

# Upper Harbor Terminal Focus Group

## November 22, 2019 Meeting Notes

### Lao Community Group

Present: Andrea, Facilitator, Sunny, Translator (Lao Assistance Center), Focus group participants (community members not named)

Where community members live

St Paul – 1

Minneapolis – 13

Brooklyn Park – 4

### *Introduction*

### *Conversations*

- 3 more meetings. 4 including today.
- Folks need better visual of what area looks like currently and are confused about where Upper Harbor Terminal is.
- How much space will be for community use?
- Will space be enough for community use?
- Community would like to take tour of space
- 45 acres – narrow but long.
- Place for community to gather together.
- In California they have Lao boat racing festival.
- Lao Community would like to be involved in gathering when putting in ideas for space

Community is interested in using the park for:

- Lao Boat festival
- Community gatherings
- Lao art show, Lao culture display
- Night market (food, culture, music)
- Housing, grocery store, lao stores, culture specific stores, library
- Sports area for soccer, kator, biking space, working out area
- Food trucks area
- Space for lao vendors

- Free park entrance, Free parking
- Low income free entrance and parking – would like pass for free use
- Fishing space. There is a need to have fishing space because that's what most of Asian go to park for.
- Fishing isn't going to be good at this site because fishing is restricted, fish aren't good to eat from the Mississippi River and some won't be able to fish. (use space for something else)
- Have space dedicated for Lao community for use.
- Need something to represent each culture and ethnic

Location? Would they go with family?

- Would go but it is small, space is too narrow.
- Need wider and bigger space like maple grove park.
- Have big space for festivals and rituals
- Will it be good to bring family because area is bad (dirty and small)

Natural or built?

- Somewhere in between – like idea of new development but then also like idea of green space for kids and adult to use.
- 60% built 40% nature. Need new development but also need natural feeling. Would like to have a new feel but also natural look.
- Have flower garden to represent our culture. Bring more people into park. Like how Duluth has flower garden for show, we should have flower garden with Lao flowers to make it beautiful.
- Multi-purpose space for ALL communities. Something for all cultures to use. Like community center or building to do gatherings.

Active v.s. passive?

- Exercise space would be better. Physical fitness.
- Park space for kids to do activities
- 50/50 on active and passive space
- Need space for relaxing and picnic area. Something to relax and watch river

Utilize waterfront?

- Walking space along the river.
- Put boats area somewhere else it will be disturbing space area
- Have walking/hiking space. (everyone agreed on this).
- Would like space to bike
- Have exercise space along river

Questions?

Group agreed that Friday evenings are a good meeting time for the future.