

# STEERING COMMITTEE | MINUTES

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Meeting date | time 03/06/2019 | 1:00 PM

Meeting called by	Maureen Anway	Raquel Garcia	Anette Howard
Type of meeting	Steering Committee	Anthony Benavides	John DeRuiter
Facilitator	Maureen Anway	Raquel Castañeda-Lopez	Jeff Klein
Note taker	Maureen Anway	Maria Salinas	Dawn Ceballos

## AGENDA TOPICS

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Agenda topic *Review and Edits to Minutes 12/17/2018*

- Maureen presented minutes and described their contents
- Maureen asked for any edits
- No committee members had any edits

### Action items

Person responsible    Deadline

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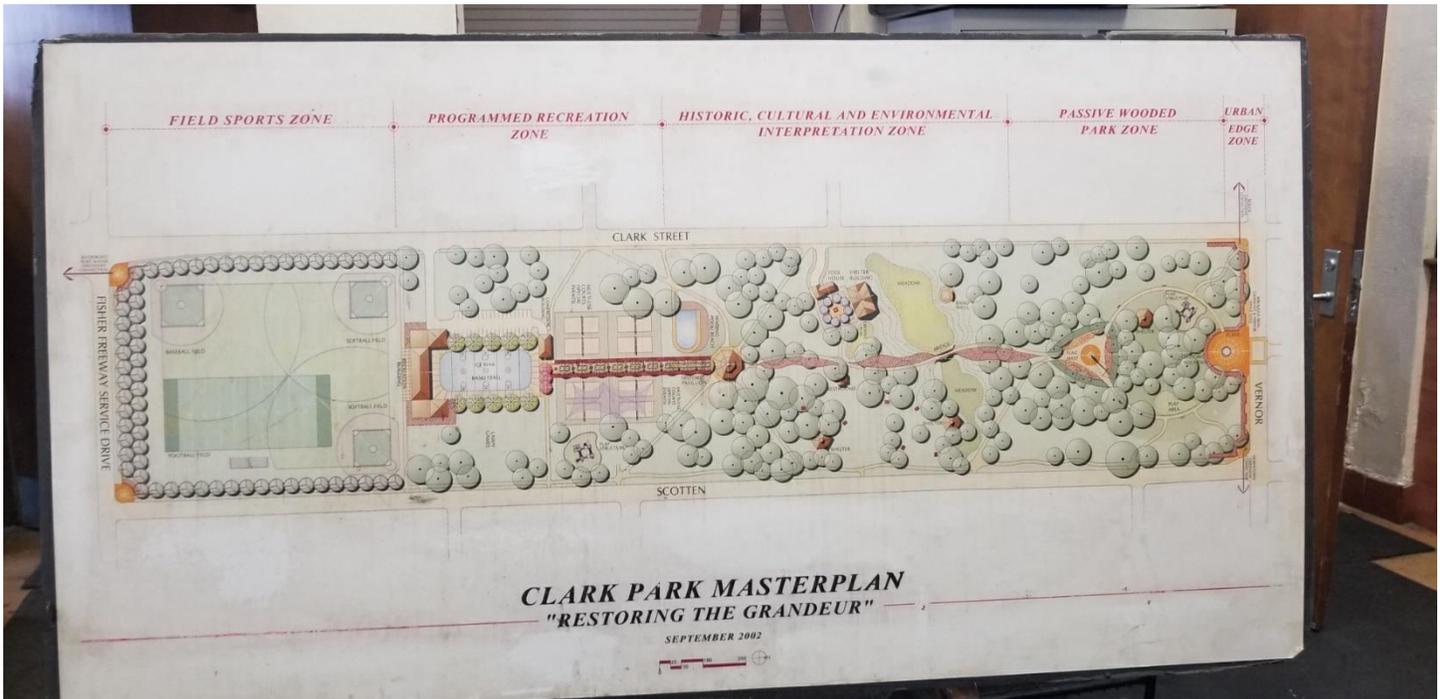
None

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Agenda topic *General Services Department Discussion*

- Maureen wanted to introduce Jeff Klein and John DeRuiter to the steering committee to explain how their work will impact the participatory budgeting process. This discussion/Q&A is below:
- Members requested introductions since two members from the General Services Department (GSD) were new to many members
- Jeff Klein, Deputy Chief of Landscape Architecture, and John DeRuiter, Landscape Design Unit, introduced themselves to the steering committee.
- Jeff explained that General Services Department is responsible for most things to do with parks and that the Landscape Design Unit is responsible for helping implement projects that came out of the City of Detroit's West Vernor Framework planning process
  - o He explained that as a part of the city's planning process there were some projects identified for Clark Park
  - o Those projects from the planning process were going to go through a design process this summer and that he wanted to coordinate the city's design process with the participatory budgeting design process as well as other projects happening around Clark Park
    - Other projects include:
      - Some Wayne County funding for a gazebo project
      - A potential tree buffer on the southern edge of the park through MDOT
- Maureen explained that now that we know the winning projects we must decide what those projects will look like, where they will be located, etc.

- Maureen then described an example:
  - Benches were a winning project, but the steering committee and residents need to decide what those benches will look like, how many will there be, where will they be located
  - Normally, the steering committee would have to pay an architect to design the projects but because the City has hired architects for their design process, we will be working with them to use their architects to design the participatory budgeting projects
    - Hamilton Anderson is the architecture firm
  - Once the committee has a design then the steering committee can select a vendor to build the project
    - Maureen passed out the list of draft vendors to the committee and said if they had any additions to e-mail her to put them on the list
    - One member also asked if we could create a list for local artists in case any of the projects end up having a creative element to them- Maureen will request names via e-mail
- One member asked why the city was involved with designing Clark Park because they thought that Clark Park Coalition owned the park
  - Jeff, Anthony, and Raquel Castañeda-Lopez explained that the park is owned by the City of Detroit but that Clark Park Coalition has an agreement with the City to maintain the park and run programming out of the Rec Center
    - Anthony then mentioned that in 1992 there was talk about the city no longer listing Clark Park as a city park because they couldn't afford to maintain it.
      - Anthony then mentioned that Clark Park Coalition was formed to help keep Clark Park a City park and that the coalition would help maintain the park.
      - Anthony recalled that they used to have to pay some of the sewage costs which were very high, but the City took over those costs a couple years ago because it was hard for the coalition to continue paying those bills.
    - Raquel then stated that she thought the park could never be sold because it was her understanding that when J.P. Clark sold the land (which used to be ribbon farmland) to the city that he stated the city could only purchase it if they promised to always keep it a park. Therefore, the park is "deed restricted" meaning that the city cannot use the land for anything other than the park.
      - Raquel did state she wasn't sure if this was legend or not
  - Jeff then stated that his department (GSD) was involved in helping to build some of the projects identified in the West Vernor Framework plan because the city owns the park not the coalition
- Anthony then pulled out a poster of an older design process Clark Park Coalition did in 2002.



- As a part of that plan there was an entry way/plaza near Vernor to help encourage people to walk back and forth between the businesses and Clark Park.
  - Anthony said the plan was to have a fountain, but he no longer thought that a fountain was realistic since it is expensive, and he wasn't sure who would clean it.
    - Jeff Klein agreed
- They had also planned to build a playground near that plaza so the kids could have something to do while the parents sat and enjoyed the plaza
- Anthony then mentioned that there used to be a large gazebo in the middle of the park where his mom used to take him to listen to jazz concerts in the summer, but he said that it had been torn down
- Then they hoped to build a promenade between the gazebo leading to the recreation center
- Anthony also mentioned that the older plan wanted to reactivate the wading pool along Clark St. that was built in 1889
- Finally, Anthony mentioned that the plan hoped to expand the rec center more so that there could be locker rooms for the hockey players since their program has expanded so much
- Both Jeff Klein and John DeRuiter of GSD were very interested in this history and wanted to follow up with Anthony to learn more. They stated that they would also search their files to see if they have any documentation on this older plan or any information about the history of the park.
- The table also discussed the entryway/plaza. One resident asked if the plan decided to call it "El Zocalo"
  - One member jumped in and said that they hated that name because they felt that it was commodifying Latino culture and that the Southwest community sometimes feels like they have to sell their culture in order for outsiders to feel like they want to visit and experience the culture
    - They stated they felt that exoticizing the culture in that way was like selling the community

- Another member stepped in and stated that they disagreed, that they felt it was important for parts of Clark Park to continue to have Spanish names to preserve the culture because they felt that gentrification was starting to happen.
- Another member stepped in and said that they felt like it depended on the words that were used.
  - They felt that specific words and names would resonate more with residents than others. For example, they felt that La Manzana (the square) felt more local to Southwest than El Zocalo
  - They finished by stating that names that reflect the culture need to come from residents who are a part of that culture
- Jeff and John of GSD found this conversation very helpful and stated they were interested in using the steering committee to test these types of ideas before they were implemented.
  - This led to a larger conversation about coordinating with GSD on their design process.
  - Maureen then repeated what she thought she had heard from Jeff and John:
    - Jeff and John would meet periodically with the Steering Committee to run GSD's ideas past the members for feedback
    - The architects would have a call with GSD this Friday (3/8/2019) to onboard them. After that discussion Jeff and John would have a better understanding of engagement timeline. They would share their engagement schedule with Maureen next week (week of 3/11/2019) to share with the steering committee to figure out how to coordinate the engagement
    - Jeff and John confirmed that they did intend to do both bullet points listed above

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Obtain GSD engagement timeline	Maureen Anway/ Jeff Klein	3/15/2019
Present Timeline at next Committee meeting	Maureen/GSD	4/10/2019
Anthony will send Jeff and John a PDF version of the older plan he had presented	Anthony Benavides	3/15/2019

| Agenda topic *Ongoing Engagement*

- The end of the previous conversation then led to a discussion about the remainder of the engagement budget and how to use it to support the design and construction of the PB process
  - One member requested that Maureen bring the following to the next meeting:
    - An updated budget
    - The timeline for the City's design process
    - An estimated cost for different engagement activities to create an engagement plan attached to numbers
  - Maureen agreed to bring all these materials with her to the next meeting

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Present updated budget	Maureen Anway	4/10/2019

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Present an updated PB implementation budget	Maureen Anway	4/10/2019
Present budget estimates for various engagement activities	Maureen Anway	4/10/2019

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**Agenda topic** *Unfunded Projects*

- Maureen then raised funding for the unfunded projects.
- Jeff stated that if the city is going to cover some of the costs of the PB projects that could free up some money for other unfunded PB projects
- Maureen then passed out the minutes from her phone calls with Maria Hadden where she asked about what to do if the City can fund some of the projects
  - o In the minutes sent out previously, Maria Hadden stated that you would continue down the list to pay for the next project
- Anthony then discussed that he had applied for a KIP:D grant to cover the costs of the following unfunded projects:
  - o Volleyball nets
  - o Soccer field: mobile nets, seating, and materials to stripe the field
  - o Rehabbing the playground
  - o Rehabbing the remaining gazebos and using them for markets
    - He stated he wanted to try to incorporate the Artisan Retail Space idea that was another idea from the participatory budgeting process
- Maureen mentioned the KIP:D grant happens annually and that steering committee members could use that grant to fund the remaining projects

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Anthony will update committee if funding is awarded	Anthony Benavides	TBD