

# Upper Harbor Terminal Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #1

## Meeting Minutes

07.31.19

### *Ground Rules/Group Agreements*

1. Be respectful of others
2. Be mindful not to dominate the conversation
3. Let others speak and be a good listener
4. Stay present
5. Be open minded
6. Be respectful of other cultures and groups
7. Stick to the agenda and manage time
8. Identify clear objectives
9. Turn your cell phones off or on silent during the meeting

### *MBRB 101 (see updated attachment of slides)*

#### *Public Open Comment Time:*

**Comment 1:** Need facilities to be more equal across park system. For instance, there are larger amenities in other parts of the cities, but not North. North needs a public pool that is indoors. It's also important that there be access at UHT for the community and while the music venue is generally good, it should be public too not just private. Having public and private spaces that are combined gives opportunities for different people of different backgrounds and cultural groups to connect and interact.

**Comment 2:** The site at UHT should be about promoting generational wealth. A music venue is too focused on alcohol and will not provide quality jobs that promote generational wealth. The site should focus on green infrastructure and green industry such as greenhouses. This park will not be used by people; it's too isolated. The whole concept from a park standpoint and development standpoint is not correct. People think that the process to design what will be on the site is a done deal but it is not.

*Overview of Planning Process and Community Engagement to date*

*See attached.*

*Q/A:*

1. Question/comment: Concerned about people from other parts of the city who might have more privilege dominating voices from the Northside. "Respect your side of the river." Also concerned about the landfill and Northern Metals for air and water pollution. Concerned about putting housing on the site when the community has been involved in a lawsuit due to pollution for some time. Need affordable community housing and concerned that development pushes people out of the community.
2. Question: How will the CAC know when the AUAR comment period is?
  - a. Response: We will let the CAC know.
3. Question: If affordable housing is not part of the MPRB CAC purview, why would the housing FAQ be included in the CAC packet?
  - a. Response: We provided info in the packet that could be helpful in getting to understand the project holistically. Housing is a common concern so we wanted to provide access to information.
4. Question: How can the CAC be involved in the City / developer process for the private development?
  - a. Response: The City has Collaborative Planning Committee meetings generally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. These meetings are open to the public to attend and listen although there is not public participation. The City has monthly workshops, or learning tables, to hear from the community on various project themes.
5. Question: Boundaries on the site are proposed. Are these flexible?
  - a. Response: We should assume that the boundaries are fixed. The City has approved a concept plan with the boundaries shown in the project materials. These boundaries could change as the project evolves; this often happens with complex planning projects. The CAC can weigh in on the boundaries and how they impact the project, but should assume we are working within these boundaries.
6. Question: Is there a landfill or a place where material is/was dumped on site?
  - a. Response: There is a location at the southern end of UHT where materials from dredging the river were stored. The pile of dredged river material no longer exists. The landfill is near Northern Metals is further south, we believe nearer to 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue North.

7. Question: I heard an Indigenous land acknowledgement, but haven't heard anything else about Indigenous people during the meeting. How are the Dakota people being included in this process?
  - a. Response: The park board is hiring consultants to help us connect with different communities that might not typically come to community meetings. We are working on hiring at least one consultant from the Dakota community. We also are going to be working with consultants from the East African, Southeast Asian, African American, and Latinx community. At times we will work with existing City Committees, such as the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (MACOPWD) and the Transgender Equity Council.
8. Question/Comment: It is important to have someone acting in this role from the African American Community because that community historically has been left behind.
9. Question/Comment: Please consider that if a music venue is done that safety is a strong concern. We should consider how to prevent incidents of mass shootings.
10. Question/Comment: Statement by the Chair that it may be important for CAC members to attend the CPC meetings as observers to understand where the development process is at, and to keep eyes on that process.
11. Question/Comment: How do we create access to parks even with development? Gentrification is a reality that is going to remain. The CAC has the opportunity to give input to the city that parks are important. The CAC is responsible for parks and the river and protecting them. It's also important for CAC members to reach out into the community and encourage involvement in the processes.
12. Question/Comment: The River isn't a part of the city's concept plan. Could we have someone from the National Park Service (NPS) come to a meeting and talk more about the role of NPS in this project?
  - a. Response: We connect with NPS regularly on the project and they may be interested in being a programming partner. NPS is on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) along with other agencies. We can ask them to come to a future meeting.
13. Question: Can we get copies of the [Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan](#) and [River First Plans](#) emailed?
  - a. Response: MPRB will send CAC members links to the online plans and links are included in these meeting minutes.
14. Question: Can meetings move around in the community to encourage others to join? If the meetings were at Harrison, for example, maybe the neighbors would come.

- a. Response: MPRB will have other events around at various locations. We can move the CAC meetings, but have found that most people seem to prefer to come consistently to MPRB. We will start by having CAC meetings at MPRB headquarters just to get rolling and comfortable and then we can consider how to move around.

*Q/A from Comment Cards::*

1. Question: Has the land transaction happened with the Park Board?
  - a. Response: No, the City still owns all 48 acres. The Coordinated Plan planned for March is the basis for land transactions with both MPRB and the developer.
2. Question/Comment: MetroTransit needs to be in these conversations.
  - a. Response: The project team has had ongoing conversations with MetroTransit during the project. Usually MetroTransit needs a certain number of anticipated riders to route a bus to a place and service increases with more riders. If there are not enough riders, sometimes an agency can subsidize bus service.
3. Question/Comment: Can MPRB operate a restaurant in the park – like Sea Salt?
  - a. Response: MPRB can certainly look at private venues within the park such as food vendors and other opportunities. We will have these discussions as part of the program and design process. Any private venue, and restaurants, in particular, can be a challenging business without adequate numbers of visitors. It may be that the earliest opportunities are pop-ups until the area is established and known.
4. Question/Comment: Is our CAC a voting body? How do we make decisions?
  - a. Response: The by-laws and procedures for a CAC are established in the [MPRB Community Engagement Policy](#)
5. Question/Comment: What is the timeline for this project?
  - a. Response: MPRB expects to convene this CAC until the late spring of 2020. In general MPRB hopes to show concept alternatives in November/December, refine the concept into a preferred alternative in the spring, and have a final concept and first phase improvements defined by early summer, 2020. Once the project moves beyond the concept, MPRB will send out public notification as the design is developed and construction begins. Should MPRB need to change the project substantially, MPRB would try to reconvene the CAC.
6. Question/Comment: What will the benefits be for the Northside neighborhoods?
  - a. Response: Based on earlier engagement from this and other projects, MPRB has several high level goals for the project. More specific goals and benefits are something that the CAC and community members will help define and prioritize

through the concept design process. MPRB is seeking a park that provides important benefits and is embraced by community members, but what is the best fit should be decided during the upcoming process.

**Links:**

RiverFirst Plans:

<https://www.slideshare.net/MplsRiverfrontDesign/riverfirst-vision-april-2012>

Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan:

[https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park\\_care\\_improvements/park\\_projects/current\\_projects/above-the-falls-regional-park-master-plan-update/](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/above-the-falls-regional-park-master-plan-update/)

Community Engagement Policy:

[https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019\\_mprb\\_community\\_engagement\\_policy\\_board\\_approved.pdf](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019_mprb_community_engagement_policy_board_approved.pdf)

*Next Steps:*

Next meeting is Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Suggested topics for next (or future) meeting:

- How does NPS play a role in this project?
- The music venue