

Public Realm Committee
July 11, 2019, 5-6:30 p.m.
180 East 5th Street, Conference Room B

Present: Jonathan Reisetter, Jauston Charles Campbell, Virginia Nienow, Catherine Sweet, John Ganey, Crystal Meriwether, Fatima Bishop, Jon Fure, Anna Lavanger

The meeting began with everyone introducing themselves and sharing their favorite meal to eat outdoors (BBQ/picnic) during the summer. Answers included various forms of grilled meat, mac and cheese, wild rice, corn on the cob, and peanut butter and jelly with banana.

The committee spent most of the meeting discussing the “parks” survey, with the goal of maximizing it’s usefulness and efficiency. Some felt the survey presented at the June meeting was perhaps a little too broad, it might be easier to collate data and take action if the survey is targeted towards certain parks. Anna, summer intern at CRC, created a downtown parks inventory spreadsheet that could help the committee set priorities for which parks to focus their time and attention. The group discussed whether they should do one broad survey or target certain parks, and briefly talked about how to administer the survey. They then decided that for the July meeting they would look at the parks inventory and a revised survey, and then take the time to select their top three park priorities.

Jauston presented a powerpoint about possible speakers to have come to the committee meeting each month. It included people from Downtown Alliance, Friends of the Park, Friends of Mears Park, Friends of Rice Park. A discussion ensued about this proposal and attendees felt that all these groups would have something to add but that they should focus on inviting people who would be the best at providing an increased understanding of how to affect change within the district parks. Someone from Saint Paul Parks and Recreation would be a top choice to attend an upcoming meeting.

Lastly, the group talked about other meeting ideas. Specifically having informal walking tours of parks to end each meeting, especially while it is nice weather. Everyone was excited about this idea and thought it would be helpful to see certain parks while talking about them.

Jon Fure informed everyone about the Spire Credit Union Lowertown Clean Up Crew, Sunday, July 14, from 12-2 pm. He also mentioned that folks should look out for the national night out event on August 6

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.