

## Upper Harbor Terminal

### Lao Assistance Center – Hmong Focus Group

March 5, 2020 Meeting Notes

Present: Crystal Passi (MPRB), Emmaline Voss, Sunny, Phits, Focus group participants (not named)

*Introduction*

*Group discussions*

*What do you envision being in the park?*

- Space for an art show, with art from people of different ages and ethnicity, change the display seasonally
  - o Can be an indoor winter activity
- Central space for a meeting
  - o Need a big pavilion, would like 200-500 people
  - o Big spaces for classes (senior programming)
  - o Usually use one in St. Paul at Long Lake or Golden Valley but would like one closer
  - o Could be a bunch of smaller pavilions
  - o Discount rental for people from Northside
  - o Art museum that provides place to showcase Northside arts. Hmong art exhibits along side East African etc. Programming and vendor foods for events support use of museum events and showcase cultural traditions. Rotating exhibits.
  - o Amphitheater for dance performances
  - o Farmers market/food vendors
  - o Event Center
- Culturally relevant plantings and trees in park
- Variety of sport options
  - o Kab Tau
  - o Top Spin
  - o Badminton
  - o Volley Ball
  - o Horse shoes
  - o Tajru (Thai)
- Skating rank
- Places to rent a paddle boat and nice ride boat rentals
  
- Weekdays
  - o Family gathering, afterschool programs
  - o Should be a place for the elderly to be active and enjoy themselves

- Weekends
  - o More all ages programming
    - Want diverse staff to be outreach and programming, a lot of Hmong don't know about Webber
- Want a place to play pétanque (French bocce)
- Fishing area
- Exercise stations along walkway
- Want everyone in the Northside to have a space in the park that represents their community
  - o Something that shows Hmong history and heritage

*Mapping Activity feedback*

- Park walking trail
- Beach
- Fishing pier
- Community garden
- Playground
- Mobile market
- Want lots of art and quiet places
  - o Make something that is not different, and sets it apart from other parks
  - o If some of the relics are left, use them in a way that repurposes them into useful art and structures, like making an overlook out of the grain elevator

*Other Comments:*

- *5<sup>th</sup> of November is Hmong Veterans gathering and they need indoor spaces for 200-300 people. There is a lack of places to meet in the city, everything is suburban.*
- *Harvest festival*
- *How are you going to make income on spaces that actually invest in North MPLS?*
- *Making rental spaces more affordable including pavilions is important.*