

Master Plan Steering Committee

Wed., Sept. 23rd, 2009 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Those present: Dick Sandberg (Loring Green), Becky Gullickson (301 Clifton), Robert Cook (Business owner), John Van Heel (110 W. Grant), Paul Hinderager (Summit House), Mike Marn (Summit House), Neil Reardon (14th & Willow), and D. Montgomery (Historic Preservation-Ladd House).

- I. John called the meeting to order. Introductions were conducted. John welcomed D. Montgomery who is coming to the Land Use Committee meeting on an effort to get 131 Oak Grove – The Ladd House historically designated. More on this topic is available at www.loringpark.org under CLPC Land Use Committee – September 09.
- II. CURA intern program – John distributed application information on the possibility of getting a CURA/Humphrey intern to assist with our Master Plan efforts. CURA intern programs - <http://www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/ApplicationProcess.php>

John proposed that we look at applying in the winter for a summer intern. The timeline for a winter intern is the end of October and the intern would start in January, where organizationally CLPC is planning their 1st fundraiser, it is the end of year and taxes, and the March Annual Meeting. John stated that we may want to focus our attentions on finishing the Scope of our Master Plan, so that we can create our RFP, post it and select a consultant. It would be good for the intern to be working at the same time as the consultant, unless we identify tasks that the intern could do in advance of an intern. One suggestion was identifying and researching historic properties and working with a sub-group of the task force to prioritize and do a walking tour. John stated that if anyone felt that they had extra time to work on this application, as well as ideas, to let him know. Jana reported to the group, that we have had 3 interns, as well as a graduate class working at CLPC on Livability safety issues and Misdemeanor prosecution issues. We have also worked with Metro State on Community Policing with students and are developing presently a relationship with MCTC, the students and the Professors for partnership in CLPC projects.

III. Establish a scope and vision for the Loring Park Masterplan

John and Robert had developed a scope and visioning worksheet to assist the committee with this part of the agenda. Steering Committee members shared ideas on content and vision through the discussion of major plan elements defined in the plan outline. John asked that each member think about and integrate into this document any notes on past Loring Park planning documents presented to the groups. This discussion is highlighted below and will continue for the next few meetings. Once the Steering Committee has gathered as much content as possible, the scope and vision will be refined and utilized in the future development of a Request for Proposal (RFP). This RFP will be posted, applicants screened, and a consultant selected to assist us in the compilation of our plan. We anticipate the RFP posting to be this Spring, as well as the hiring of a Consultant.

John explained that the goal of this exercise is to create a basis/context to build the Request for Proposal from.

I.A. Historic Assets – Neighborhood-Wide Vision

- Loring Park a historic neighborhood – both in structures and in being, politically
- Loring Park is “the Heart of the City”

1.B. Historic Assets – Analysis, Findings & Recommendation

- Loring Hill could be a historic district based upon the Historic Inventory
- Question – are the Park Structures historically designated?
- Maintain neighborhood identity socially & economically

1.C. Historic Assets – Neighborhood Focus Areas

- Harmon Ave.
- Spruce between 13th & 15th St.
- Promote GLBT history – 19 Bar, PRIDE Festival

2.A. Economic Vitality – Neighborhood wide vision

2.B. Economic Vitality – Analysis, Findings, and Recommendation

- Promote as 2nd Art area (Nicollet Ave. Housing Corridor documents)
- Small businesses and art surrounding the Park; parkside cafes, tables
- Community should have all basic services necessary – need to identify gaps
- Inventory the neighborhood historic assets, conduct a Walking Tour; prioritize those to focus on.
- A strong and vital Nicollet Avenue – art, theatre, restaurants, housing
- Support offices and their ability to continue
- Encourage balance of profit and non-profit organizations
- Promote GLBT history – homeplace of PRIDE Festival

2.C. Economic Vitality – Neighborhood Focus Areas

- Analysis of how to build economic vitality & potential – regional draw
- Assess strength and numbers of neighborhood institutions, as well as economic impact

3.A. Pedestrian Circulation & Transportation – Neighborhood-wide Vision

Pedestrian friendly access on foot, safely and disciplined automobile traffic.

3.B. Pedestrian Circulation & Transportation – Analysis, Findings, & Recommendations

- The Plan should create connections around and to downtown
- The Plan should create connections with other neighborhoods
- The Plan should create connections to our Tourist Attractions (Walker Sculpture Garden)
- The Freeway is a barrier, the Plan should address long-range vision and solutions
- The neighborhood supports transit and alternative forms of transportation, such as streetcars, car sharing, electric busses. The Plan should promote this.
- Integrate pedestrian and bicycle plans into the Transportation Plan of the City as it impacts the Loring Park Neighborhood.

3.C. Pedestrian Circulation & Transportation – Neighborhood Focus Areas

4.A. Urban Fabric/Public Realm – Neighborhood-Wide Vision

Build relationships to the street with public spaces to promote a pedestrian & bike-friendly environment

4.B. Urban Fabric/Public Realm – Analysis, Findings & Recommendation

(note – description – Urban Fabric is the Urban Character of the neighborhood...the “feel” of a

street)

- Assess existing lighting and make recommendations for improvements if deemed necessary.
- Preserve this neighborhood as a “Safe Zone” for the GLBT Community; don’t lose the identity of the Loring Park Neighborhood; ensure that the GLBT community is always welcomed here. It is what Loring Park neighborhood is.
- Assess the impact of public utilities in the neighborhood.
- Identify and note areas/properties with unsightly garbage dumpsters
- Identify environmental impacts on the Park that the neighborhood and surrounding traffic have on it – pursue ways to keep the park healthy for wildlife.
- Implement pieces of the Loring Park Master Plan not yet accomplished, and include those in this document.
- Identify and address in the Master Plan how development affects the Park.
- Assess for the Master Plan how traffic through the Park and into it, affects the health of the Park.

4.C. Urban Fabric/Public Realm – Neighborhood Focus Areas

- Freeway Edges, fringe of neighborhood
- Ways to address parking needs outside of surface parking lots
- Walkway adjacent to the Freeway to the Nicollet bus Stop on Oak Grove
- Connection between Peavey Plaza, Loring Greenway, Loring Park, Walker Art Center
- Promote “Green” - Pocket parks in and around Loring Hill (from design guidelines)
- Hennepin/Lyndale/Oak Grove crossing – Neighborhood Gateway

5.A. Future Growth & Development – Neighborhood-wide vision

Support growth of neighborhood institutions while maintaining neighborhood character

5.B. Future Growth & Development – Analysis, Findings, & Recommendations

- We need to identify areas with no design guidelines and have this a plan focus
- We need to coordinate and communicate with organizations and institutions on their future growth (St. Thomas, MCTC, Convention Center, HN Methodist, St. Marks)
- The Master Plan should reflect design guidelines & standards for all parts of the neighborhood

5.C. Future Growth & Development – Neighborhood Focus Areas

6.A. Land Use & Zoning – Neighborhood-wide Vision

Maintain the affordable housing available in the Loring Park Neighborhood

Support the inclusiveness that has been tradition in the diversity of the Loring Park neighborhood (This is the area of the City where students, young, vibrant professionals rent their 1st apartment)

6.B. Land Use & Zoning – Analysis, Findings, and Recommendations

- Define Shoreline Overlay and its affect on development clearly in the plan
- Identify created development guidelines on Loring Hill, Harmon Historic Area, Nicollet Ave. and conflicts with existing zoning.
- Create recommendations for “next steps” that could be pursued to match zoning to approved community development guidelines.

6.C Land Use & Zoning – Neighborhood Focus Areas

- Harmon Ave. by MCTC
- Emerson School site
- Area surrounding the Eitel Development, Spruce, and The Wellington (they do not have development guidelines at this time)

The meeting concluded with a discussion about hosting a Community-Wide visioning session (once the Consultant is on) utilizing techniques and tools which Neil uses with the Minnesota Design Team methodology. Jana will bring an updated administrative timeline to the next Master Plan meeting, as well as Community Engagement draft processes & steps. Paul requested that Robert's document "Loring Park Master Plan Tasks, based on Beth Elliot Handout", be attached to emails or brought to each meeting. It was suggested that it may be a good overview, for John & Jana to walk thru this document and identify who is assigned to a various component, what items CLPC staff can do, what items the Master Plan Steering Committee can do, what items should be done with a Consultant, and which items need to be completed in the Community through Community-wide participation.

IV. The next Master Plan Steering Committee meeting was set for Wed., Oct. 28th – Room 207 of the Loring Park Office Building/430 Oak Grove from 6:30-8:30 p.m.