



PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN REFINEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 10, 2021

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

MINUTES

Present: Kim Ferraro, Dan Gourde, Traci Wuchter, Maija Sedzielarz, Ken Schultz, Don Whalen, E.B. Graham, Malcolm Mitchell, Jim Stangler, Jeremy Powers, Liz Novotny, Mike Heintz

Absent: Peter Borman, Jordan Hurst

Others Present: Candace Amberg, WSB Landscape Architect
Mike Maher, Community Services Director
Melissa Moore, City Clerk
Stephen Keeler, Fridley Public Schools
Maurice Roberge, Resident

Mike Maher, Community Services Director, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2021 Refinement Advisory Committee Meeting

There were no revisions to the minutes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Maher recognized guests in attendance. Mr. Roberge addressed the Committee on his request for dedicated pickle ball courts versus adapting tennis courts.

Mr. Powers asked staff for an index of space offerings City-wide at the next meeting. A list that would spell out each activity, and where they have dedicated space throughout the City.

Mr. Keeler addressed the Committee regarding a possible City/School District collaboration to enhance the project overall. The group discussed the property surrounding Fridley High School and Fridley Middle School. Mr. Keeler will liaison with the City.

2. Community Park Concept Plan Review and Discussion

Ms. Amberg reviewed the Committee's previous discussion on Community Park from the October meeting. Site Concept 1 includes the following changes: combines all parking into one lot, removed one ball field, creates neighborhood park amenities in previous parking space, removed fencing from west ball fields to allow for multi-use fields and soccer field, improved and relocated shelter, and future plans for pedestrian bridge to connect the Civic Campus.

The Committee expressed concern with removing fencing on the west ball fields. Ms. Amberg will put the fences back in and decrease the size of soccer fields.

Ms. Novotny shared her desire to see public art from Fridley artists in the community parks.

Site Concept 2 includes the following changes: existing north parking remains, expands south parking, northwest softball field is changed to a multi-purpose athletic field, added playground and picnic and mixed amenities area around a central shelter.

Ms. Farraro noted only having two fields, and smaller soccer fields, will not draw tournaments. Therefore, a concession stand would not be needed.

Ms. Amberg confirmed consensus for the parking set up of Site Concept 2.

Ms. Amberg opened the discussion of Commons Park Site Concept Plan 1. Changes include improved baseball fields, removed softball field, added parking lots, splashpad and playground, removed tennis courts for multi-game court, new concessions and restrooms, relocated hockey rink. The group agreed the location of the warming house, away from the hockey rink, does not make sense. The group agreed the multi-game court should be a dedicated pickleball court.

Ms. Amberg opened the discussion of Commons Park Site Concept Plan 2. Changes include creating new parking lot, moved softball field, expanded volleyball courts, multi-use facility at the base of the sledding hill, readjusted south parking lot. The group agreed the softball field is not needed and should be removed for open athletic space for soccer.

Ms. Amberg opened the discussion of Commons Park Site Concept Plan 3. Changes include moving the hockey rink, tennis courts removed for parking, softball field removed for open athletic space, adding volleyball courts.

The Committee consulted with Mr. Keeler on the School District's use of tennis courts.

Ms. Amberg confirmed the group's preference for Concept Plan 3 with a dedicated pickleball court.

Ms. Amberg opened the discussion of Moore Lake Park Site Concept Plan 1. She noted the Rice Creek Watershed District redrew flood maps, which will have significant impacts on the park's concept plans. The new plan will need to ensure any structures are waterproof and above the required flood elevation. She updated the group that changes are in progress to refine the roundabout, which would impact access to the park. Changes to the concept include improved parking space, multi-use game court, natural playground and picnic space, removed the splashpad.

Moore Lake Park Site Concept Plan 2 includes removing smaller shelters and constructing one large shelter, one large playground, larger beach area and removed boardwalk. The group discussed potential for paddleboard rental options.

Ms. Amberg asked the group if they'd like to keep tennis and/or pickleball courts at this park or rely on other parks for those activities. The group agreed the park should include at least a half-court basketball court

3. Review Next Steps and Future Meeting Dates

Ms. Amberg informed the group that she will come to the next meeting with an updated priorities spreadsheet, updated cost spreadsheets, and further revised concept plans. Mr. Maher updated the group that the Financing Committee is close to finalizing their recommendation to the City Council on the financing vehicles for a ten-year implementation period. This group's meeting in December will be to further refine the community park recommendation. Each community park and each neighborhood park will have a proposed final concept for the group to consider. With feedback from that meeting, staff will finalize a formal recommendation for the group to approve at a January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.