

Public Realm Committee Meeting Notes

Thursday, August 1, 2019, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Present: Shevek McKee, Jonathan Reisetter, John Ganey, Catherine Sweet, Virginia Nienow, Crystal Meriwether, Jon Fure, LeeAnn LaBore, Ashley Carlin, Sandra Erickson, Tom Erickson

The meeting started with introductions and everyone's thoughts about the State Fair. Love it or hate it? Most people enjoyed the fair and their favorite things about it ranged from corndogs and frozen apple cider to machinery hill and seed art.

The group then dove into discussion about the parks survey. Prior to this meeting, Co-Chair Jonathan Reisetter created a first-draft of the survey on Google Forms. The group was able to project this form of the survey on the big screen and walk through it question by question to evaluate how it well will work and accomplish the goals of the tool. After some discussion about the goals of the survey, specifically around whether respondents needed to include "how they use" the park in question or whether just asking how the park could be improved would accomplish the survey goals. The group ultimately decided to focus mainly on how the park could be improved, not about how they're currently being used. More discussion ensued about the value of presenting the full list of District 17 parks versus just presenting parks that have been identified by the committee as needing improvement or attention. After this discussion the committee agreed that they wanted to present a selected list of parks. After agreeing on that, the group proceeded to talk about each park on the list and come to a consensus on whether to keep or eliminate it on the survey. Co-chair Reisetter took detailed notes based on these results, in order to update the survey and send it out before the next committee meeting.

The group used the remaining meeting time to discuss how they would eventually administer the survey. Ideas included: downtown Facebook groups, building Facebook groups, going through BOMA, using Nextdoor, administering it in person at National Night Out, having large companies like Ecolab and Securian send it to their employees, using Visit St. Paul to reach visitors with it.