

Upper Harbor Terminal Focus Group

November 8, 2019 Meeting Notes

East African Community Members

Present: Kate Lamers, Francisca Pass, Crystal Passi (MPRB), Sharmarke Issa and Abdimalik Mohamed, Focus group participants (not named)

Introduction

Modeling Exercise

Group 1: Led by Sharmarke

- Housing needs are very important, particularly a need for low income housing.
- A large playground is best because if we go to a playground and it seems full we will just leave.
- A large field where kids can run around.
- Parking is needed close to activities.
- A swimming pool. A swimming pool that can be used by adults is important because many adults don't know how to swim. If they don't swim then the kids don't and won't learn. If it were year-round that would be best. If the pool is large and can accommodate lots of people that would be best. The nearby pools (YMCA and YWCA) don't accommodate our needs and so we have to go to New Hope to swim. The downtown location isn't desirable because there isn't easy parking.
- Also like a splash pad
- Safety in terms of the river access is important. A barrier or fence is preferred.
- The group is concerned about the river flooding. There was a recent flooding in Somalia that really impacted communities and separated cities and there are some psychological impacts to their thinking about a park on the river due to this.
- Skate park
- An open market with a roof is desired.
- Food trucks in a parking lot are desired
- Picnic tables
- This group says they are not culturally used to using grills in public places so they probably would not use it
- Food washing station both indoors and out (All season). Most importantly the station needs seating included.
- Lots of kids activities including winter ones like snowshoeing, skiing, ice skating and sledding.

Group 2: Led by Abdimalik

- Make a community center back FROM WATER
- Footwash inside
- Interested in a site tour
- Splash pad is first pick
- Like idea of hammocks
- Couldn't find North Mississippi Regional Park; it's hard to get to.
- Like picnic shelters for group events
- Prefer a pool, wading pool. Kid need to learn how to swim.
- No interest in fishing
- Place with shade including trees and shelters. Like picnicking in the shade and will not come without shade. Using relics to support shade sails could be fine as long as the picnic areas are in the shade.
- Don't put too many amenities on top of water. Worry about a slope and wall and people falling in the river.
- Being on river brings anxiety. Picnic on the river sounds scary.
- No one knows how to swim. Like the idea of an indoor pool.
- Indoor amenities at a rec center.
- Outdoor restroom if the building is not open.
- Don't like the way the relics look.
- Loring Park doesn't feel safe.