

# Upper Harbor Terminal Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #6

## Meeting Minutes

12.17.19

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) General Meeting:

- Vice Chair: Does anyone has any questions or concerns about the agenda for the meeting?
- CAC Member: Do we have the minutes from the last meeting that we can approve? Can we get them in advance of the meeting?
- Kate: We are trying to get caught up and have meeting notes on time. Most CAC's do not approve the minutes. We can do that if that is something you want to do but I am not sure if it's a great use of your time as a CAC. A lot of times meetings get stuck on trying to get minutes approved, and you can always contact us if you feel there are errors. If you want to approve minutes, I suggest that we separate general meeting notes from minutes. Any official business where a vote is made will be considered minutes, all the rest of the meeting would be notes. Then you aren't trying to agree on ten pages of general notes where we try to capture what was said during the entire meeting. We try to get the minutes ahead of time, but that is not always possible.
- CAC Member: It's hard for me to know what has happened unless I can read the minutes from the last meeting.
- CAC Vice Chair: I know from previous discussions, it was more about making sure that what was said around this table was accurately reflected. So I don't that we need official meeting minutes, but everyone wants a chance to go through them so that when we come to the next meeting, we can correct anything that wasn't accurate.
- Kate: We should be able to get caught up over the holidays and start January with minutes and FAQ posted for all meetings. Our goal is to try and get minutes within a week of the meeting, so we will try and get minutes out within two weeks of a meeting and meet that schedule.

Kate reviews goals and agenda. The focus of this meeting is a brainstorm session and discussion about the general direction of the project; there are no major decisions planned. General Project updates:

- Kate: Since our last meeting we have been working to meet with community members we haven't had the opportunity to meet with as much as we would like in the past. Often people become more interested in a project and want to weigh in when we get to design options. We are establishing relationships that we can go back to. In addition to our open house, we also have been doing a fair amount of focus groups and have more coming up. We did one with the East African community members, met with the Transgender Equity Council and met with Latinx community members at the Asuncion Church behind Cub Foods. Some of these groups, such as the Transgender Equity Council, may not be interested in long term engagement or may want to address specific aspects of design, but many of them have good insight into what make spaces

feel welcoming and safe. So we still want to get to them early to make sure. We will be summarizing this info and share out soon.

- Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan has been hung up for years on the UHT boundary since the UHT project is a part of that larger regional park plan. Since that boundary is currently settled, that larger park master plan is moving forward with an upcoming public hearing and consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

#### *Public Art Update:*

Kristen Murray from Juxtaposition Arts (JXTA) provided an overview. JXTA has been involved for a number of years and before the City did the RFQ to find the partners for this project. JXTA had a long relationship with the site and a long relationship with MPRB. JXTA was at the Open House last week with youth working with the Musicant Group and PPS. JXTA is adding one more role to the task list which is think about how public art can be integrated into the project. Over this next planning phase, JXTA will be looking at what are the important storylines, and how can public art can tell those stories, how does visual art tell those stories and how does art integrate into the park. JXTA is just getting started and is planning to engage with other artists and community members and figure out what this can look like.

- CAC Member: Do you live on the Northside? What has been your relationship with the site? (to apprentices). How do you get there? Is it easily accessible?
- JXTA (apprentices): Mainly just biking. I live nearby and so sometimes go to the site on my way to Northeast, especially in the summer
- JXTA: I haven't been there outside of with JXTA.
- CAC Member: Do you go to the site? Do you know any artists interested?
- JXTA: I was friends with a lot of the artists who used to tag on the site. I know they use it to get away from the commotion, especially during high school.
- CAC Member: How could public art remain a permanent part of this site? Not just a one time thing?
- JXTA: The artists on our team have a different relationship with the site because of the legal aspects of access. It can be difficult to get to the site currently. We need to plan art with the park.
- CAC Member: Let's say you could wave a wand and could make the park whatever. What would you like to see this park become?
- JXTA: A place for gathering where I feel welcome because that is where I feel comfortable. A place I can meet with people at all times of the day. A place where everyone can go.
- JXTA: A good community space. Safe, inviting. We don't have a lot of that over in North; I'd like to see that.
- CAC Member: If we turn this into a public space as opposed to just a vacant space would teens want to engage more with the space or less?
- JXTA: I think more. Some people feel like they don't have time to hang out in the luxuries in their own communities. Like people are so busy with school, they don't have time to just hang out.

- JXTA: It depends. Some of my friends are more modern. My friends like to go shopping instead of going to a park, I enjoy a park more than going to a mall.
- CAC Member: Are there other areas in the city where you feel a safe welcoming loving space that you would want to replicate what goes on there?
- JXTA: North Mississippi Regional. I like the feel of the park, how everything is connected.
- JXTA: I like the boundary of where people are more well off on Theo Wirth parkway and then there is a little space where there are more renters. There is a little cut of land, a field, people sled in the winter, people take their kids there, people utilize it. More places like that in Northside. Because you feel like you can go out just to enjoy an area with your family. More places where you feel like you could be there all day. Less intimidating police, there are a lot of police which disturb a lot of events and make them uncomfortable. There should be a different approach.

#### *Schedule and Park Direction:*

Kate provided an overview of schedule, park direction, and upcoming plans. Main goal of the planning process is to create a park design. MPRB did not want to get to design too early because it is easy to get fixated on what would be a good amenity to have and forget that the physical design itself is not the most important outcome. The function of the park is the most important outcome. . The physical design should serve the community needs and vision identified during the process. However, at this point, it is better to move into design and looking at ideas spatially because it makes tradeoffs, actual function on the site, and relationships more clear.

The general trend that the team has heard is that people prefer a park that is “just green enough” for a variety of reasons. The team understands that creating a nice park on the river may not fulfill the goal of making it a park that is embraced by the Northside community. MPRB may need to push its own boundaries and try to more heavily program this park to create deliberate connections with Northside organizations and residents and build park ownership. Goal of this meeting is to finish up a brainstorm exercise on programing and activation and making the connections that will make this a Northside park.

Moving into in January we will take this to the initial design stage and overlay the basic program elements with site analysis information. Once the park boundary was defined, the technical team could dig into the site analysis more, including the structures. As part of the site analysis in January, the project team will present information so the CAC can understand what ideas might involve big costs and what might be relatively easy. In January the team is planning a design workshop and in February to have draft concepts. Taking this conversation into a design context will help clarify options, priorities, and trade offs, and will help MPRB get input beyond very general ideas. Once this project moves into the design stage, the park can still be refined as needed. A lot of what we are hearing about is programing and activation and those ideas can continue to evolve well after the park is built.

- CAC Member: The design workshop is separate from the CAC meeting?
- Kate: Yes. Possibly the 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> of January (updated post meeting to Jan 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) with flex time so people can come in whether they work days or nights.

### *Powerline Update:*

Kate provided a brief summary of the previous powerline discussion and new information (included in the Powerline Memo distributed before and at the CAC meeting). Based on additional information, Kate provided a staff recommendation to avoid poles on park land. Recommendation is that the City study an option where the power line would cross from the existing Xcel plant back to the railroad tracks, which would pass over park land, but not include a pole on park land. The lines would also be higher with this option, which gets it farther away from people. It may require two poles back by the railroad tracks (that area is not planned to be on park land). This “long span” line was not understood to be too long of a run for the lines, and not an option, but recent conversations with Xcel indicate that it is likely a cost-effective option. MPRB staff does not recommend studying putting the line underground for a short segment as the likely cost will be more than 3 million dollars. That takes up at least half of the park budget, and MRPB would not be able to do some of the basic site and park improvements.

- CAC Member: What does this have to do with the park and MPRB?
- Kate: People’s general preference has been to get rid of the lines as much as possible, and often requested that the line be buried. It was an option to bury a short segment of line that was partially within the park land, but it is a limited option. However, we wanted the CAC to have an opportunity to provide input.
- CAC Member: The blue line is existing?
- Kate: Yes
- CAC Member: It makes sense to concern ourselves with the current location because it’s smack dab in the middle of the park. But the red line, where the line is moving, is largely on land that is not park. Why would we spend money for the benefit to private land? This should be on the owners of private land to do and no public money should be spent. The biggest percentage of that line does not fall in park property. I would push for the MPRB should not pay for this. We are being coerced to spend money to benefit the developer.
- CAC Vice Chair: Looking at the diagram, we should only spend about 5% of the cost to put the powerline underground.
- Kate: This is diagrammatic, so exactly where that pole would have fallen and how much the line is over park land isn’t completely known. Our goals has been to get it off of park land and away from park users. Our understanding is that it would likely be at least halfway on park land. MPRB and the project team would also question burying that short section of line. But we wanted to ask if the CAC felt it would be important to bury this short section.
- CAC Member: One of the CAC members had good insight into the options last meeting and it was expensive to bury the lines and we still had poles. So I think we determined the City should pay for the study. Of course, everyone wants to bury it, but the developer should pay to bury it – they are the ones that benefit. Don’t make a decision that costs us money when it doesn’t benefit the public users.
- CAC Vice Chair: Can we address the question, why is this a park board discussion when the majority is not on MPRB land and it affects the venue property and not the park property?
- Kate: Roughly half of that segment would cross over park property. We wanted to make sure how much people feel like that segment impacted the park. Staff would recommend Option 3 because there is no cost to the MPRB. Our tentative understand with the city is that they will re-locate the line but cannot pay for the burial.

- CAC member: Last week at the CPC meeting, someone said that Xcel had paid to dig up gas lines in St. Paul. I don't know why, but it sounded like that would be a lot more expensive than burying those lines. So why can't we go to Xcel again and ask for help?
- CAC Member: Xcel's income for this project is mostly coming from development. They are doing this because they stand to make money from electrical consumption. I would say the least amount of MPRB money would be a benefit.
- CAC Member: According to this Option 3, MPRB would be spending zero dollars?
- Kate: That is the tentative understanding with the City and that is why it's our staff recommendation. This conversation has been had with Xcel many times and we also had conversations with legal counsel who specialize in working with municipalities to understand their rights when working with utilities. There is no option to have them pay that we know of. If an option comes up to have someone else pay to bury the lines, that can always be done. But what we really needed was to see if we are comfortable moving forward on a staff recommendation. You don't have to vote on that, staff can take responsibility for this decision. I heard some questions at the last meeting, but it seemed that people didn't feel that there was a lot of public value in burying the line. And given all of the new information, I think Option 3 is the best option. If the CAC feels differently, you can make your own recommendation.
- CAC Member: If you bury it you would still have to put a pole on or within the park? If you bury it, there would have to be a pole on park land?
- Kate: Yes. Option 3 (long span) is the only option that gets the pole off of park land so we feel that this is a better option for many reasons. We are just finding more and more issues with burying it.
- CAC Member: I think this sounds like a great option that they can make the line long and the city is still paying for it. I don't know why we are delaying our useful time to talk about it. I think we should recommend what staff is recommending and move on.
- CAC Vice Chair: I think we were talking about it is because if things are not explained clearly enough it stirs up more questions than answers. If we didn't come back to this issue, people might still have questions, which is why I was trying to clarify certain things. I think we are good, we aren't paying extra, we lost the pole. Okay.

*Programming Activity: (Community and CAC Members)*

Kate introduced the purpose of the exercise. The project team wanted to examine several aspects of programming within the park, activation and working with Northside groups and other organizations, and with neighborhood parks. MPRB also wants to consider employment opportunities partly as a tool to mitigate green gentrification. This is not business as usual for MPRB and so what is possible isn't certain, but the team needs to see what the park board can do. A lot of topics relevant to gentrification, such as housing, are not MPRB purview. MPRB can try to push the boundary on green infrastructure and employment. Employment through programming and activation, or onsite jobs can be another way to build relationships and connections with community members and make sure that this park is really strongly connected with the Northside. The focus of the upcoming exercise, is how does MPRB activate the space, who are potential partners, and specifically what are the benefits? This approach to building a park more slowly over time as the park is activated is a new approach for MPRB. MPRB doesn't have

significant funding ready for activation or employment, but is starting to have these conversations with potential partners.

- CAC Member: Can you give an update as to public transportation accessibility?
- Kate: Metro Transit can't really provide transit until there is a defined ridership. Typically, there must be a certain number of people living or working in the area and demand in place. Unfortunately, what may happen is that transit will get there after an area has become more heavily used. That may be a problem if we are trying to build relationships to an area early on. My understanding is that if you can find someone to pay for a bus line, it may be worth a discussion with Metro Transit. But it sounds like even paying for a line is not necessarily an option. So, right now, public transportation is an issue. But that goes back to our plan for deliberate activation. If we know transportation is an issue, and our goal is to connect people to the site, there are things we can do such as working with our neighborhood parks or other organizations, such as senior organizations, to shuttle people to the UHT. We have some ideas to help us overcome the transportation problem and part of our inspiration came from Mysnikol's comment at the last meeting. But we can't know if, and when, Metro Transit will have a bus line.
- CAC Vice Chair: The Loppet is located on 38<sup>th</sup> and Humboldt and they have vans and that is a potential partnership.
- Kate: Those are the type of ideas we want to capture with this exercise.
- Chris (Musicant Group): That conversation reflects how we are trying to look at this topic of activation and programming. The exercise is 4 different sheets that go over uses and activities, features and employment. What we wanted to understand from the CAC and community is what uses, and activities can happen in addition to what we have already captured with community engagement. What should happen or what would you like to have happen in the park? How these activities can reflect and connect to the Northside. An example would be the issue of transportation. How does this reflect and connect to the Northside? Shuttles, transit and gathering at local neighborhood park and going to the site in a programmed activity? We want to understand from you is what those things are: ideas and assists that can be leveraged to create and make this a great park that reflects the Northside. We are asking something on each of these sheets. List out uses and activities, less built form, and more what should happen such as walking along the river, touching water and playing with your kids and how that use can benefit and reflect the community.
- CAC Member: So we are limited to the things you have written there?
- Chris: Not at all, we just wanted to show some examples of how we want to develop initial ideas about park amenities. We wanted to spur the conversation, but feel free to ignore them.
- CAC Member: How much of the community engagement summary are comments from people from the Northside?
- Kate: We don't know because we did not previously tag comments with zip codes. We tried to be very careful with not tagging anything with a zip code unless people self-identified as being a Northside resident and provided their zipcode. Even meetings that we believe were 100% Northsiders because maybe they were a neighborhood meeting, we did not make any assumptions. So we didn't want to toss out absolutely everything that didn't have a solid zip code attached. One of the things we are working on right now is highlighting the Northside

comments so we can compare the two. When we have done this in the past, there were fairly consistent trends from Northside residents and all comments. Not a lot of the things have been terribly different when we have compared them. We also have some new engagement to add to the mix, and hopefully will give us a bigger sample size of comments tagged with zip codes.

- CAC Member: Some of those things like dog park don't seem like something from the Northside.
- Public comment: A lot of people on the Northside own dogs.
- Max (Musicant Group): There are lots of different things that people want to do at the park, but no activity is inherently rooted or not rooted in the Northside. What we want to do is translate the engagement we have already gotten and interpret it; because this isn't the gospel truth, these are things that we perceived. You all can add, take away and add your own ideas. We want to know based on your experience how can we deliver it in a way that reflects the Northside community, because a dog park can be done in a way that does not or could reflect the Northside. We want to know if you feel like a dog park is a good thing to have; how can it be done in Upper Harbor so it can reflect North Minneapolis community.
- Chris: The activity looks at different activities at different times of day and how do we create spaces that are dynamic that can function and accommodate these different uses.
- Kate: We want to naturally activate these spaces as much as possible because we have heard a lot of concerns about safety here. And people don't necessarily want a lot of security or police presence, but people tend to feel safer when other people are around. For example, weekdays during the warm season should we be partnering with the schools or pre-schools? The more you can help us populate this calendar, the more we can take the ideas and find out what physical spaces we need to support these.

## Group 1

*Exercise #1: The future public space at Upper Harbor Terminal should offer engaging experiences. This can come in many forms. Think about the time of day and week various users are most likely to visit the park. List 3-5 activities/uses that would draw the community to the park. Share how the spaces and programming which provide that draw could benefit and reflect the community.*

### Weekday, morning,/ afternoon

- Greenhouse
- Track + Field Day Partnerships with local schools (event)
- Educational Community Centers
- Honor Native American people

### Weekend, morning / afternoon

- Taking kids to the playground
- Fishing
- Flower Gardens
- Bees
- Birdwatching

- Access to the river

#### Non-Assigned

- Outdoor fitness
- Stalls (Venice Beach), Vendors and artists
- **Geo-Dome**
- Rejuvenation of land (prairie?)
- Aveda (potential partners)
- UofM (potential partners)
- Church/Religious Organizations (potential partners)
- BeeKeeping
- Employment and skills training opportunities
- Acknowledging indigenous land

*Exercise #2: The future public space at Upper Harbor Terminal should offer engaging experiences. This can come in many forms. Think about events that could take place in the park. List 3-5 events that would draw the community to the park. Share how the spaces and programming for those events could benefit and reflect the community.*

#### Warm Season/Small Scale

- Sculpture Garden incorporated with a natural

#### Warm Season/Large Scale

- Too small/ no parking/ no transportation

#### Cold Season/Small Scale

- Sculpture Garden

*Exercise #3: The experiences people want to have will fuel the direction of the park design. The right design for a northside park involves more than just incorporating community art and expression. What park amenities will attract Northside community members to the park? What will build ownership in the park?*

*Is it familiar and well-used park amenities such as basketball in a new setting on the river? Is it something new and different that is lacking from the other Northside Parks? Some of both?*

- Art with the land\_ Rejuvenation/sculptures (black/indigenous artists created)
- Playground
- Bee Habitat\_ Bee Club/education
- Geo-dome/greenhouse (using parts of old dome structure to keep art that is already there!)

- Community Center
- Youth Bike Repair Center
- A field for free use
- Skate Park
- Volleyball/playground
- Free access to: boats, ski, sled

*Exercise #4: Given the lack of riverfront park on the north side, we are determined to ensure the park serves the community.*

*Employment may be a critical component of providing opportunities and establishing connections to the park. Provide ideas of how the park can build skills and careers.*

- Jobs at the GeoDome
- Cooking Classes
- Bike Shop, Rent kayaks, boats
- Fishing
- Landscaping partnerships w/ local businesses and/or community members

## Group 2

*Exercise #1: The future public space at Upper Harbor Terminal should offer engaging experiences. This can come in many forms. Think about the time of day and week various users are most likely to visit the park. List 3-5 activities/uses that would draw the community to the park. Share how the spaces and programming which provide that draw could benefit and reflect the community.*

Weekday, morning,/ afternoon

- Get a cup of coffee
- Mom + kids/preschoolers going for a walk in the park
- Looking at the river, sitting on a bench
- School field trips
- Afterschool archery @park building
- Pick up spots after school
- Lunch break @ park
- Sit by the river and read a book
- Walking paths not just in park but integrated into the private development

Weekend, morning / afternoon

- Fishing with family\_on a pier, get out over the water

- Bike along the trail \_rent-a-bike, fix-a-bike
- Studying (students)
- Playing Chess
- Bird watching (from a boat)
- Family BBQ's, birthdays, family reunion
- Wandering/exploring the park
- Need restrooms + bins for trash and recycling
- Food Vendors/trucks
- Teens coming to work \_work with small vendors, MPRB bldg.
- Public/private rec. center/bldg (Wolf Park in SLP)

#### Weekday, evening / night

- indoor/screened space for protection from weather/mosquitoes
- Community movie night
- Get dinner (affordable)
- Get ice cream
- Neighborhood spaces/icons + n'hood nights (strategies that connect n'hood to UHT park)
- Eat
- Graffiti (changing exhibits/installation)
- Events that are advertised to H.S. students
- Teen night (like at Farview)

#### Weekend / evening,night

- Good lighting for safety
- Community movie night
- Horse carriage rides
- Overnight camping close to home, connect to YMCA, MPRB programs
- Ice Rink, flood an open space for a rink + warming house for rental

*Exercise #2: The future public space at Upper Harbor Terminal should offer engaging experiences. This can come in many forms. Think about events that could take place in the park. List 3-5 events that would draw the community to the park. Share how the spaces and programming for those events could benefit and reflect the community.*

#### Small Scale, Warm season

- Church Picnics
- Astronomy
- Farmers Market
- Teen Nights

### Large Scale, Warm Season

- Concerts on the water
- Fireworks!
- Carnival
- Music/art Fair
- Juneteenth
- Open streets from UHT to Webber
- Northside Parade that starts and ends at UHT
- A large wall that keeps changing over time and how art added every school year
- Carifest

### Large Scale, Cold Season

- Ice Palace
- Teen Nights

*Exercise #3: The experiences people want to have will fuel the direction of the park design. The right design for a northside park involves more than just incorporating community art and expression.*

*What park amenities will attract Northside community members to the park? What will build ownership in the park?*

*Is it familiar and well-used park amenities such as basketball in a new setting on the river? Is it something new and different that is lacking from the other Northside Parks? Some of both?*

- No text

*Exercise #4: Given the lack of riverfront park on the north side, we are determined to ensure the park serves the community.*

*Employment may be a critical component of providing opportunities and establishing connections to the park. Provide ideas of how the park can build skills and careers.*

- Restaurant Industry
- Urban Farming (hydroponic/solar power)
- High Tech-Industry
- TeenWorks
- Home Construction Industry (eco-friendly)

### Group 3

*Exercise #1: The future public space at Upper Harbor Terminal should offer engaging experiences. This can come in many forms. Think about the time of day and week various users are most likely to visit the park. List 3-5 activities/uses that would draw the community to the park. Share how the spaces and programming which provide that draw could benefit and reflect the community.*

#### Weekday, morning / afternoon

- Social Seating (comfortable to sit all day)
- Native play area
- Basketball
- Fitness Stations?, bodyweight exercises
- Regular routines

#### Weekend/morning, afternoon

- Refreshments, all day every day (adds eyes on the park)
- Water Access
- Skating Rink
- Bike destination
- Signage, wayfinding to help connect to other park areas
- Chess/checkers tables, games + sports equipment checkout
- Games
- Outdoor roller skating ring

#### Comments on how these activities could connect/reflect the community

- Classes needed (or ranger programs) for new sports, water activities
- Swimming, boating, safety lessons
- Fishing
- Open skating, no league/sports teams needed
- Hangout space, racks (bike), repair station (bike)
- Performances easy and permit on-site

*Exercise #2: The future public space at Upper Harbor Terminal should offer engaging experiences. This can come in many forms. Think about events that could take place in the park. List 3-5 events that would draw the community to the park. Share how the spaces and programming for those events could benefit and reflect the community.*

#### Small Scale/Warm

- Shuttle boat/water taxi to current emerging riverfront destinations

## Large Scale/Warm

- Churches/faith group gathering, retreats
- Dragon boat- type festivals, rowing races
- Barge as moving stage up and down the riverfront

## Small Scale/Cold

- Fire pits
- Warming house

## Large Scale/cold

- [None Listed]

*Exercise #3: The experiences people want to have will fuel the direction of the park design. The right design for a northside park involves more than just incorporating community art and expression.*

*What park amenities will attract Northside community members to the park? What will build ownership in the park?*

*Is it familiar and well-used park amenities such as basketball in a new setting on the river? Is it something new and different that is lacking from the other Northside Parks? Some of both?*

- Warming house, bathrooms
- Docks
- Food available- restaurants, food trucks, grills, cooler “vending machines”
- Movable picnic tables
- Water access
- Fishing areas
- Nature, green, plants +animals, “wildness”
- Binocular stations to see herons, other wildlife
- Basketball court
- Skating rink
- Fitness circuit (could connect to other parks as well) or something else that provides exercise options
- Tagging wall (with an artist-in-residence program)
- New- Tagging Wall –Where it could be change every month or so.
- Signage- Phrase perhaps “we all own this place” Public land messages
- Comfortable sitting areas like hammocks
- Decorative features for trash cans
- Space to lock your bike
- A platform/ raised stage/plaza

*Exercise #4: Given the lack of riverfront park on the north side, we are determined to ensure the park serves the community.*

*Employment may be a critical component of providing opportunities and establishing connections to the park. Provide ideas of how the park can build skills and careers.*

- Artist consignment/sale opportunity (example: Silverwood park), art vending machine
- Student art
- Youth employment, youth leadership in programming
- Small-scale vendors (food) like food carts
- Open mic night, spoken word-performance art that doesn't require pre-booking
- Ability to reserve stage/performance area like you would a picnic shelter- easy, on-site permitting
- On-site applications
- Urban boat builders
- Wilderness Inquiry programming

*Public Comment and final discussion:*

- Public Comment: I have two comments related to the environment and the fact that this project is on stolen land. I think we need to think about the industry that from what I know, is impacting the community significantly and is not planned to be shut down. This is a larger conversation that across the board in all of our communities and in the entire world that we need to be talking about. But specifically, in our community here, we are not talking about how this is sacred Dakota territory and how we are on stolen Indigenous land. The river itself is a sacred entity that shouldn't be thought about as just a commodity or a resource. It's not just a place to fish, it's a sacred entity and so how we are respecting that is important. I'm Black so I'm plugged into that sort of community. As Black people, the history of our people and how that relates to the Mississippi River is an extremely deep and a very ancestral thing. There are so many things we aren't talking about. I would like to open the conversation at how all of this gets at precedent for how we are talking about these things. In the Black community how do we talk about the fact that this is stolen Indigenous land and how do we talk about the history of enslavement? How do we talk about all of this with the understanding that this is a space that we should be claiming? The Northside is a space we have been inhabiting a long time and we should be claiming and understanding the history of it and not letting white supremacy create the story for us as it has for a long time.
- John Anfinson (Superintendent of the National Park Service on the Mississippi River): Colleen (FMR) and I were at a three-hour meeting this afternoon with the 4 Dakota Tribes in MN and the city of St. Paul is reporting on all the projects it has going on in St. Paul and on the river. It was the first chance for the Dakota to listen to all that was going on, get up to speed on it all and a chance to start having comments on what their concerns are. It's the beginning of the process where the City of St. Paul is going to be engaging with the Dakota in conversation in all that they are doing on the river. We spent three hours on this this afternoon and so I think you could have a similar gathering for this project and could be inviting them to the conversation.
- Public Comment: What were some of your main takeaways?

- John Anfinson: This was more for them to listen and just get familiar with all that is happening. We are trying to develop a protocol with the Dakota ourselves, because what we used to do is no longer enough. We are all trying to do is to develop a protocol that says “here is how we would like to work with you on consultation” and then you come up with a memorandum of understanding like the Park and Rec Board could come up with a memorandum of understanding with the Dakota. They would like to see you engage them on these matters and once you have the protocol you work with them on the protocol and that is what they want with everyone, work with us, we will develop a protocol and we will work with you to get a memorandum of understanding.
- Public Comment: Can you give us any information or connections?
- John Anfinson: Franky Jackson is one of the major leaders is a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Prairie Island Indian Community. Leonard Wabasha is a long-time THPO with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux.
- Public Comment: Are those meetings going to be closed? Is there notes for those meetings?
- John Anfinson: This was their first meeting. We had 25 presenters at 5 minutes each. It was 2.5 hours non-stop so this was the first introduction to this and so now they will start discussing the most important projects such as Indian Mounds Park which is critical. There will be more engagement, but they have limited staff. They have 50-70 projects come to them a week, so they are kind of overwhelmed. They still want to try and engage.
- Public Comment: We would also want to ask the status quo to slow down. Because those that have the power and the momentum expect everyone to catch up.
- John Anfinson: Yes, that is one of their huge points.
- Public Comment: This is my first meeting here specifically; this is very overwhelming from my perspective. We need to completely stop and have years to understand what to do with this space in the context of what we are talking about here and with the understanding that there is urgency within the Northside to have employment, to have spaces to do things and balance both of these things.
- John Anfinson: I hope I did not miss-speak in regard to the park board. You may be already doing stuff that I’m not aware of.
- Kate: We are having conversations and we try and share those conversations with partners when those partners are comfortable with that. For example, some of the things we are hearing people want are the physical things we find in a lot of different parks. How we make those things work with the community narratives that are in place in the Northside is really the question we are trying to resolve here. On a downtown project I worked on, where we know that the Falls are a very sacred space for Indigenous people, many people wanted to learn about the Indigenous history. It helps when we can really start to dive into specific ideas with specific partners. For example, when I spoke with an instructor with Anishinaabe Academy she said that they have been able to build a Native identity for our youth up to 6th grade in their school. It’s after they leave that school that they often kind of lose that identity because they are not at a Native school anymore. Once they become adults, they can choose their own path, but it would be most helpful to have opportunities within that age from 6th grade to adulthood. MPRB could help by creating opportunities for them to lead the tours and share the history and target opportunities to that age group. So eventually we want to get to these specific ideas and start to layer everything together. Most often we talk with local partners. We do talk to the tribes

too, but as you said the THPOs are extremely busy. They are generally not local and have varying degrees of interest and time in the projects. We also find that they tend to be interested in overall efforts along the river, rather than specific projects. Often, they want to know that we are connecting with local community members.

- Vice Chair: We are about twelve minutes over. Is there anything else pressing for tonight?

*Meeting Adjourned.*