Pedro Park Working Group Meeting

May 20, 2021

Attendees: Jon Fure, Nancy Fischer , Peg Ganey, Merritt, Julie Printz, Alice, Gina Pitera, Katie Brokaw, Kady Dadlez, Nicolle Goodman, Jean Fideler

Meeting organizer and facilitator: Julie Prinz, who has a powerpoint with the agenda and goals for the group

Merritt saved the chat and has notes from that.

Jon will compile the notes from the meeting.

The meeting began by each attending member announcing their relationship to downtown, what excites them about this project, what they hope to contribute to this project and their workstyle.

**Conduct Guidelines**:

Please let Julie know if we will be absent for a meeting. She will send out agendas before the meetings. She will also share her Powerpoint from this first meeting, as well as a website for this group. Background information on Pedro Park will be available through the links in this Powerpoint as well as on this website.

We discussed whether in-person meetings in the Osborn 370 conference room are possible and many of the attendees said they are interested in attending in-person meetings. Nicolle will be organizing a tour of the Public Safety Annex building for a future meeting.

This group meets under the purview of the Capitol River Council, and so we follow their guidelines for civility and respectful conversations. Our meeting are open to the public. The local news sometimes reports on Pedro Park so we may need a volunteer to interact with news media.

Meetings will start and end on time.

Use the “Raise Hand” icon on Zoom (under the Reactions button at the bottom of the screen”) to make comments during a meeting. Once you have commented, you will need to click the button again to take down your hand.

Be mindful of tangents in the conversation in order to stay on track – chairs of meetings may need to “park topics” that aren’t immediately relevant to the agenda and return to them in future conversations.

**Upper Mississippi Academy Proposals and Presentation**

Students from this academy which meets in the former McNally Smith building are very interested in our neighborhood’s development and have been creating proposals of what they would like to see. They will be giving a presentation on **June 2, 2021 at 1:50 pm** and they would like members of our group to attend. Further details on where and/or how to meet will be provided.

Review of Workgroup Goals:

We reviewed 6 workgroup goals and provided questions we had concerning what the goals mean, information that we needed to achieve these goals, and at the end, feedback on the goals themselves. See chat notes.

1. Review Fitzgerald/Pedro Park Precinct Plan and past scenarios for context

2. Develop options for Pedro Neighborhood place-making opportunities

3. Advocate for park improvements while keeping future park expansion on the table

4. Evaluate and support City efforts on Public Safety Annex Building’s reuse/redevelopment scenarios – financial feasibility, RFPs, etc.

5. Consider Pedro Park options for the 2022-2023 City Budget and Community Budget Initiatives

6. Recommendation for instituting an official Friends of Pedro Park Neighborhood Group.

Please keep in mind that this working group is not limited to Pedro Park itself, but to the entire neighborhood that is named Fitzgerald/Pedro Park.

Discussion:

Our group could use more detailed and recent demographic information about this neighborhood – how many people, types of households, etc.

Another potential goal is to determine how the park is currently functioning and for whom. How is the park currently used? Who uses it? What is working and not working about this park in its current state?

The last plan for this area may be from 2010 – a great deal of change has taken place since that time. New residential buildings are now here and there are potentially more on the way.

We would like to know where does this fall on the city’s list of priorities? What are the metrics that determine prioritizations? We asked about the population of this area. Alice will look that up for us.

Checkout Question: How are you feeling about our work?

Most people said they were curious, hopeful, excited, had more questions, and were ready to dig into the work.

The next meeting will delve into the history of urban planning for this neighborhood.

Meeting ended at 5:28pm.