



Coalition for Elliot Park
Tuesday, December 5th, 2023 2-3:30pm

Agenda:

- Introductions
 - o Name, organization, role/interest in this project
- Agreements
 - o Speak personally, for yourself as an individual (or as you can and as needed for your organization).
 - o Avoid assigning intentions, beliefs, or motives to others.
 - o Assume positive intent.
 - o Allow others to finish before you speak.
 - o Share “airtime” – use the guideline of “you then two.”
 - o Respect all confidentiality or anonymity requests.
 - o Stay on topic.
 - o Honor new voices.
- Get to know each other
 - o Share your favorite park story
- Elliot Park perspectives
 - o Pair up
 - o Pick a perspective, grab a map
 - o Walk and talk
 - o Share back
- Commitments
 - o What do we need from members? ^[OBJ]
 - Time (bi-monthly, monthly?)
 - Patience
 - Partnership
 - Advocacy
 - o Next meeting
 - o January: Mission and vision
 - o To follow: goals/tactics/outcome, shared data, solution sharing, funding

Attendance:

Wako, Jessica Focht-Perlberg	EPNI, Executive Director, Community Organizer
Shannon Fitzgerald, Jessy Countney	ETBP, Executive Director, Administrative Manager
Jordan Robertson, Canaan Crawford, Tyler Johnsen, Gina Zarletti	NCU
Patty Smith	Aeon & EPNI
Lt. John Engle	MPD
Keith Kozerski, Rachel Silver, Jessica Meyers, Kevin Davy	Catholic Charities
Mike Fox, Trudell Dunkley-Johnson, Abdi Mukhtar	MPRB
Pastor Cor Chmieleski	Hope Community Church
Jeff Millikan	
Carrie Kalweit	
Joni Babinski	
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Notes:

- Introductions and Expectations (agreements in Agenda above)-
 - HCMC and Bethlehem Baptist Church not in attendance; invited but couldn't make it
 - CM Osman, Parks Commissioner, MPD, etc. are in contact with Coalition but will not be in regular attendance, will be emailed notes as needed
 - Residents feel Catholic Charities has been "historically absent" from conversations and are happy to meet employees going forward
- **MPRB Master Plan for Elliot Park:** https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/MPRB_DSAMP_Nov2017_ch4_amended.pdf
- **Small Group Activity:** Partner in groups of three to discuss the best experiences you've had in any park
 - Activations and full-time staffing make more exciting
 - Amenities = playground, pool, trees for shade and privacy
 - Connection to nature
- Prior to Soccer Field and Skate Park, Elliot Park had a Baseball Diamond and Tennis Courts- renovations from MPRB coming in the next year will address the Basketball Courts
- However, focus of coalition is not on infrastructure improvements
- **Small Group Activity:** Partner with one person and pick a POV from any park user (from last meeting's list) and Elliot Park map- What is the experience of that person? What do they do and where do they go? What is most or least enjoyable?

- Two sides of Elliot Park (East and West, due to Rec Center blocking visibility and thru-traffic), currently seems to be a disadvantage but could be great and is intended for sectioning off activities
- *Is this divide exacerbated by the closure of Segue Coffee (which in turn is due to safety concerns) because less people are crossing through the park?*
- Activation, programming, and events are keys to great communities and public spaces
 - Ideas include chess, bocce, ice hockey, winter carnivals, book clubs, sports matches, concerts, picnics (need grills/benches/infrastructure), etc.
- Resources need to spread past the park's boundaries into community- Elliot Park is a neighborhood experiencing food scarcity (limited grocery and restaurants)- *due to or preceded by safety concerns?*
- Break-ins span outwards to nearby apartments, fencing and lighting hasn't always been a helpful solution, but could be in combination with other tactics
- Decreased bus stop shelters, increased encampment sweeps, and several other factors invite people to hold space in Park- many people also deny services; however, housing instability is not exclusively something the Coalition will touch
- Amenities for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and more would be inviting, trash pickup would be helpful in keeping park safe and clean for users (*EPNI does clean-ups semi-regularly*)
 - Keeping pool (not splash pad) safe, clean, and accessible is important in the summer, skatepark is public (open for event hosting) = good bones of the park
- Acute care services nearby and Twin Cities' needle exchanges cater to unhoused residents and people struggling with addiction, preference for privacy when struggling and park provides anonymity
 - *Are there volunteering opportunities? What do they look like?*
- Residents experience lack of dedicated parking for park-users and public restrooms (exterior restrooms are closed with the exception of during open pool hours)

Next Steps:

- Meeting in January- starting biweekly (or so) and eventually becoming monthly as we establish goals, mission, etc.
- Next meeting will be a discussion of Coalition's mission and vision

Generally, Coalition will:

- Utilize winter/off-season to gather steps and eventually present actions/commitments and seek funding
- Require attendance, partnership, and (eventually) advocacy
 - The benefit of everyone at the table is there are people who can take actions at their organizations and at the park