Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Resolution 2021-360

Resolution Approving a Concept Plan for Phase 1 Improvements and an Agreement with Minneapolis Public Schools Regarding Existing Facilities at Keewaydin Park

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is a steward of the Minneapolis parks;

Whereas, The MPRB has allocated $1,168,000 for Phase 1 improvements at Keewaydin Park to be funded through the MPRB Capital Improvement Program/NPP20, as well as an $150,000 Hennepin Youth Sports Program grant, for a total of $1,318,000 for the project;

Whereas, The Board of Commissioners desires broad and representative stakeholder involvement in decision making when constructing or redeveloping park facilities;

Whereas, A community engagement process, which included the solicitation of feedback at onsite pop-up events, two online surveys, an open house held virtually, meetings with the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, Lake Nokomis Community School Site Council staff and parents, and Minnehaha Athletic Club, as well as workshops with youth classrooms at Keewaydin School and Rec Plus, and the use of mailed and digital communication methods, has been conducted for the project;

Whereas, Community members have helped guide the design recommendations resulting in concept plans for Phase 1 improvements at Keewaydin Park;

Whereas, The concept design aligns with the South Service Area Master Plan park plan for Keewaydin Park, adopted in 2016;

Whereas, The MPRB project team has refined the concept plans to balance community input and priorities as well as project budget parameters;

Whereas, MPRB and Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) staff have worked together to arrive at a solution for the MPRB wading pool and play area that are currently located on adjacent MPS land, and wish to enter into an agreement related to the removal of the pool and the preservation of the play area; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by Parks for All, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, which calls the MPRB to “Foster belonging and equity” (Goal 1), “Steward a continuum of nature and recreation” (Goal 2), “Provide core services with care” (Goal 3), and “Expand focus on health equity” (Goal 5);

Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves the Concept Plan for Phase 1 Improvements at Keewaydin Park;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves an agreement with Minneapolis Public Schools regarding existing facilities located on school land; 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.

Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder,

DATE: December 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving a Concept Plan for Phase 1 Improvements and an Agreement with Minneapolis Public Schools Regarding Existing Facilities at Keewaydin Park

BACKGROUND

This resolution considers approval of the recommended Concept Plan for the Phase 1 Improvements at Keewaydin Park, along with an agreement that determines the future of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) existing wading pool and play area on Minneapolis Public School (MPS) land. All improvements were proposed as part of the 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in the amount of $226,000, the 2021 CIP in the amount of $942,000, and a 2021 Hennepin Youth Sports Program grant in the amount of $150,000, for a project total of $1,318,000. Adopting this Resolution will approve the Concept Plan (*Attachment A*) for play area improvements and the agreement (*Attachment B*) for wading pool removal and donation of playground equipment to Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS).

Keewaydin Park is a neighborhood park located in the Nokomis East neighborhood and is located on South 31st Avenue between East 52nd and East 53rd Streets. Adjacent to the park is the Lake Nokomis Community School - Keewaydin campus. The eastern half of the entire city block is MPRB property, while the western half is the property of MPS.

The South Service Area Master Plan, adopted in 2016, calls for removal of the existing wading pool and playground from MPS property. The pool was built in 1972 and does not meet current American with Disabilities Act of 1990 accessibility standards and is near the end of its lifespan. Aquatics facilities are currently offered nearby at Bossen Park, Morris Park, and at Lake Nokomis 50th Street Beach (Little Beach).

The MPS has expressed interest in keeping the MPRB's existing playground equipment that is on the school property, and assuming responsibility for maintenance and replacement. MPRB is amenable to donating its playground equipment to and shifting maintenance responsibility to the MPS through legal agreement (*Attachment B*).

The proposed Concept Plan for Phase 1 focuses on a new multi-faceted, intergenerational play area which includes a unique climbing/bouldering element that is the first of its kind in the Minneapolis park system. Bouldering is a sport that was featured at the recent Olympics in

Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Tokyo, is growing in popularity, and is engaging for a wide range of ages and abilities.

The concept shows elements that support imaginative nature play such as flexible space, an art area, and a junior amphitheater with play stage. It also includes adventurous play equipment such as towers, a zip line, bouldering monoliths, slides, a basket swing, a spinner, and climbable boulder wall seating. Multiple areas for picnicking and seating are included under existing tree canopy.

Community Engagement

In Summer 2021 the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) staff hosted several pop-up style information gathering events at and around Keewaydin Park to gather feedback on the park and play area improvements. Additionally, MPRB staff attended multiple meetings with the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, Lake Nokomis Community School Site Council, and Minnehaha Athletic Club to collect input. Staff also conducted two online surveys, held a virtual open house, held workshops with youth in classrooms at both Keewaydin School and Rec Plus, and used both mail and digital communication methods to share information and collect feedback. Three initial concept designs were shared with the public and the feedback collected indicated a strong preference for the "canyonlands" design incorporating climbable elements throughout with more traditional and nature play.

Input from the events, surveys and comments have informed and directed the preferred concept (*Attachment A*) that addresses as many of the desired elements identified during the offerings as was practicable.

Construction is anticipated for Summer 2022.

The agreement has been reviewed and approved by legal counsel as to form and content.

FUNDING/COST SUMMARY

Sources			**$1,318,000**
	2020 NPP20	$226,000	
	2021 NPP20	$942,000	
	2021 Hennepin Youth Sports Grant	$150,000	
Uses			**$1,318,000**
	Play area design, admin & staff time, community engagement and other miscellaneous fees and administrative costs	$239,000	

Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Balance available for construction		**$1,079,000**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve the Concept Plan for Phase 1 Improvements at Keewaydin Park. Furthermore, staff recommends approving an agreement with MPS regarding MPRB's existing wading pool and play area that are located on adjacent MPS land.

This action is supported by the following goals and strategies of Parks for All, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036:

Goal 1, Strategy 8: Prioritize youth and seniors in programming and park projects through ongoing research, proactive engagement, and embedding innovation in our culture and practices.

Goal 1, Strategy 9: Continue to evolve and practice creative community engagement processes to be more inclusive and representative of diverse populations and recognize community members for their wisdom, insight and feedback.

Goal 2, Strategy 12: Invest in nature-centered play and programming for all ages.

Goal 3, Strategy 11: Design and implement parks that are welcoming, climate resilient, ecologically healthy, playful, beautiful and safe as they age.

Goal 5, Strategy 11: Encourage and support healthy play for all ages and abilities.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A-Keewaydin Concept Design_Nov 2021 (PDF)
- Keewaydin Playground Equipment agreement FINAL 11-29-21 (PDF)
- Proposed Amendment to to 12-15-21 Resolution 2021-360 Submitted by S Musich (PDF)

Prepared By: Colleen O'Dell,, Strategic Planning
Review:

Cindy Anderson	Completed	11/18/2021 12:39 PM
Adam Arvidson	Completed	11/18/2021 10:38 AM
Michael Schroeder	Completed	11/18/2021 8:45 PM
Jennifer Ringold	Completed	11/19/2021 9:05 AM
Al Bangoura	Completed	11/19/2021 3:42 PM
Planning Committee	Pending	12/01/2021 5:40 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Pending	12/15/2021 5:00 PM