



Meeting Minutes - Approved CENTRAL PARK DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

8:00 AM

Madison Municipal Bldg., Room 313
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 8 -

Marsha A. Rummel; Joseph R. Clausius; William W. Barker; Leslie C. Schroeder; Phyllis Wilhelm; Amy T. Overby; Susan M. Schmitz and Truly Remarkable Loon

Absent: 3 -

Nancy T. Ragland; Joe Sensenbrenner and Bradley C. Mullins

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 29, 2010

A motion was made by Overby, seconded by Clausius, to Approve the Minutes with the following amendment:

On page 4, third paragraph, it should say skate park instead of state park. The motion passed by voice vote.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicole Craig appeared. Ms. Craig stated that she lives in the Marquette neighborhood. She supports community gardens in the park. She is also a representative of the Community Action Coalition (CAC). There is strong support in the neighborhood for community gardens and very few opportunities. Most of the yards are very shady. The Neighborhood Association is going door-to-door to see what type of interest we have. She advised the Task Force to look at how we can make this park sustainable and open to lots of different people. Community Gardens could play more of a presence in this park. She will continue to attend meetings. The CAC has funding to assist with all types of gardens. Having gardens in the Isthmus is a large priority of CAC.

3 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS: None

4 MASTER PLAN UPDATE & SCHEDULE

Mr. Olinger stated that Governor-Elect Walker made a campaign promise not to support High Speed Rail between Milwaukee and Madison. The U.S.

Department of Transportation has reallocated the funds. High Speed Rail will not be coming to Madison in our immediate future. In essence, we're back to where we were a year or so ago. The Mayor is still interested in pursuing the Park, but moving of the rail will probably not happen now. The Budget recently adopted includes purchase of properties to make Brearly Square happen. An appraisal has been done. It's likely this purchase will occur in 2011. Mr. Olinger will find out status of project from Don Marx and report back at next meeting.

The Task Force needs to rethink the Park and begin planning for the entire block between Brearly, Ingersoll, and the Great Lawn.

The City has closed on the land from Center for Resilient Cities (CRC). The City has asked MSA, "3" and Ms. Lorna Jordan to come back with a revised concept plan, assuming the tracks do not move. The contract amendment will be going to Board of Public Works tonight for adoption. It will be back to Council for action at the first meeting in January.

Phase 1 will use Rep. Tammy Baldwin funds. Revisit or amend the master plan to take into account the acquisition of the Research Products facility, how all of this might affect the programming we worked through with "3" on. How do we make this larger space work? What was the sense of scale if we include Research Products? Have MSA step back a little bit for a few months so we can work through an amendment to the Master Plan looking at the track not moving and the addition of Research Products.

Mr. Barker asked if the issue of street closings is still alive. Mr. Olinger stated it was tabled during the high-speed rail discussions. That may get picked back up again; he doesn't know.

Mr. Barker asked if we are stepping back from the Few Street crossing. Mr. Olinger said he's not sure. The City should continue to look at options of whether it's there or not. Do we bridge over Ingersoll? May rethink whether we terrace the Great Lawn or not. MSA would not be lead for first half of next year. "3" and Lorna Jordan would be the lead. Then go into construction documents for balance of year. Construction estimated to begin in 2012.

Mr. Briski stated they met with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the Few Street crossing. He has asked for a meeting to start that conversation again shortly after the holidays. Met with DOT regarding first plan and Few Street crossing.

Mr. Olinger stated there was a meeting with DOT and the Federal Highway. They didn't think the Few Street crossing would qualify for the earmark. They don't like paths that lead nowhere. Don't want to design for earmark, but want to get the most value for the earmark. Need to work with them and make sure they are on board with the direction we're going on the Park. The conversation needs to occur. Crossing is a big piece of the plan. Crossing the spur is important if more intense development occurs along East Washington between Ingersoll and Baldwin. Hate to pitch out the rail crossing option.

Mr. Olinger stated we would like to see if we could move the February meeting (no January meeting) to February 2nd and another meeting on March 2nd - Task Force meetings in the morning and public meetings in the evening. Mr. Olinger said Ms. Prusaitis would follow-up with Task Force.

Mr. Olinger stated the program elements we jettisoned because there wasn't enough space during earlier planning may come back if the Park is larger.

Mr. Barker asked about Skate Park funding.

Mr. Briski stated he met with the Skate Park group. He has not seen their plan. Talked about it conceptually. Long conversations with group about what's going on with the high-speed rail, the possibility of the location of the triangle, perhaps moving. They really like that corner. Have not had the opportunity to talk to them since the high-speed rail decision was made. They actually have a name for it, but he couldn't remember it at this time.

Mr. Olinger stated we may need to begin to drop from being at the 30,000 foot level and begin to flesh the plan out more. What's happening in these spaces? Task Force meeting on February 2 and March 2 will help provide answers at these meetings. Have everybody here for both of those meetings. Be in the position to introduce any amendments that would be required of Central Park Plan at first meeting in April. Go back to Council in June.

Ms. Rutledge stated the Consultant asked if we could push the date up.

Mr. Barker talked to Rep. Baldwin and thanked her for the earmark. She really wants the project to succeed. She may be able to help us move things along if we hit a roadblock.

Mr. Olinger said he wanted to get a sense of the Task Force about an extension of Task Force until end of 2011. Would probably only need the Task Force the first half of the year or so. Will forward Statement of Interest forms to everyone - due in January.

Mr. Barker asked about the Sands property. Mr. Olinger and Mr. Briski both responded that it's in the Capital Improvement Program budget in 2013-2014. No conversations with Mr. Sands yet, although Mr. Sands is very aware of project.

Mr. Olinger stated he would like the budget and phasing that comes out of this amended plan to be more in keeping with the adopted budget.

Mr. Loon asked if the plan that moved the tracks would move the tracks on the north side. Mr. Olinger said yes. It would have shaved a little bit off the north side. Potential for street there on Railroad Street. There is right-of-way there. MG&E needs that spur.

Ms. Schroeder mentioned Community Gardens - Research Products

possibly not that toxic. Some kind of edible landscaping there. Do a soils report. She asked why the bike path is off the street. Mr. Olinger responded it's a secondary multi-use path - could use both bikes and pedestrians. The Bike Boulevard on East Wilson is still there.

Ms. Schroeder also mentioned the Playground - would like it to happen sooner rather than later, perhaps in an earlier phase. Could you purchase Bob Sands' property earlier for playground? Mr. Barker suggested that it could be something to explore.

Ms. Schroeder asked what the soil results were from last summer. Ms Rutledge said she does not have it now, but can get it.

Mr. Olinger stated one was for bearing capacity. Mostly for building the Great Lawn. Additional cleanup will need to occur at Brearly - not a significant amount. Path needs to lead somewhere and not to a cul-de-sac. Can be in the vicinity of the Park. Can improve connections into the park.

Not looking at the north side enough. Look at north side connection to help park. Cutting a portion of East Main back. Options in these 20 acres about how this area gets laid out over time. Internal circulation.

Ms. Schroeder asked about the Few Street crossing bridge. Mr. Olinger stated it would have to be 600' long to get over tracks. Ms. Rutledge said it would use up too much space. Could get across Ingersoll easily to enjoy the park.

Mr. Barker wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

5 MOVING FORWARD WITH TASK FORCE AND PUBLIC INPUT

6 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Loon, seconded by Rummel, to Adjourn . The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.