Upper Harbor Terminal Agenda

5:45   Optional Tech Support time

6:00   Welcome

6:05   Project update and discussion

6:20   Public comment

6:35   CAC discussion of park direction and recommendations

7:55   Conclusion and adjourn at 8:00

Thank you

Technical support – call/text Francisca at 612-499-9074
LAST MEETING – PARK DIRECTION

DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

#1 DO NOT PROCEED WITH PARK

#2 PROCEED WITH CLEAN UP, NATIVE VEGETATION AND CIRCULATION

#3 BUILD JUST ENOUGH FLEXIBLE PARK TO STAFF, PROGRAM, ACTIVATE

THIS MEETING - MORE DETAIL ON PARK OPTIONS:

THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CAC MEMBERS
Key Considerations

How do you, as CAC members, want to use your voice with this final statement/recommendation/vote? You have already made recommendations regarding the adjacent development project – this park recommendation will be in addition to those.

The park is part of a larger area change, but MPRB decisions are limited to within the park. How can MPRB be most effective?

This project is limited to the UHT site, but all parks are interconnected. Do you have recommendations for this specific park but also for MPRB in general?

Given the unknowns in the greater area, what are the potential risk and benefits of the park and specific park features?

Should the CAC make a group recommendation (majority rules) or should we just collect a statement from each member and have no overall CAC recommendation?

Add or change any recommendations for the CAC to consider? What, if any, recommendation would you feel comfortable moving forward with?
If you recommend stopping the park process, is there a follow up recommendation to the park board? Is there a recommendation to the City?

This would be a fundamental change in project direction and would need to come from the Board of Commissioners. Because the land is currently owned by the City, MPRB could make a request but the City would determine the outcome.
Park is wide enough to allow for adequate shoreline restoration and trail options. Details are subject to change.
Park Direction #2 and #3: Restoration

Soil clean up

Much of soil is debris contaminated and not necessarily toxic

Prioritize removal of dangerous toxins if deeper in site.
Meet minimum standards 2 – 4’ of clean soil in any public areas (depends on use).

Prioritize bioremediation – cleaning the soil on site

Work with EPA on plans and site info

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP’s)

Green infrastructure can blend with other native vegetation habitat

Usually native plants that can handle wet/dry cycles

Helps clean and treat water that is otherwise flowing directly from streets to the river

Rain garden / bioswale example
Park Direction #2 and #3: Restoration – habitat and native plants

Wildlife Habitat
Protecting the water helps the aquatic wildlife – fish and mussels
Naturalized areas offer nesting sites for turtles, small terrestrial animals, waterbirds

Lighting can have a detrimental impact on wildlife – meet and exceed Audubon guidelines. Make smart lighting educational – tied to migratory seasons, etc.

Shoreline species
Willow, dogwoods, alder, boxelder

Mesic prairie
900+ species of prairie grasses and forbs (bluestem, switchgrass, liatris, coneflowers, etc)

Native trees and flood plain forest
Chokecherry, American Plum, Maple, Cottonwood, Serviceberries

Germander and Obedient Plant for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee
Park Direction #2 and #3: Linear park circulation approximate spacing and restoration

Interpretation of the draft development concept.
Included to show approximate spacing of road, trails, and shoreline in park.
Park Direction #2: Clean-up, native vegetation, circulation in main park area

Grain elevators remain; domes, overhead conveyors, and misc structures are removed

Majority of land is restored native vegetation – primarily prairie and shoreland species given lack of current shade and tree cover

Separated pedestrian walk and shared use path along Dowling Ave connects to river

Separated pedestrian walk and shared use path along river

Railing added along riverwall for safety

Existing outbuildings and misc pieces would be removed
Park Direction #2: Clean-up, Native Vegetation, Circulation in main park area

Park could include “linear park” features such as more pathways, limited seating, signage, lights, parking, portable restrooms, or a drinking fountain.

Generally a linear park is a place people are expected to pass through, not a place to stay for a long time or gather.
Park Direction #3: Why these features to support a “just green enough” park?

- **Indoor space** – shelter from weather, indoor programming
- **Restrooms** – portable is an option; permanent restrooms should have staff for safety
- **Staff space** – staff touchdown office and indoor storage
- **Storage** – needed for maintenance or programming
- **Parking**
- **Circulation**
- **Lights / services**

Mobile buildings provide indoor space, plumbed restrooms, staff areas, and storage

Reusing grain elevators for storage and cistern reduces demand for new materials
Commonly requested experiences here?

- Picnic
- Walk
- Sit by the river
- Flexible Lawn
- Water Access
- Play
- Learn and connect with Northside people and the river

- how does that impact who chooses to come

Park features that could offer the commonly requested experiences with basic and flexible investment:

- Picnic
- Walk
- Sit by the river
- Flexible Lawn
- Water Access
- Play
- Learn and connect with Northside people and the river
Commonly requested experiences – gather, picnic, cook out, play

Picnic
Picnicking and BBQ commonly requested
Supporting use by groups of up to 200 noted by Black, Latinx, East African, SE Asian, and Indigenous community members

Flexible lawn
Allows for casual athletics, play, events and ceremony, and serves as overflow picnic area for large groups
Combining the picnic and lawn minimizes the need for additional space

Play
Play makes picnicking and other activities more attractive for entire families
Nature play can offer entertainment and still have little visual impact on the space
Commonly requested experiences — connect with the river

**Water access**
Accessible route to water
Maintain North Star route

**Sit by the river**
Places to sit, fish, and be by the river

**Learn and connect**
Prioritize art and interpretation throughout site
Series of gardens and natural areas for staff training also provide opportunity to learn about the river
Programming as activation and support

**KEY PROGRAM EXPERIENCES**

- Flexible lawn
- Flexible paved area (plaza)
- Green infrastructure working area
- Gardens
- Water Access

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**PROGRAMMING AS ACTIVATION AND SUPPORT**

- Picnic expansion, soccer, lacrosse, ceremonies, frisbee, pop up play, movies in the park, music
- Markets, food vendors, music and performance, bicycle workshop clinics, kayak and canoeing clinics, cultural events, group fitness, possibly pop up skating or skateboarding, events by the river

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- Regional Park Use
- Among Select Communities of Color: Keys to the Investigation
- March 2014
What park features support programming?

**Flexible lawn**
Lawn - athletics, picnics, group events, movies, performances, ceremonies

**Flexible paved area**
Plaza - seating, events, markets, group fitness, performances. May support roller skating or other specialized pop up events

**Water access**
Accessible water access for canoes and kayaks. Located near storage and staff for support and programming. Also allows for sitting by water North Star pathway secondary access
Staffing as activation and support

Ecological area management
Stormwater green infrastructure management
Indigenous gardens and urban agriculture
Recreation and programming

Green infrastructure working area
Gardens
Water Access
Flexible paved area
What park features support staffing and need staffing?

**Green Infrastructure**
Lawn - athletics, picnics, group events, movies, performances, ceremonies

**Gardens**
Plaza - seating, events, markets, group fitness, performances. May support roller skating or other specialized pop up events.

**Water access**
Accessible water access for canoes and kayaks. Located near storage and staff for support and programming. Also allows for sitting by water North Star pathway secondary access
What could a “just green enough” park feel like?

Keep it flexible – mobile buildings

Regreen the industry

Play that fits into the landscape

Amenities that can be moved / removed / reshaped
The directions are different, but recommendations can be layered. CAC could identify #3 as the preferred park but still recommend that park process stops because of other factors.

#2: Road, parallel parking, riverfront trails, site clean up, vegetation restoration

#2B: Add parking, more pathways and seating, portable restroom, lights, drinking fountain

#3: Add support features – indoor staff and storage space, restrooms, utilities, outdoor storage

#3A: Support basic experiences - add picnic areas, lawn, play, water access

#3B: Support staffing - add learning areas, gardens, green infrastructure

#3C: Support programming – add plazas
What Happens Next?

May / June 2021: Informational presentation to MPRB Commissioners, including CAC process

MPRB Commissioners could change project direction – could direct staff to return with a resolution

Fall 2021: AUAR planned for adoption by City of Mpls - any final determination of park project after this 45 day public comment period before board approval of a concept

Late 2021 / Early 2022: MPRB Board approval of park concept

Mid 2022: Likely land transfer from City to MPRB

Fall 2022 – 2023: Park construction anticipated

CAC Statements or Recommendations go directly to the Board and are a part of other engagement or work done
Park Direction - Starting Recommendations

#1  DO NOT PROCEED WITH PARK DEVELOPMENTS at this time

#2  CLEAN UP UP THE INDUSTRIAL SITE, RESTORE THE LAND, AND ADD MINIMAL CIRCULATION FOR A SAFE PUBLIC PLACE, but do not proceed with further park amenities

#3  BUILD JUST ENOUGH PARK TO ALLOW THE SITE TO SAFELY FUNCTION AS A PUBLIC PLACE AND SUPPORT DELIBERATE PROGRAMMING AND STAFFING. Beyond basic improvements, focus on site clean-up and environmental restoration

6:20 – 6:35   Public Comment

6:35 – 6:45    CAC Member – Recommendations for discussion

6:45 – 7:15   CAC Member Round Robin #1

7:15 – 7:35   CAC Member Round Robin #2 and vote on process

7:35 – 7:55   CAC Member Check in on park direction OR CAC Member individual statements

Vanessa will flash 30 seconds left

Please do not write in chat while others are speaking