

Land Use Action Circle
Monthly Meeting
3/26/2025
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Meeting began at: 6:04 pm

Facilitator: Monica

Note Taker: Nan

Time Keeper: Bao

Greeters: Miguel & Bao

Attendees (also see lists): Bob Craft, Nan Kafka, Joy Sorensen-Navarre, Larry Lucio, Monica Bravo, Jenn Crea, Miguel Britto, Bao Chu Lee, Katie (St. Paul), John Foss, Sarah (live across from Prospect Park), Ali

5:30 PM Welcome & Registration

Agenda

6:00 PM Welcome & Community Agreements (Monica)
Unanimous support for agreements

6:10 PM Updates

1. Communications Team (Julia)
 - a. Video presentation
 - i. Outreach and communication
 1. Digital, Facebook ad campaign in multiple languages to encourage survey participation
 2. Promoted land use meeting on social media
 3. Door to door flyer distribution near Prospect Park
 4. Robert Street survey promoted at Torre, Robert and Sydney
 - a. 211 responses in 62 days
 - b. Raffle raps up today
 5. New phase of survey - targeted outreach
 6. Dunedin meeting, laying out long-term relationship
 - a. Lighting concerns around sidewalks
 - b. Resident concerns about how bus schedule will be affected during Robert Street Construction
 - i. Esp. residents who use walkers
 - c. Also facing low participation
 - i. Resident Council may shut down if more don't participate
 - ii. Council at peak when planning community events with activities

- d. Recommendation to support Dunedin with activities
 - e. Next outreach mtg. On 4/14
- 2. Pier Foundry CBA (Monica)
 - a. 10 River Park Plaza
 - b. Will not purchase and build on the parcel
 - c. WSCO continued to meet with owner
 - i. Deed restriction agreed to for no upzoning to a higher industrial use.
 - d. Rezoning will go through allowing for mixed use, light industrial
- 3. Baker Park
 - a. City moving forward with turf option
- 4. 10 Year Plan (Monica)
 - a. Successful organization summit at Wellstone Center
 - i. What does West Side look like in 10 years
 - b. Encourage folks to participate
 - i. 100 Cups of coffee
 - 1. Amore Coffee shop - fill out survey, Coffee on WSCO
 - 2. Cinco de Mayo
- 5. Burger King (Bob) - City Council approved demolition on 3/19 - 15 day deadline
 - a. WSCO recommended demolition more than a year ago
 - b. Owners have not met the City's criteria
 - c. Demolishing within 15 days from March 19.
 - i. If owner does not, City will demolish and send owners bill
- 6. Southport (Monica)
 - a. Higher industrial use zone
 - b. Actively working on issues in Resolution
 - c. MPCA notes air quality most unsafe in State
 - d. Meeting on 3/31 with MPCA and other agencies to get updates
 - e. Larger public meeting in May (to be announced)
 - f. Seeking egress
 - g. Current plan for emergencies 'shelter in place' - community needs better plan
- 7. Destination Robert Street Campaign (Bob) - short term focus on pedestrian safety in the Design and more time to continue community education/engagement before design is submitted to City Council. Met with MnDOT on 3/25 and may have a later date for design submission - 212 responses received from survey. Next Campaign planning meeting on April 1st.
 - a. MnDot has \$ for project
 - b. WSCO continues to meet re:
 - i. Bus stops
 - ii. Roundabout
 - iii. Bike lanes
 - c. WSCO will continue to work on community engagement

- d. MnDot appears to be willing to push back Municipal Consent to June/July - waiting for confirmation
- e. Working with MDC at UMN on 'Destination' Robert Street
 - i. More opportunities for business

6:25 PM Research Visits & Call to Action (Joy & Jen Crea)

- 8. Story
 - a. Two visits about a year ago. Visit w/ Council Member Noecker
 - b. Research visit with Sen. Tina Smith
 - c. All of a sudden there is \$50 - \$100 m for Robert Street
- 9. Research visits - goal to learn stuff, build a relationship, say 'hey we're paying attention'
 - a. Create community opportunities - please sign up
 - i. Southport meet with Attorney on East Side working on something similar 4/8
 - ii. Council Member Jost and Yang
 - iii. Met Council Representatives
 - iv. George Street resurfacing
 - v. Envelope stuffing Saturday
 - 1. Know your rights
 - 2. 209 Page Street
 - vi. Richfield roundabout

6:45 PM Prospect Park Presentation & Q/A (Katie Hammerlinck) Power point presentation

- 10. Short survey
- 11. Removal and replacement of pavement and play equipment
- 12. CDBG\$ AND DEDICATED PARK FUNDING \$710K
- 13. Bid construction later this spring
- 14. Construction
- 15. Public art - do not have proposal yet
 - a. Ideas for artists
 - b. Themes
 - c. History, indigenous, river,
- 16. Survey respondents mostly local
- 17. Favorite thing: proximity
- 18. Least - lack of shade,
- 19. Missing/needed - address variety of ages, educational components, more of a nature place
- 20. Accessibility - comment: no playground on WS that is accessible for people w/impairments
 - a. From streets/sidewalks,
 - b. Is a bathroom included on the site or a port a potty on site?
 - i. Don't have a permanent structure proposed
 - ii. Will bring up with operations folks

- iii. Disguise port-a-potty so not so bright
 - c. Can any park in St. Paul request a port-a-potty
- 21. Proposed layout (see website)
 - a. Benches
 - b. Picnic tables
 - c. Bike racks
 - d. New signage
 - e. Reconstructed sidewalks
 - f. Were raised beds considered?
 - i. City doesn't usually do
 - ii. Need consideration if raised beds so sited properly
 - g. Replace drinking fountain if funds available
 - h. Replacing light fixtures if funds available
- 22. Equipment concepts on engineered wood fibers plus resilient rubber surfaces will weave in when the concept is finalized. Will the community have an understanding of what the finished product will be? Especially if the community doesn't agree. Details are important. What details are contingent on budget?
 - a. Would like agreement on the concept today. Hope that there isn't a lot of disagreement.
 - b. Treehouse concept (separation of age groups)
 - i. Post and deck construction
 - ii. See river to downtown
 - iii. Spinners
 - iv. Swings
 - v. Imaginative play structures
 - c. Birds and bugs
 - i. Features that mimic webs and climbing
 - ii. Age zones (2-5, 5-12)
 - iii. 2-5 miniature versions
 - iv. 5-12 larger versions.
 - v. Can send info on benefits of the equipment
 - vi. Spinners
 - vii. Swings
 - viii. Net structure
 - ix. Group swing
 - d. Discussion
 - i. Are there multiple swings in both designs - Yes
 - ii. Birds and Bugs 2 slides
 - iii. Treehouse - 1 slide
 - iv. Existing - teeter totter - would be neat to see how that would play out
 - v. Digger - heavily used
 - vi. Sand can contain a lot of trash
 - 1. Sand in August

- vii. Look at 4 kid capacity equipment
- e. Excited by?
 - i. Concept #2 would be great, like Harriet Island park - kids love it.
 - ii. HAd to choose both look really well-done.
 - iii. Would be good to have 3-4 big kid swings
 - iv. Possible for water feature? Not at this time.
 - v. How do you get it planned? Updated every 10 years in the park plan.
 - vi. Fence is an art opportunity
 - vii. Any talk of landscape management of view?
 - 1. Erosion control
 - 2. Seasonal viewing opportunities
 - viii. When you plan the park equipment are you picking from a catalog?
 - 1. Back and forth between Park and vendor
 - 2. Either concept can be built with the budget
 - 3. Difficult to see what the project will look like. Major concern is equipment in view of downtown. Will it block the view?
 - 4. Move benches to move to already established tree cover
 - 5. Zipline - No. Hanging structures? Nets or monkey bars? Like hard monkey bars.
 - 6. Programming: could there be an ice rink in winter? Would need a water source.
 - ix. Presentation will be posted online tomorrow.
 - x. New survey on website - please fill out.

7:10 PM Survey Raffle (Bao) (see link to current survey results)

- 23. Robert Street survey results
 - a. 211 responses. Survey will continue
 - b. Bike path - 62%, 38% prefer no bike lanes on Robert Street
 - c. Bus lanes
 - d. Roundabout
 - e. Street design option
 - f. Demographics
- 24. Will continue engagement
- 25. Raffle
 - a. Winner - Tina! Congratulations!!!

7:20 PM Closing & Evaluations & Commitment Sheets (Monica)

- 26. Evaluation form
- 27. Count me in form

Meeting ended at 7:19 pm