



**Coalition for Elliot Park Meeting
Tuesday January 30th, 2024 @ 2-3:30pm**

Attendance:

Jordan Robertson	NCU
Nicole Moore	Andrews Residential
Keith Kozerski, Jessica Meyerson, Kevin Davy	Catholic Charities
Wako	EPNI
Michael Jones, Emma Pachuta, Mike Fox, Henry Huber	MPRB
Tom Hayes, Mike Ramos	Hennepin Healthcare
Patty Smith	Aeon
Carla Nielson	MPD
Susan Jagodzinski	Resident

Notes:

- MPRB (E. Pachuta + M. Jones) presenting on Elliot Park playground and park improvements
 - 2017 Master Plan included new athletic field, skate park, and field lighting which have already been put into action. Other improvements include swapping pool for splash-pad, add-on to Rec Center (possibly gym)
 - A little over \$2.1 million to invest in a new playground, infrastructure, and activities, but not all of these will happen and/or not all at once
 - Engagement will include focus groups along with online survey through the spring. Concepts shaped by engagement should be shared in May at pop-ups with another online survey
 - Final concepts matchmake needs and funds and be approved by June-July, Park Board approval required in this process
 - Construction could happen this Fall, more likely Spring 2025 (depending on how extensive)
 - MPRB staff and police will inform methods, PAC and case studies will incorporate into concepts + using Master Plan's landscape and demographic analysis to shape process
 - Public safety fears cloud ability to imagine park amenities, need clear modification ideas to address security > potential for opening Coalition to

community to speak on safety issues prior to engagement intended to build a sense of being heard and imagination

- Values and Vision was compiled from past meetings' exercises. Goals are what we do, whereas impacts are what changes/happens as an effect (non-quantifiable)

Goals + Tactics Exercise: Pair up and discuss tasks/efforts you'd like to see the Coalition take on and accomplish (specific and measurable). These are informed by the outcomes > impacts discussed at prior meeting

- Responses included:
 - “More park events (like music or theatre performances) to replace lack of activity and reduce crime”
 - “Creation of comfort by reducing intimidation, drug use, and other antisocial behavior”
 - “Lowering crime and increasing safety” (This is an impact, not a goal)
 - “Creating network through active communication and shared resources”
- Events are decreased not out of lack of want, but lack of support for park-sponsored programming (resources are difficult to coordinate for MPRB); COVID changed trajectory of external events

Goals	Tactics
Creating Events/Activations	Yard game tournaments, open gyms, ice rink, ice sculptures, skate park competition, music/comedy performances <i>in late afternoon/evening</i> , food trucks, adopt-a-tree, movie screenings Activation calendar and advertisement of events (digital and physical)
Supporting Park Programming	Themes could be Juneteenth celebration, National Night Out, and/or Arbor Day Encouragement, access, and equipment available for regular event space/rental, food truck parking Educational courses including personal safety workshops
Gathering and Communicating Safety Resources	Inventory of resources existing and needed

	<p>Community Safety Forum (end of Feb-prior to MPRB focus groups)</p> <p>Phone hotline, website portal, shared radio/email</p>
Influencing Park Design	<p>Lights (seasonal, pedestrian, and/or catenary)</p> <p>Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)</p> <p>Tree planting and gardening</p>
Soliciting Community Participation	<p>Regularly scheduled park cleanings</p> <p>Volunteering opportunities</p> <p>Walking groups</p>

Next Steps:

- Community Safety Forum will be put on by Coalition in end of Feb. (MPRB will attend but not lead)
- Next meetings at same location and time, 2nd/4th Tues
 - Feb 13, Feb 27, Mar 12, Mar 26 @ 2-3:30pm, Elliot Park Rec Center
- Notes will follow meetings ASAP; invites will be sent out for meetings through April. Meeting cadence will shift/decrease at that time
- Next meeting: We will elaborate on tactics to create actionable steps/plans and Henry Huber + Mike Fox will present on parks programming