



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
January 16, 2007 – 6:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Alds. Didier, Donegan, Ewerdt, Grimm, Hanson, Krill, Maher, Meaux (6:50 p.m.),
Purins, Treis, Becker, Birschel - 12

EXCUSED: Alds. Herzog, Krol, Stepaniak

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Archambo, City Administrator; Mr. Kappel, Director of Public Works; Mr.
Wehrley, City Engineer

Ald. Becker in the Chair

Hart Park Plan and Cost. Mr. Kappel introduced members of the Board of Parks and Forestry Commissioners in attendance at the meeting: Howard Baszynski, Richard Bachman, Tom Ertel, and Jill Gaertner. He then introduced members of the Hart Park project design team who would be speaking at the meeting: Project Manager Gil Jevne, Schreiber/Anderson Associates (SAA); Garret Perry, SAA; Tim Hansmann, Kubala Washatko; Kevin Contardi, Ruekert-Mielke.

Mr. Jevne stated that a master plan for the park was created in 2001. Public hearings held in 2006 confirmed the public's vision for Hart Park and included new design elements. Open houses were held in March and April 2006, after which the master plan was updated. Preliminary designs were drafted, followed by design development plans. The current plans coordinate the work already underway/completed by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), skateboard park proponents, and the Rotary club. The project team obtained accurate cost estimates to determine whether the development needs to be phased, and how that phasing may increase costs overall.

Most of the 2001 master plan elements are still present in the current plan, though the plans for a basketball court and bocce ball area were removed. The Rotary's stage has been incorporated into the plan.

Mr. Perry stated the final plan has three segments: N. 73rd Street – N. 70th Street, N. 70th Street to N. 68th Street, and N. 68th Street to N. 63rd Street. Entrance roads, parking lots, and grading already exist. The project team added the environmental, educational, and design elements. A bike path will run along the river. The sports area includes a new baseball diamond with a soccer field overlay, providing a dual application. Most of this area is within the floodway. Thus, parking areas have pervious pavement. Bio-swales have been added, as has a storm water retention area. The teen/older child area is away from the tot lots and is targeted at children older than 12. A substantial skateboard

park will be included. Overlooks will be constructed along the river. The teen area will consist of a large plaza area with climbing boulders and net structures. To maintain a larger parking area, it is proposed to realign N. 70th Street to State Street.

The center of the park contains a picnic area, pavilion, and substantial play area. Rotary’s amphitheater is located here. As well, there is another scenic overlook near the river. Since State Street is a gateway to the park, some streetscape design work was added to link it with the park. Brick paver crosswalks in the park will alert vehicles to observe slower speeds to accommodate significant pedestrian usage. Fencing will be installed on both sides of the railroad tracks. Any storm water collected in the park will drain into the bio-swales where it will be filtered and returned to the river. The designs incorporated in the park help to create a unified theme. There will be large lawn areas and a play structure in the center section. The river bank work done by MMSD will remain largely unchanged.

The east part of the park is a return back to nature; it is a passive-use area which will feature native grasses and indigenous plants. The area will be conducive to strolling, and butterfly/bird-watching. There will be pockets of maintained lawn area. The bike path will continue through these areas as well. Two practice soccer fields will be constructed, and there will be a link to Jacobus Park via a foot bridge. A council ring will also be provided which will encourage informal gathering.

Photos were shown of the two styles of benches that will be featured in the park, as well as the fencing, lighting fixtures, and bridges. Interpretive/educational signs will be placed throughout the park explaining terms such as ‘storm water’ and its impact on surrounding areas, and the scope of the MMSD project.

Numerous age-appropriate play structures will be provided and will incorporate ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) elements. Shady areas will be created near the play areas for observers.

Mr. Hansmann noted that since there are public streets running through the park, efforts were made in the design of architectural elements to reinforce to visitors the boundaries of the park, as well as the entrances. Identification is achieved through repeated use of form and materials throughout the park. For example, the main entrance from N. 70th Street will feature the first of a ‘hierarchy of portal elements’ designed to tell visitors they have arrived at the park. The entrance monuments here will be the largest of any entrance, with signage and banners. Stone used will echo that used at the Muellner Building. Secondary entrances, such as the one at N. 68th Street, will feature smaller monuments flanking the entrance, but will use similar stone materials. Pedestrian/bike path entrances will be smaller still.

Similar stone treatment will be used on shelters housing concessions and/or restrooms, as well as on smaller shelters near the skateboard park and soccer fields. Similarly, protection over the bleachers will also feature the same type of stone used at the entrances.

Mr. Jevne then outlined the cost of the project:

N. 72nd Street – N. 70th Street	\$2.1 million dollars
N. 70th Street (center of project)	\$2.5 million dollars
N. 68th Street – N. 63rd Street	\$1.6 million dollars

There are additional park projects in support of this effort, such as State Street streetscaping, street lighting, fencing, monuments, benches, refuse containers, pavement, etc., which will cost just over \$1 million dollars.

The skateboard park, which is being funded privately, will cost an estimated \$1.1 - \$1.2 million dollars.

Irrigation costs for the existing football field: \$80,000.

Public safety surveillance system: \$353,000 (the park is already designed to be easily surveyed)

Realignment of N. 70th Street: \$768,000

The total for these additional projects is about \$3.4 million dollars, bringing the grand total for the park to approximately \$9.8 million dollars. The work can be phased; some of it may be TIF-eligible, and some private funding may be forthcoming. The next step in the project is to convert the plans into bid documents. July 4, 2008 could be a grand opening celebration for the park.

It was moved by Ald. Birschel, seconded by Ald. Didier
to refer the matter to the Community Development
Committee for consideration of this plan. -12

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

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