Resolution 2012-125

Resolution Approving the Webber Park Master Plan and Authorizing Pursuit of a Natural Water Treatment Pilot Project for the Aquatic Facility

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of the Minneapolis Park System;

Whereas, The MPRB has allocated $4 million to design and construct a new aquatic facility for Webber Park;

Whereas, The MPRB desires broad representation and participation for the planning, development, and evaluation of park facilities, services, and programs;

Whereas, MPRB staff conducted a community design process to develop a master plan for Webber Park to guide the development of a new aquatic facility and future improvements to the park;

Whereas, The design process included a multi-day design charrette, on-line survey, and community meetings;

Whereas, The design process resulted in participants reaching consensus on a master plan design for Webber Park;

Whereas, The community discussed possible filtration options for the new aquatic facility and favored a natural treatment system; and

Whereas, The natural treatment system would be the first of its kind in Minnesota and requires the State of Minnesota to approve it as a pilot project;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve the Webber Park Master Plan;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners authorize the pursuit of a natural treatment pilot project with the State of Minnesota; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning

DATE: February 1, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Webber Park Master Plan and Authorizing Pursuit of a Natural Water Treatment Pilot Project for the Aquatic Facility

BACKGROUND

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is asked to approve the Webber Park Master Plan. In addition, Commissioners are asked to authorize staff to pursue, as a pilot project, a water treatment process that relies on biological processes to maintain water quality for the aquatic facility. This will allow construction to begin in 2012 with the goal of opening the facility for the 2013 swim season. The existing Webber Park pool is closed due to structural issues.

The recent master planning process for Webber Park provided an engaging opportunity to create a vision for the park and guide $4 million earmarked for improvements. While the available funding is designated for the aquatic facility and related improvements, the design process allowed the facility to be designed in relationship to the park as a whole. In addition the aquatic facility, the proposed design provides recommendations for future improvements to enhance opportunities for both active and passive recreation, improve trail connections, and improve the connection to Shingle Creek. The final plan also addresses the long-term recovery from the recent tornado.

The planning process for the Webber Park Master Plan began in September and concluded in early January. The process included a community survey, multi-day design charrette, and two community meetings. Through the design process, the community articulated their needs and visions for the park, discussed potential water treatment systems for the new aquatic facility, articulated a preferred architectural style, and prioritized improvements.

The majority of participants favored the natural versus traditional water treatment option. The natural treatment circulates the pool water through a regeneration pond versus using chemicals to treat the pool water. The participants also reached consensus on the proposal master plan design (*see Attachment A*). When asked to prioritize improvements aside from the aquatic facility, the community members rated pond lining replacement, basketball court construction, and the pedestrian trails improvements the highest. When indicating architectural style preference, community members tended to prefer a “picturesque” design.

FUNDING/COST SUMMARY

Sources		**$4,000,000**
2011 Net Debt Bonds	$2,000,000	
2011 Capital Levy	$400,000	
2012 Net Debt Bonds	$500,000	
2012 Capital Levy	$600,000	
2012 Infrastructure Acceleration Fund	$500,000	
Uses		**$4,000,000**
Aquatic Facility (estimate)	$2,700,000	
Aquatic Building (estimate)	$575,000	
Parking Lot (estimate)	$200,000	
Demolition of Existing Pool and Pool Building (estimate)	$125,000	
Design	$400,000	
Balance		**$0**

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Proposed Webber Park Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the master plan for Webber Park and authorize the pursuit of a pilot project for the natural water treatment. These actions will allow staff to move forward with construction documents and ultimately construction of a new aquatic facility to replace the pool that was closed due to structural issues.

If the pilot project is supported by the MPRB and approved by the State of Minnesota, this would be the first public installation in the United States. The treatment has been successfully installed and maintained in European cities with similar climates. In the event that the natural treatment cannot be installed, the proposed design and cost estimate can accommodate the traditional treatment. The proposed project is consistent with the 2007-2020 MPRB Comprehensive Plan's directions to balance premier park facilities across the city and to integrate sustainable practices into new construction.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment a - Proposed Webber Park Master Plan (PDF)

Prepared By: Jennifer Ringold, Manager of Public Engagement & Citywide Planning, Strategic Planning

Review:

Jennifer Ringold	Pending	02/08/2012 12:38 PM
Cliff Swenson	Pending	02/08/2012 12:38 PM
Bruce Chamberlain	Pending	02/08/2012 12:38 PM
Jayne Miller	Pending	02/08/2012 12:38 PM
Planning Committee	Completed	04/30/2012 11:56 AM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Completed	04/30/2012 1:05 PM