

Parks & Public Art Committee
September 10, 2025 Meeting Notes

Committee Members Present: David Crary, Andrew Morse, Grant Johnson, Jan Elftmann
Absent: Louis Raymond, Patty Connelly

Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

Riverfront Improvement Plans

The group discussed how to best use their upcoming park walkthrough time with Michael Schroeder of the MPRB. Highlights:

- Removing invasive species and transforming specific areas into butterfly gardens.
- Park Dedication Funds cannot be used for maintenance or existing park improvements but are reserved for new park developments, such as bathrooms or amphitheaters, which are costly.
- David discussed the challenges of managing the grapevine issue in the park and proposed using goats as a natural solution. He emphasized the importance of working with Michael and the park staff, noting that the Park Dedication Funds are Park Board funds and they have the final say on its use.
- David offered ideas for the riverbed area from the Plymouth Avenue Bridge to the railway bridge, highlighting the potential for a nature trail and the need for improved safety and maintenance. He stressed the importance of including all desired improvements in a master plan to increase the likelihood of their implementation by 2030.
- Andrew discussed a master plan for a park area, focusing on reforestation and infrastructure improvements.
- Grant suggested potential additions like interactive musical sculptures, expanding river trails, and creating a kayak launch area, with a focus on engaging people with the river and enhancing the park's natural beauty.

Gallery Events and Venue Updates

Jan Elftmann reminded the group about the Gallery Walk on Sept. 27.

Toolbox Repairs

The toolbox needs to be sandblasted and painted. Grant reported having four tools in his inventory. The group agreed to hold off purchasing replacement tools until the toolbox is repaired.

Dog Park Update

David reported that a possible new dog park would be under the viaduct, covering about 8-10 parking spots, and would be double the size of the current dog park. This will require coordination between the MPRB, City and MNDOT. The new park would be funded through Park Dedication fees.

Interactive History Tour Proposal

Grant presented a draft of an interactive online history plaque and mural public art tour, including a postcard design with QR codes linking to digital content. The project includes three

recommended walking routes, with the possibility of incorporating it into the neighborhood guide or creating a separate brochure.

Volunteers for MPRB Pickleball Event

Andrew reported that only four volunteers had been recruited so far, including themselves and David, with plans to reach out to the church for additional help. The group also discussed an upcoming Ecolab cleanup event scheduled for Thursday with 15-20 participants expected.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.