

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW  
MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
February 8, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Martin called the workshop meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on February 8, 2016.

**ROLL CALL**

The following attended the meeting:

City Council: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Johnson, Quigley, Springhorn and Wickstrom

Staff: Terry Schwerm, City Manager  
Tom Simonson, Asst. City Manager/Community Development Director  
Rebecca Olson, Asst. to City Manager

Parks and Recreation Commission: Desaree Crane, Chairperson  
Catherine Jo Healy, Co-Chair  
Linda Larson, Co-Chair  
Athrea Hedrick  
Carol Jauch  
Charlie Oltman  
Craig John  
Tom Lemke

Stantec: Stuart Krahn  
Jim Maland

BWBR Architects: Steve Erickson

**JOINT MEETING WITH THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO REVIEW SHOREVIEW COMMONS MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS**

Mr. Simonson introduced the three concept update plans prepared by Stantec Consulting Services for the Shoreview Commons Master Plan. Stantec representatives met with the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council and staff. That feedback has been incorporated into the three concept plans presented.

**Presentation by Stantec Representative, Stuart Krahn**

Mr. Krahn stated that the concept plans focus on the identified project objectives:

- Develop plans for future park improvements and other site amenities, including potential re-purposing of existing ball field areas and new features to complement existing facilities.
- Enhance connectivity between public facilities on the site: Shoreview Community Center, Shoreview City Hall, Mounds View School District Administrative Services, the new Ramsey County Regional Library, Haffeman Pavilion and the adjacent County Ice Arena.
- Improve on-site pedestrian and bicycle linkages to provide safe access to public services and recreational facilities within the Shoreview Commons.
- Maintain safe and efficient traffic flow and parking to support all facilities, events, and activities in the Shoreview Commons.

Updating the Master Plan has been broken down into five stages:

1. Background information for the context and vision for a Master Plan with an analysis of preliminary opportunities and constraints for the first consultation.
2. A detailed analysis of opportunities and constraints with a spatial analysis for the second consultation.
3. Draft Master Plan alternatives with cost estimates to prioritize for the third consultation.
4. Refine Master Plan Alternative with refined cost estimates and prepare a preliminary phasing plan for a fourth consultation.
5. Prepare the Final Master Plan with final cost estimates and a Final Phasing Plan for the final consultation.

This discussion is the third step in the process. Components of the site include a soccer field, hill with oak trees, buildings, center area with pavilion and lawn, buffer vegetation to a pond, neighborhood park, undeveloped woods area, parking areas, school district facility and library facility. The pond is part of the drainage system from areas to the north flowing to Snail Lake. If the pond is to be used as an amenity, two options are suggested by Stantec's water resource engineer: 1) make the pond shallower to create a wetland marshy waterway; or 2) make the pond deeper and add mechanical aeration to keep it cleaner. It will be difficult to get rid of the amount of duckweed that is present.

Each concept plan has a theme related to the level of activity: Concept 1 is named Relax; Concept 2 is named Play; and Concept 3 is named Active. The concept plans include features and activities for all generations and residents and non-residents of the City.

1. Relax Concept - This plan would have a Veterans' Promenade with new landscaping to create a wide walkway connection between City buildings and the new library, which would mean taking out a couple of parking stalls. There would be an oak grove entrance to the site from Victoria. Pedestrian connections would be enhanced. A prairie style wedding venue is shown with a formal paved walkway along prairie gardens. Sledding and sliding areas are shown. A lazy river for tubing in the summer converts to an ice skating path in winter. A

river lounge gathering area is in the middle of the river with a deck and landscaping. A teen gathering area is south of the plaza skate park. A storm water treatment drain would be installed. There is a nature play area using natural materials. There is an arboretum garden, pavilion plaza between the pavilion and the river. Features around the pond include outdoor lounge areas, sunrise and sunset piers, gathering space in the woods, a labyrinth, and a mindfulness garden.

2. Play Concept - This plan includes many of the features in the Relax Concept. Major new features are a porch style cafe operated by an outside vendor. There would be varied seating areas adjacent to an ice ribbon for skating. This concept shows no lazy river. The ice ribbon features game rooms, an outdoor patio and fire pit area. A plaza style skate park is shown. There is an outdoor refrigerated hockey rink. The existing neighborhood park would be retained with expanded play features. Included also is mini golf; a terraced lawn area; and a low and high ropes course.
3. Active Concept - Veterans' Memorial pedestrian walkway from City buildings to library across the parking lot with landscaping; outdoor climbing experiences; sculptured path; an ice ribbon with moonscape skate park in middle; nature play facility, small ball field, pavilion with connecting plazas, lawn area to extend to gardens and wedding venue. This concept would remove one row of parking, but potential expanded parking is shown on land the City does not currently own.

Mr. Schwerm noted two key policy issues to consider. One is whether to plan activities around the pond because of the expense to clean it. One question is how much money to spend on the pond as opposed to added park features. Secondly, it is important to decide whether the neighborhood park on the north side of the site should retain similar features of other neighborhood parks with the existing tennis courts and playground.

Councilmember Wickstrom asked the amount of usage of the pickleball courts. Mr. Schwerm stated it is considered beginner courts. She added that it is important to protect as much water quality as possible and keep a native plant buffer to screen the pond.

Councilmember Quigley asked if Stantec has taken into consideration the expansion plans for the Community Center. Mr. Simonson responded that all three concepts incorporate the planned Community Center expansion. Councilmember Quigley noted the poor soil around the pond. The pond rehab is critical in terms of how other features are developed. Mr. Krahn stated that soil borings have not been done. Features near the pond will be what can be supported by the soil.

Park Commissioner Lemke stated that he likes the idea of turning the pond back into a wetland to eliminate the mass of green water. He would like to see a study on what it would take to create a marshy area and find out if it would then maintain the same amount of storm water runoff. More could be done with a marsh, such as a bird walk, than with a green pond.

Mayor Martin stated that she is not convinced the pond cannot be cleaned up because ponds are cleaned often in other areas, such as golf courses. Mr. Schwerm noted that the difference for the Commons pond is that it is DNR protected wetland. There are strict regulations on the level of chemical treatment that can be used.

Mayor Martin asked each Councilmember and Parks and Recreation Commissioner to identify the features preferred from each concept plan. The following is a listing of preferred features:

**Preferred Features of Concept 1, Relax Plan:**

- Inclusion of multiple events for all age groups
- The pond is a significant portion of the site. As a focal point, it may cost too much money. The pond should be minimized and attention focused on new activity features.
- Connection from the Community Center to the library is very important. A walkway across the parking lot encourages more interaction between the two areas but would not be a relaxing place to go and sit or have a Veterans' Memorial.
- The walkway to the library should be through the parking lot with good landscaping to make it a focal point and easily seen. If it is among gardens or sculpture, it will be more hidden. It was suggested that a Veterans' Memorial could be part of the plaza outside the Community Center.
- The wedding venue with the prairie style garden is preferred.
- The plaza style skate park for youth is important. There is concern about a teen gathering place that is too far from oversight.
- There is concern about a lazy river and whether it will take away from indoor water park activities. A water feature without tubing that could be used for skating in winter is preferred. It could include a moonscape plaza, game rooms and fireplace area. In summer, there could be a standing pool or splash pads. Such a surface could also be used for other activities and serve as a circulation area with benches.
- The nature play area near the neighborhood park is a good feature.
- The neighborhood park is blocked by many trees. Unless a resident, one would not know there is a neighborhood park in that location. The area needs to be opened up to encourage broader use.
- Maintain existing playground near the pavilion regardless of what happens to the neighborhood park. The neighborhood park is too far for small children while parents are participating in other activities at the pavilion.
- Place the ice ribbon close to the pavilion, similar to Cottage Grove. Include a fire ring that could be accessed by skaters. Develop more uses for the pavilion which is a prominent piece.
- Add an easier access to the Community Center from the back of the building.
- Walkway expansion throughout the campus to draw more movement for multi-generational use.
- Combine Concepts 1 and 3. The Veterans' Memorial should be more private and not in the middle of the parking lot.

**Preferred Features from Concept 2, Play Plan:**

- Mini-golf, an activity that could also raise funds.
- Adding a cafe area is a plus. A food feature encourages community.
- A bocce ball court on the west side would be used by seniors who live in SummerHouse. Noise needs to be considered on the west side because of the senior living SummerHouse across the street.
- Ice ribbon around a game area. A hockey rink is not needed if there is an ice ribbon.
- Sliding feature for winter.
- Natural play area, playground, arboretum garden. Many features are in the wrong location. The east quadrant does not fit well.
- Agree with ropes concept. It is a good team building activity, but there is a question about putting in a ropes course. It is not an activity that is often heard about and the question is whether it would be well used.
- Cluster of activity in front of the Community Center which would also be a good place for a cafe, rather than in back. Instead of a mini-golf course, the wedding venue could be closer to the pavilion so the pavilion could also be used for weddings.

**Preferred Features from Concept 3, Active Plan:**

- Oak grove trees.
- Property acquisition of the three single family residences along Highway 96 to transition into parking/redevelopment.
- Ice ribbon is a good feature for both winter and summer activity. A prairie garden is a good way to buffer the pond. Put the wedding venue where the sculpture garden is located and add a fire ring. Eliminate the sculpture garden.
- Others like the sculpture garden, mini-golf and an entrance walkway.
- The sculpture garden does not need to take up such a large area. The wedding venue shown in area No. 20 is good because it is protected from other activities. If the wedding venue is located near the pavilion, it is hard to see how the playground could be saved.
- Music element in the sculpture garden. There is concern about vandalism and security with a sculpture garden. It was noted that location of the sculpture garden at the front of the site would make it less vulnerable to vandalism. The sculptured walkway would also be a good place for historical features or information. The sculpture garden walkway fits with the senior building across the street. A fire pit could be incorporated into one end of the sculpture walkway and ice ribbon with a second fire pit by the wedding venue.

- Sloped, terraced lawn by pavilion with a garden buffer.
- Add additional play features for children in the area shown as No. 7.
- Keep the playground, but a softball field is not needed. The orientation of the soccer field is good. The wedding venue location is good but should not be wooded. The landscaping should be terraced. With the right landscaping by the pavilion, that area could be used for a wedding venue. The walking area shown in No. 22 is not needed.
- Provide an indoor option for the wedding venue.

Mr. Simonson noted that there will be an opportunity for community input, but the format has not been decided at this time. One question is if the playground in the Commons is expanded, could it serve as the neighborhood park?

Mayor Martin responded that as long as there is an expanded play opportunity, she does not think the neighborhood would mind if it is further away.

Mr. Krahn thanked the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission for their discussion, ideas and preferences. The consultant team will take this information and prepare a preliminary phasing plan with alternatives and cost estimates.

Mayor Martin called a short break and then reconvened the meeting.

## **REVIEW PROPOSED UPDATED SIGNAGE PLAN FOR SHOREVIEW COMMONS CAMPUS**

### **Presentation by Asst. City Manager/Community Development Director Tom Simonson**

Staff has been working with Bob Lane, Lane Design Group, on a proposed sign package at the Commons entrance on Victoria that includes the City buildings, the new regional County library and the school district administration building. All parties have agreed to the proposal, but final Board approvals are needed. This is a large sign package that will likely be bid out as one package with each of the three parties having a portion of the costs. The City would pay the majority of costs; the County would pay 20% and the school district would pay 10% of the costs of the entry monuments and for the costs of their individual monument signs.

The proposal does not change the existing City way-finder signs along Highway 96. It has been suggested that the County supplement using the same light poles to post their own way finder signs. The main issue with the County is the existing message center sign. The County has requested the message center sign be relocated because it interferes with views from the glassed in area of the library. The logical location would be the northwest corner, the same location as the ice arena, but it would be in the wrong corner for traffic visibility. Trees would have to be removed. Eastbound, left turn lanes would not see the sign in the northwest corner.

The proposal is to post two message center signs on both the northwest and northeast corners that are lower in height but the same style. All five facilities would be identified. Instead of using the words, Community Center, the City sign would read Shoreview Commons. There would be one

line of digital messaging. This is the best corner to advertise special events. The County is proposing to put a kiosk on the south side of Highway 96 overlooking Snail Lake.

Councilmember Johnson noted that traffic would have to be stopped at the intersection in order to read a smaller digital message.

Mr. Simonson responded that there will be further discussion with the consultant on visibility. As shown on this plan, the signs can be seen from 650 feet; the smaller names can be seen from 250 feet and the digital single line can be seen from 300 feet.

Mayor Martin asked if the sign could be located away from the intersection on the south side. Mr. Simonson explained that the consultant has advised that would be confusing to drivers and is not a location people would naturally look to reach the Commons. Flag poles are suggested in the entry median to indicate a civic campus. The existing library monument sign at the existing library entrance would be changed to the School District sign and logo. A similar monument sign would be at the entrance to the library. The monument sign at the library driveway entrance would only have to add Library to Community Center and City Hall.

Internal campus signage will be updated to direct people to individual facilities and activities. The larger two-sided monument sign that is in front of the Community Center will be moved to Highway 96 closer to the Community Center. The cost of moving the sign is approximately \$22,000, but adding full color digital messaging is estimated at \$160,000.

Councilmember Johnson stated there is a lot going on with signage in a small area with a lot of traffic. She is not in favor of a digital sign either at the corner or on the Community Center sign.

Mayor Martin noted that anyone stopped at the intersection would see the digital messaging at the corner but not on the Community Center sign.

Councilmember Quigley stated he would support reuse of any element possible and generally supports the proposed plan.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated her support for digital messaging at one sign on the corner and moving the Community Center sign.

Mr. Simonson stated that the two similar corner monument signs are estimated at \$93,000 total and of that \$6,000 is for messaging. This includes installation.

It was the consensus of the Council to support moving the Community Center sign but not consider full color digital messaging on that sign at this time and to move forward with the remainder of the proposed sign package.

### **DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL PARK ACQUISITION**

The property at 910 County Road E is adjacent to Bobby Theisen Park. The property will be sold, and the property owner has contacted the City to find out if there is interest on the part of the City to purchase the property to enlarge the park.

City Manager Schwerm stated that the Comprehensive Plan identifies the three residential properties on County Road E adjacent to the park as potential acquisitions for an addition to the park. The value of this single property is approximately \$162,000. If purchased by the City, there should also be a commitment to buying the other two properties when they become available. The property could be purchased and no further action taken until the other two are put up for sale. To purchase all three properties and tear down the homes would total approximately \$600,000 in today's dollars. Currently, there is a youth soccer field at the park. The addition of these properties could potentially add another youth soccer field.

Mayor Martin asked if the property could be rented until all three properties are owned but noted that these properties have wells. Extending the water main would be expensive. Mayor Martin stated that these properties would be a great addition to the park and supports City acquisition.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that she also supports purchasing the property but is concerned about where the money would come from and if some things will be lost with the Community Center expansion and Shoreview Commons Master Plan with an investment of a half million dollars in this property in this park.

Mayor Martin agreed there is no money allocated for this purchase. She suggested that the City bond for the Community Center expansion and include acquisition of this property. Part of what is keeping the City from moving forward is money. Parks and trails are among the most liked features in the City by residents. The City needs to take advantage of an opportunity when a park can be expanded. She noted that Roseville recently bonded \$19 million to just repair and update parks. New shelters are also serving as community meeting rooms. Shoreview does one park every three-four years; the City needs to think bigger.

Park Commissioner Lemke stated that it would be great to add those properties to the park, but he is not sure a new soccer field of a half million dollars is justified. He would like to find out more details about cost and see an agreement with the other two property owners that those properties will be sold to the City when the time comes. Mr. Schwerm noted that it is an advantage for those property owners to sell to the City because the City would pay fair market value. The property owner does not have to pay the 5% or 8% commission to a realtor. The City's attorneys draw up the paperwork, which makes the process much easier for the seller.

Quigley stated that this park has one of the lowest usages according to the survey. There are not many amenities in that area. Mr. Schwerm stated that he has spent some time at that park, and there is good usage, although he agreed it is not reflected in the survey.

It was the consensus of the Council and Commission to contact the two other neighboring property owners prior to considering the purchase of the property in between the two remaining properties.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.