

# Upper Harbor Terminal Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #10

## Meeting Minutes

05.21.20

### Community Advisory Committee (CAC) General Meeting:

#### Introduction/ Updates:

After a brief introduction, MPRB showed a video with draft park concepts. Video, slides, transcripts, and boards can be found on the website link below:

<http://upperharbormpls.com/draft-park-concepts/>

#### Comments & Questions:

CAC Member: Since I never got a response to my email regarding May 28 a couple weeks ago, I'd like to get some clarity about who is actually going to be there. Is it Dakota community members or the 2 paid consultants?

- a. The Dakota team presenting preferred the term community members; this is not unusual. Many people we work with do not like being referred to as consultants. However, they are putting time and energy and expertise into preparing a film, background information, and a presentation and we should, and are, paying them for their work. We try to hire from within a community and that means that people inevitably may wear more than one hat. Juxtaposition Arts is a good example where many on the team are community members as well as employees.

CAC Member: Can we please revisit dedicated and shared PARKING access at the main park site, for each plan? Total # of slots, location, etc, in each plan. We need to accept the reality that the vast majority of park visitors will come to this site by automobile.

- a. We are looking at approximately 22 parking stalls in all three concepts. These would be dedicated year round and during events. The three concepts each take different

approaches. We are working with public works right now to determine the best orientation that comes off the parkway. One concept looks at angle parking, one at reverse in angle parking and one with looks at separate stand-alone parking. We know parking will be a challenge at this site, so we are still having conversations with the city and developer with potential shared parking opportunities. All of this is in flux right now so parking around shared parking will be had in the future.

CAC Member: Just a follow up question. Can someone talk at a high level at other high volume sites throughout the park board with a fair amount of parking is there a general philosophy for parking and does that play into what we do here?

- a. I don't know that there is a overarching philosophy. Usually there are some standards for how much parking a park will need. For park this size in Minneapolis we are showing a fair amount of parking. One of the things we will need to talk about in more detail is the possibility of shared parking with the adjacent development. Park use which tends to be highest in the weekends and evenings. For that reason, parks don't share parking well with nearby residential development where people also tend to be home in the weekends and evenings. We will have significant on-street parallel spaces, which are a more efficiently way to park, but we did hear that having dedicated parking is important. We should also talk about people parking in the park when they are visiting for other reasons. Are we going to get public park spaces overwhelmed so no park users can't use them? How do we address that without having paid parking?

Community Member: Can I speak since we are talking about parking and transportation? I'm not sure if people are aware but there is a railroad that currently only two facilities are actually using, which is Northern Metals and GAF. That railroad would be a possibility if we can transition those industries from out of this area that railroad could be used as another transportation line as a trail or open up space for parking etc. I wanted to put that out there to advocate for some transition if we are willing to thinking big enough.

- a. We do believe that the rail line will open up at some point. As industry in the area changes and moves away, there is usually no longer a need for heavy rail. Railroad companies have a lot of rights, but often they are willing to let go of land they no longer need. Then the corridor can be repurposed into something else.

CAC Member: Are there any other park concepts that have a protected area from the river for launching canoes and kayaks? There was a large one on the first design, but I could not tell if there were any on the others.

- a. All three concepts have places where community members could launch canoes and kayaks. Concept A makes the launch route a very prominent feature, but there are piers in Concept B, and a dock in Concept C which serve the same function.

CAC Member: I'm curious about the performance areas. are there stages for each scenario?

- a. Yes, there is a place for a stage in each scenario. The park event/performance area (not to be confused with the music venue being proposed by the City and First Avenue) does vary in each draft park concept. The location changes and the size of the space changes in each concept. While each concept includes a space, there is also a range of intensities in park performance areas that could be built. We have heard requests for a Lake Harriet Bandshell here, but we don't need anything as large and elaborate as that bandshell to support local music. We could also do local music with a flexible space, a mobile or a permanent stage, and an outlet.

CAC Vice Chair: I think it's important to have boat access for all - owners and renters (with subsidies/scholarships for lower income people). Kayaking and canoeing are typically white dominated activities. If we provide this type of access here, it could become a park for white people very quickly.

Community Member: I think the river is for everyone. There are places where people can access the water and you can see everyone using them – kids and people of all races.

Kate: We have talked as a group before about how important it is for MPRB to be very deliberate about activation and building ownership among Northside community members. So are we thinking about this the right way if we plan to more heavily program park amenities like water access to make sure we are supporting Northside community members, particularly Black community members? Like if we worked with organizations and neighborhoods to plan for lots of river trips and teaching people who to kayak and canoe? And if we had check out equipment and staff support for people who want to come and get on the river?

CAC Vice Chair: Yes, that is what I mean.

CAC Member: How are all plans, goals of this area are in compliance to Gov Walz' Exec Order 19-14-Government to Government relationships? (Later added: Is the correct date of Gov Waltz's Ex Order, I mistakenly wrote the wrong year should be April 4, 2019. This order seems key to Native American Involvement. Are people aware of this Order?)

- a. MPRB will need to look at that particular executive order – am not immediately familiar with the number.

CAC Member: Access to water programming exclusively for northside residents first for a time is brilliant!

CAC Member: Not sure if we need to permanently design a space to comply with a short term executive order. The space is flexible however and could do that if needed in all the phase 1 of the designs.

CAC Member: From the physical plans we just watched, I could not tell if existing structures remained (ie in B and C), or if towers, domes, etc were rebuilt on the site to reflect the footprints? Can the design team please clarify?

- a. Each design shows a different plan for the structures. Some of the structures remain in the first phase simply because we will not likely have the funds to get rid of them. None of the structures would stay exactly as they are – if they stay, they need to have a purpose. In Concept A in the first phase, the northern dome remains, but would be replaced later with a new structure. The southern domes are removed and just the footprints reused. Two of the four grain elevators remain. The riverwall remains in all concepts until a later phase because it is too expensive and complicated to remove at this time. In Concept B none of the domes or grain elevators are shown as staying. But specific treatments of structures can vary within each concept. We may not have shown any grain elevators staying in Concept B, but if people like the idea of the food terrace and also like the idea of keeping a grain elevator and reusing it as a cistern, we could try to combine those ideas. The five story red grain elevator doesn't take up much space so it could stay, or go, or be repurposed in any of the concepts.

CAC Member: Apologies if I've missed this, but are there any design requirements for integrating food and medicine into the landscape design?

- a. We know how important local food and harvesting and building a relationship with the land through native plants and ecology are. Each concept has space for that. Concept B emphasizes food throughout the concept, but having food, medicine, and culturally relevant plants is a part of any concept. How much area is devoted to cultivated vegetable gardens as opposed to native plant areas that also have food and medicinal purpose is a detail we

don't get into yet. Exactly how food and growing get integrated in partly depends on our budget for programming and staffing. Some plants are very harvestable that are not always considered – such as willow. We have heard from Indigenous community members that willow is really important for sweat lodges, and tobacco, and we will likely have lots of willow as part of the stormwater management and bank restoration.

CAC Member: Someone asked about not being allowed to name the Dakotah people that MAY participate in next week's conversation. For clarity Kate, is that at the request of those invited?

- a. While we usually prefer to get explicit permission, we don't think there is a problem naming them. They are going to be giving a public presentation and everyone is invited. Denise Nelson and Ethan Neerdaels have a long history as educators, of organizing Indigenous events, and being very active in the community. You may have heard about Healing Place Collaborative, an Indigenous led non-profit organization, or the Bdote tours.

Community Member: Are these elders? How are they consulted with?

- a. We have given messages to many community leaders about the project and talked with some elders. One thing we would ask of the team are to help advise us on when is the right time to reach out to elders and the best way to do so.

CAC Member: Even if we can't add more parking, can we at least create a turn-around loop on that Dowling entrance so its not a "dead end"?

- a. Dowling Avenue will turn onto the parkway so Dowling won't be a dead end. If there are any temporary dead end roads, they will have turn-around loops.

CAC Member: Has a remote parking lot with shuttles been considered?

- a. This response addresses the park and not the music venue (which is not part of the park). If MPRB had larger events we may use a remote parking lot and shuttles; this is done for other large events. During earlier CAC meetings where we discussed how transportation and access is an issue, we talked about MPRB helping to provide transportation. That might mean with an MPRB shuttle with neighborhood pick ups, or by renting buses for certain programming or events.

CAC Vice Chair: We need to have a serious discussion about parking and traffic and how the park and development will function. People have had concerns about this for a long time and we need to spend some time on it.

- a. We have a discussion planned regarding park and development interface. That would be a good time to talk about this in depth.

CAC Member: What I like: terraced water entrance, inlet, large multi-purpose area as opposed to small dispersed areas, water collection, viewing tower, trees over all green space, use all of the river front, not just small sections.

CAC Member: I like how much food and places for growing that there are in the second concept.

CAC Member: I think having some event space and programmable space is important.

CAC Chair: Do we need to identify which concept we like best?

- a. No, although you are certainly welcome to. There are many more options than just these three, and we don't expect that any one of them is perfect. You may feel that there are some things you like and don't like in each concept. You may feel that all are overdeveloped or missing some thing important. We need to get a reaction to what you see and from that we hope to craft a revised concept and first phase of improvements.

Community Member: Great ideas!

Kate: Please share the concept information and give us your feedback at any time. Encourage people to take the survey and write to us. Encourage people to watch the video before they do the online survey, otherwise they will miss a lot of information. We will report back what we are hearing from people.