

PARK COMMITTEE

VISION, PRINCIPLES & PROGRAM: Draft – January 9, 2013

The following inventory of comments builds on the discussion of the Park Committee from their December 12th meeting and from the input provided via email regarding the vision, principles and program.

VISION:

Input from Committee members (received via email)

1. accessible, connected to surrounding neighborhoods, adaptable, integrated.
2. community and civility, diversity and vitality, physical activity and Viking fan energy.
3. showing the world the best our city has to offer
4. Destination for Vikings Fans
5. Destination for visitors to Minneapolis
6. Park for the ages and for all ages
7. Year round
8. Incorporating history how that part of the city was part of the early history of the evolving city
9. significant to feature that this will be a “must” for visitors to the city
10. Peoples Park
11. It needs to really grab the opportunity and become something special!
12. One of the nation’s most memorable and welcoming front door experiences where residents and visitors alike gather to recreate, celebrate, relax, and live. An Iconic and timeless playground
13. I want to see as simple and focused a programmatic vision as possible - The Great Lawn in Central Park!!

PRINCIPLES:

The following principles are pulled from the input of the Park Committee. These inform the basis of the exercise conducted on January 9th. Based on the discussion and exercise the principles distribute on December 12th will be revised.

Input from Committee members (received via email)

1. A space that will create memorable experience on game day for fans AND nearby residents, workers, and business owners. It needs to provide seamless transition to nearby properties while promoting public safety and accessibility.
2. Versatile and friendly for all users and include landscape features designed to reflect the four seasons and be usable and attractive year-round.
3. Create dramatic approaches, vistas, and archways.
4. Prioritize quality over quantity in the sizing, design, and materials selection.
5. Urban landscape with an ecological ethic rooted in natural and cultural processes that integrate storm water management, native plants and regional materials.
6. Include a generous tree canopy to provide shade, wind protection, and reduce heat-island effects.
7. Family friendly features.
8. Integrate public art into the infrastructure.
9. I did not of course have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the selected principles and visions for the new park at the last committee meeting. But looking them over, I find them quite comprehensive and well-directed to the specific issues of

creating the new park as a unique public space with good connections to the surrounding neighborhoods and the stadium. My concern now, like that of all other committee members I imagine, is the practices we follow in the difficult tasks involving realizing the park.

10. Create a memorable experience
11. Promote public safety and accessibility
12. Offer versatility and friendliness
13. Serve all four seasons
14. Exemplify the best sustainable practices
15. Be a world-class destination
16. General Comments on the Draft: I understand that much of the language in the draft was pulled from a similar document prepared by the stadium advisory committee, which explains language focused on the stadium rather than the Park. This language should be changed to focus on the Park. (e.g. "The resulting stadium building, site and plaza will stand as a national example for best sustainable practices.....")
17. The draft needs to be tightened to eliminate repetition, e.g. about safety.
18. The various sections are confusing because all of the numbered items aren't parallel. E.g. Under "Function & Use" numbers 1, 3 and 4. This makes the document confusing. Perhaps each section ("Function & Use" and "Connections & Systems" need a lead-in phrase or statement.
19. I think the Park should somehow represent and interpret the history of the area. (I understand that the Star Tribune medallions need not be integrated into the Park, but I think they should be, along with information about the history of the area.)
20. Somewhere the principles should state that the goal is not to develop a park that is "faddish."

PROGRAM:

The following are the responses to the question: "what kind of activities do you want to see in the park"

Input from Committee members (received via email)

1. By adaptable and integrated I mean that the park should be a kind of template upon which a great variety of activities and functions can take place. For this to happen, the physical characteristics of the park would have to feature cohesiveness between distinctly defined spaces or "rooms" which are designed to welcome a spectrum of events and activities. Much like convention or meeting spaces that can be spacious sometimes and yet "walled" when necessary to accommodate more intimate functions.
2. I do not think the park space should be created to accommodate large sporting activities such as soccer or Lacrosse if that would mean fashioning a vast expanse of "yard" that is not conducive to more various and intimate activities such as small gatherings, patio-like tables for get-togethers for lunch, coffee or chess, small touch football games, Frisbee throwing, snowman building in the winter.
3. Used book stalls with nearby cafes, outdoor movies, sports venues for a variety of ages, a small dog park
4. Ice skating rink / shallow pond for kids to float boats on in the summer (Minneapolis is the City of Lakes!)
5. Lots of chairs so people know they can find a place to sit (as at Bryant Park).
6. Coordination with events of Downtown Council
7. Food trucks

8. Play area for kids
9. Plays / Music in the Park
10. Movies in the Park
11. Permanent concession / restaurant area
12. Kiosks
13. Christmas / Winter Market or other markets
14. Holiday light shows – coordinate with adjacent buildings.
15. I know that Holidazzle is ending this year, but a parade that starts downtown and ends in the Park would be terrific, perhaps tied to the light show
16. Games such as Ultimate Frisbee / lacrosse
17. I would like at least one piece of public art in the Park
18. Making it food truck friendly will help...maybe with special parking along the narrowed up Park and Portland
19. With the Holidazzle going away could someone creative like Stu Widdess come up with a holiday event that could happen in the yard....or terminate in the yard?? Same with Aquatennial...is there an opportunity for a significant aquatennial event there??
20. With growing numbers of children downtown it needs to be kid friendly in unique ways that draw families!!
21. Is there a Guthrie connection? Should there be a small star or amphitheater?...music, Shakespeare in the Park???
22. The LRT interface is hugely important
23. Can HCMC be brought in with an outward reaching clinic that is appealing to all???
24. Sorry to ramble like this...but my vision for the park is a big one! It needs to really grab the opportunity and become something special! Other cities are doing it, we can too! By the way I will be going to Houston for the Bowl game so will take pictures of the park that that people say is about the same size and is a huge hit...!!
25. Great walking paths with separate distinct bike paths.
26. Multi use ball field
27. Young Child play area
28. Performance area (like Lake Harriet)
29. Is there any dog run area in downtown? Carving out such a space would be attractive to the local residences.
30. Space for outdoor art installations. (Madison Park in NYC does seasonal art installations)
31. I am unsure if there should be any permanent food concession? Around the park will be lots of private development, will there be appropriate space to cover food? If there is a food concession in the park it should ABSOLUTELY not be the park board or city running it.
32. Winter: Cross country skiing/races, Ice skating, sledding hill, merchant festivals, Christmas tree and other holiday celebrations, winter festivals, ice sculpture carving
33. Summer: movies, concerts, food trucks, seasonal restaurant, farmers market

OVERARCHING CONSISTENT THEMES: VISION, PRINCIPLES, PROGRAM

The following themes were consistently forwarded and are pulled from the input from the Park Committee. These are intended to be the underlying values of the vision and principles for the Park. These should form the basis of the vision and principles for the Park.

- **Inspiring:** design and/or features that create awe and attracts visitors on its own
- **World class destination with everyday appeal:** the park will be a place for daily and weekly rituals for residents and workers, it will serve stadium events as an accessory destination, it will serve as a venue for events, and it will be a primary destination on its own.
- **Flexible/multipurpose function:** the spaces within the park should fulfill multiple roles throughout the day, week, season, and year while being able to function and appear as a cohesive whole.
- **Year-round:** the park should perform in the winter as well as it does in the summer.
- **Actively programmed:** the park is designed and operated to promote a variety of uses and events.

THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

The following have either been discussed in past Park Committee meetings or were referred to in one or two received comments, but require full Committee discussion to establish a position.

- **Ecology/Sustainability**
- **History**
- **Public Art**
- **Family Friendliness**
- **Public Safety**
- **Connectedness & Circulation Hierarchy**