MEETING NOTES

Rochester Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Advisory Committee Meeting #4
February 18, 2016
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Quarry Hill Nature Center at 701 Silver Creek Road NE

Attendees:
Park Board Members Dr. Paul Scanlon, Vern Yetzer; Advisory Committee Members Jeff Ellerbusch, Pam Meyer, Randy Thomas, Michael O'Connor, Ed Hruska, Bari Amadio, Julie Hatch, Mitch Moore, Peter Marohl, JoAnne Judge-Dietz, Amy Eich, and Nick Campion; Rita Trapp, Anna Springer, and Jess Vetrano from HKGi; Mike Nigbur and Paul Widman from City of Rochester.

1. **Meeting Introductions & Welcome**
The meeting was kicked off by Rita Trapp of HKGi. The purpose and agenda of the night's meeting were reviewed.

2. **Approval of Advisory Committee #3 Notes & Key Findings**
Advisory Committee members were asked if there were any changes to the notes or Key Findings from the previous Advisory Committee meeting. None were noted.

3. **Review Recommendations**
The consultants provided an overview of proposed Zone & Subzone boundaries. Attendees provided feedback and edits to the working set of Recommendations for natural areas, sustainability, trials, parks, and facilities to be included in the master plan.

Feedback on the Zones & Subzones included:
- It was suggested that the boundary between Subzones A and B be revisited due to the barrier of West Circle Drive. It was noted that the area is challenging as to the south it has a large non-residential area that is a barrier as well.
- Zones and Subzones should consider minority populations, density, and income as well as natural and man-made barriers.

Feedback on the Draft Recommendations included:
   a. Natural Areas
- Clarification was sought on whether Cascade Lake should be considered nature-based.
- The Advisory Committee also asked about school areas. Currently schools have not been included since they are not under the City's control. If there are nature areas that meet the definition they could be included.
- What is the City's stance on purchasing land to expand the current system?

b. Sustainability
- Elevate importance of transferring to renewable energies to align with the City's goal of being entirely renewable by 2031
- Raise public awareness surrounding sustainable efforts that are currently taking place as well as those that are planned or that should be taken
- It was noted that a GreenCorps volunteer would be good to consider. Staff noted that the City already had one and was applying for another one.
- RNeighbors have strong efforts in sustainability
- Are there measures in place or that can be implemented to understand levels of park utilization? Staff noted that trail radar monitor is currently in use

c. Trails
- Provide distribution specifics regarding trail lighting and safety
- Develop trail classifications that distinguish between trails that favor commuters and trails that favor leisure activity to better direct investment
- Investigate MnDOT Statewide Bike Master Plan as resource for identifying existing gaps in the trail system
- Trail recommendations should be more specific and implementable
- Plan should include content regarding how a trail actually gets implemented

d. Parks
- Should lot size be a factor in prioritizing park placement?
- Consider parks outside of the City when determining park access for residents who live on the edges of the City
- Increase public awareness of the park system; knowing about a park is more influential in its use than just having one
- Get local neighborhoods more actively involved in managing park maintenance and enhancement opportunities
    - Market neighborhoods that are already successfully accomplishing this (i.e. East Side Pioneers Association, Friends of Quarry Hill Park, etc.)
- Consider physical barriers (i.e. West Circle Drive) as well as distance when analyzing park accessibility
- Density and equity pieces should be incorporated into accessibility measures
- The neighborhood park system is currently diverse and unique, and regional and community parks should follow suit
- Incorporation of adult play equipment
- Should recommendation 7.1 include park classifications other than just "special use"?
- Clarification was provided that ADA accessibility is only called out on a limited basis as it is always taken into consideration in facility development.
- More clarification surrounding decision to keep Mayo Park at its current location

e. Facilities
- Moving basketball courts to Community and Regional parks rather than neighborhood parks limits the ability to walk to them and could hinder youth development programs that currently happen in parks around basketball

- Include cricket and lacrosse in local level recommendations as they are both growing in popularity
- Ensure that soccer facilities remain open to the public and accessible by diverse populations
- Accessibility to winter recreation should be discussed more, as it encompasses a major portion of the year
    - Cross country skiing should especially be included somewhere in the plan and should include efforts similar to those of the Twin Cities (i.e. trail clearing efforts, snowmaking, ect.)
    - Look to Ottawa as a precedent (frozen waterways used as trails)
    - Support snow-making at Gamehaven
- Will the availability of swimming lessons be hindered by new aquatic recommendations?
- What amenities will be available within multi-purpose buildings (i.e. sinks for art classes)?
- Address popularity and accessibility of outdoor hockey rinks.
    - There may be pent up demand for pleasure skating based on popularity of Soldier's Field skating track
    - Possibility of having cleared rinks on Cascade Lake, Foster Arend and taking advantage of natural ice and planned building

f. Overall
- What is the correct order for the recommendations?
- Increasing public awareness should be a component of every section
- There should be content regarding metrics/steps taken to measure the success of the recommendations

4. **Next Steps**
   a. Review of revised recommendations
   b. March 24th meeting will focus on reviewing draft recommendations for public health, public art, programming, and management and operations