- 3. Describe future park:
 - Chance to make this city on the river unique, restored, anchor of vision of Mississippi, accessible green, park, eco/education an "American River" in this city

- Want to go back to the River First plan. Wide natural parks plus some amenities and housing and no industrial (not active industrial), Racine and Buffalo,

Group 2 Responses

- 1. Blurred lines between park:
 - Questionable if 500 feet is wide enough for an amphitheater
 - Like idea of something in river – stage/ or people
 - Historic preservation would be distinguishing factor
 - Hard to connect back without much width
- 2. Private enterprise or revenue generation in the park:
 - Like attraction that services both sides
 - Commercializing old structures is good, but takes money, then people would need to spend money, excludes people in neighborhood
 - Don't want too many old buildings if you are trying to maximize green space
 - North Miss – underutilized, idea to have manufacturing jobs there, idea of creating neighborhoods
 - Only housing that seems viable is like the Landing (on west River Road)
 - Landing is very high end condos – too exclusive, feels exclusive
 - Landing sends a message of exclusivity - face inwards and signs at entrances
- 3. Describe future park:
 - Can corridors be widened (Dowling, Lowry, 26th) , make corridor an amenity not just a travel way, land bridge, historic preservation – consider foundation of project

Group 3 Responses

- 1. Blurred lines between park:
 - Participants were open to the idea of more flexibility in how the linear connections (vehicular “parkway,” bike and walking trails) flow through the site and the possibility that they would not follow the standard separated design. One participant inquired why cars were needed, but another noted that there will be those who physically cannot walk or bike and thus need vehicles, plus there will be a need to provide vehicular access to the development parcels. One participant suggested that there might be variety in how far from the river's edge the linear corridors are located, with the vehicles perhaps being further away.
- 2. Private enterprise or revenue generation in the park:
 - There was general support to the idea of including some private enterprises as public amenity destinations instead of pure “park” space. Some sort of “food hub” was suggested as a possibility. It also was suggested that any private

enterprises be planned so that they help meet the basic goal of ending economic disparities (e.g., by providing employment opportunities).

- 3. Describe future park:
 - Participants arrived at a sentence that included their individual one-word contributions: they want a visit to the site to make them feel connected in a world-class, inspired way to nature, the community and the industrial heritage of the site.

Group 4 Responses

- 1. Blurred lines between park:
 - Do not blur lines between the park
 - Seawall is a challenge
 - Railroads need crossing
 - How would the blind handle blurred lines
- 2. Private enterprise or revenue generation in the park:
 - Restaurant – in the park on the waterfront
 - Keep one dome (16K)
 - Tourism
 - Industrial relics
 - Borrowed view – heron rookery
 - Provide a variety of uses: access to water, docking and piers, fishing
- 3. Describe future park:
 - Proud, inviting, welcome, access, lively

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 Response:

- 4. Upper Harbor has unique opportunities:
 - We have a great park system, but not one amazing park (Millennium Park)
 - Barge venue on the Potomac – D.C.
 - Winter inspiration sledding... Nov/March? Challenge
- 5. The space could be used in many ways at different times and days:

- If it is multiuse (like Millennium Park) vs. seats/ single use – Seats in front, lawn in back – Slope for seating
- Exciting that Minnesota Orchestra is involved, inspiring
- It can support smaller events as well as large
-
- 6. Create a memorable experience:
 - Youth center in cold storage building
 - Accessibility – freeway – capping, retail on side of bridge, multi-level highway , Theodore Wirth Park is not accessible, Don't want to recreate train situation

Group 2 Response:

- 4. Upper Harbor has unique opportunities:
 - Loveliest piece on the river
 - Finally beat St. Paul
- 5. The space could be used in many ways at different times and days:
 - Stage was over water, crowd should see water
 - Needs to be well done
 - Red rock has cool square rock acoustics
 - Sound needs to be studied
 - Dome that protects from amphitheater sounds
 - Will neighbors think its tolerable? Amp sound, use barriers, Betty Dangers
 - Skateboard, fitness classes, variety of places to sit, not everyone can sit on grass
 - Much louder than planned
- 6. Create a memorable experience:
 - Needs to be well done
 - Would hate to see a sports field – wrong use for this site
 - Skate trail, Ice fishing, what winter options?
 - Millennial park is great, so versatile, park when no concerts, 24/7 is key , seats can be used for other uses

Group 3 Response:

- 4. Upper Harbor has unique opportunities:
 - Meeting North Minneapolis' needs
 - Telling the histories related to the site and vicinity that aren't being told at Mill City Museum
 - Having the site be active year-round
 - Including the arts
- 5. Live music on the site would be inspiring if:
 - It highlights and supports local music and benefits the community on the other side of I-94
 - There could be wintertime use

- The venue could be scalable to be used for multiple sizes of performances and audiences (with one participant expressing concerns about having a large venue)
- Music/sound could be combined with something for the other senses, e.g., light effects
- Food and beverages also are available to add to the experience
- Negative impacts on birds are avoided
- 6. Create a memorable experience:
 - The gathering space/lawn should include trees (around the edges, not throughout) and should be designed so that it feels like a special shared space, not just a flat lawn.

Group 4 Response:

- 4. Upper Harbor has unique opportunities:
 - Piers
 - Skyline
 - Industrial relics
 - Bring back life
 - Water Taxis
- 5. Live music on the site would be inspiring if:
 - Goal would be to make theater an asset: multiple uses, scale \$\$\$, 4 seasons
 - Unique – with outdoor activities
 - Winter lighting
- 6. Create a memorable experience:
 - Floating theater
 - Riverboats
 - Projection
 - Unpaid tickets
 - VIP boat
 - Stevens Square: combine programming and vendors

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.

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

Group 1 Response:

- 7. Project should matter to:
 - North Minneapolis people, then northeast and also need things to attract more people
 - KBEM and KMOJ radio stations
 - Music from different cultural groups that bring people together.
 - That housing will serve as a barrier for surrounding communities, need to make buildings face outward, need to pay attention to housing
 -
- 8. Project challenges:
 - While you want to bring people in, on the days when a big event isn't happening, need to feel like and be of north Minneapolis
 - How will we get the voices of North Minneapolis residents
 - Should matter to both 14 year olds and 74 year olds
 - Noise from amphitheater, parking, will highway buffer sound to north Minneapolis neighborhoods?
 - Will Xcel buffer sound to Northeast
 - Development needs to make money, but should be a place where there is housing for families (not just 1 bedroom apartments) and where 14 year olds can feel welcome and 74 year old can feel safe
 - Only park planners asked what will this city need in 100 years? How can be that in 2017 and not just the next 20-30 years
 -
- 9. Lost track of time:
 - Lost in the woods, MRI, Relaxing at the hidden beach

Group 2 Response:

- 7. Project should matter to:
 - Must matter to Northside, also an international park
 - Help make northside an international space
 - Chicago – chain really gets used, space people want to see and celebrate at
 - Ok is training issue + connection, not number of jobs
 -
- 8. Project challenges:
 - Don't want to lose north side, and rich culture it has
 - Great to see Juxta – “Welcome to the northside”
 - Is family use realistic, or will kids come alone?
 - Have tunnels and built own barriers
 - Lessons from weber park – the rest of the city doesn't know about the pool, make sure it isn't isolated

- Do we want this to be talked about (like chain of lakes or central park, not like mall of America)
- No industrial development, but those jobs are living wages
- But great and central park, no industrial, but still successful
- How does green industry fit into this?
- Sleep (safe enough), swim laps, views of the river while swimming, indoor balance weber and scheerer outdoor swimming , public beach? Partly clean river up there
-
- 9. Lost track of time:
 - NA

Group 3 Response:

- 7. Project should matter to:
 - Some participants felt that the site should matter to Northside residents, especially youth and African Americans, while others pointed out the a regional park should be important to and welcoming to all. It was noted that the developer should work to meet North Minneapolis' needs.
- 8. Project challenges:
 - A blind spot in the engagement process that was noted is the fact that there are many in the community who can't attend evening meetings due to work and other conflicts, and their input is needed. Another blind spot that should be avoided would be not finding ways to better connect the site to the community, both east-west and north-south.
- 9. Lost track of time:
 - Taking a granddaughter to the park
 - Any water experience
 - Going through USAF Lock in a Voyageur's canoe
 - Sailing on Lake Minnetonka by moonlight
 - Canoeing
 - Watching the River Rats
 - Arts experiences that are dynamic and include "exploration"

Group 4 Response:

- 7. Project should matter to:
 - Neighborhood, city, and everybody
 - Neighborhood – adjacent residents

- City – to all incomes and revenues, an attraction, tourism
 - Everybody – what is affordable housing
- 8. Project challenges:
 - How to serve the blind
 - Culturally
 - Not North Loop just moving up
 - Future of access
 - Culturally aware
 - Specific to North Mpls kids
 - Urban agriculture
 - Educational opportunity
 - Community gardens
 - Ultimately specific to North
 - Challenges to the development
 - Adjacent development
 - Accessibility:
 - Incorporate accessibility from the beginning
 - Townhouses: north of Washington, car dealership
- 9. Lost track of time:
 - Family gatherings