



Building a Better World  
for All of Us®

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Bryce Shearen, Parks & Recreation/Community Services Manager, City of Little Canada

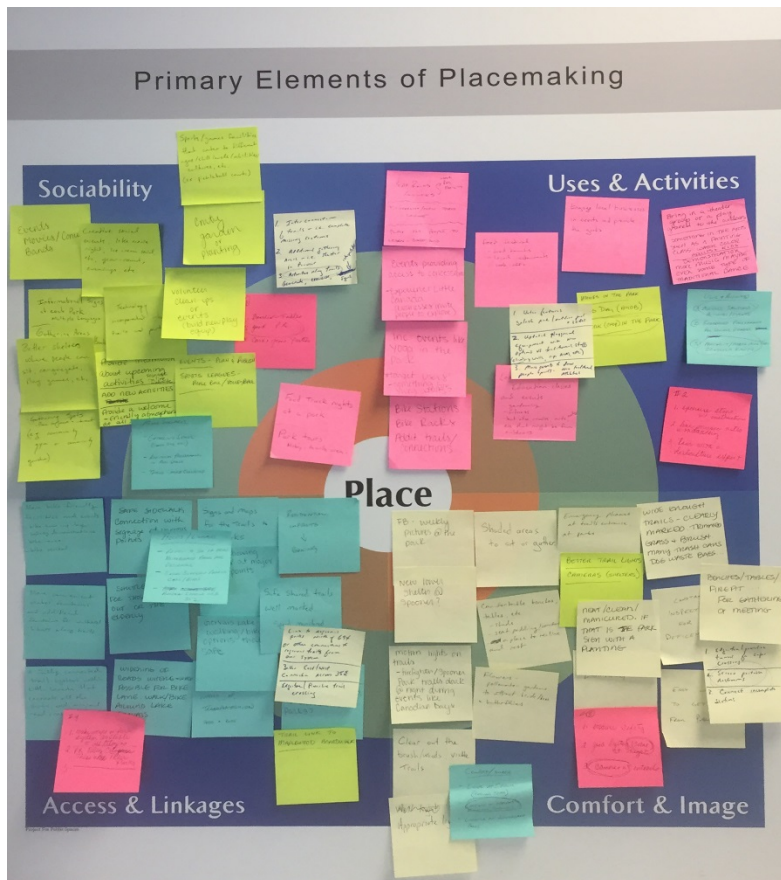
**FROM:** Anna Springer, Landscape Architect, Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc.

**DATE:** July 17, 2017

**RE:** Summary Parks Commission Placemaking Exercise July 6 2017

The July 6 Park Commission Meeting for the Little Canada Park System Master Plan culminated with a placemaking exercise that was developed by the Project for Public Spaces. The exercise was developed to help people think critically about the things that make successful public spaces.

At the meeting, each person listed three elements that would help improve 1) Sociability 2) Uses & Activities 3) Access & Linkages 4) Comfort & Safety.



Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., 10901 Red Circle Drive, Suite 300, Minnetonka, MN 55343-9302  
SEH is 100% employee-owned | [sehinc.com](http://sehinc.com) | 952.912.2600 | 800.734.6757 | 888.908.8166 fax

## **Error! Reference source not found.**

July 17, 2017

Page 2

Emerging themes across all categories included:

- Well-publicized drop-in events that occur across a variety of times of day, week, and season.
- Creating opportunities for new types of activities/sports
- Creating places/shelters to gather
- Bringing food into the parks in a variety of forms
- Engage local businesses more, including providers of high density housing
- Improve signage/wayfinding/mapping to improve access
- More connected system of parks and trails

All responses from the exercise are listed below.

### Sociability

- Events and movies/concert brands
- Volunteer clean-ups or events (build new play equip)
- Creative year-round social events, like movie night, ice cream social – at various times of day
- Sports/ games facilities for different ages
- Gardening and planting
- Information signs at each park with multiple languages
- Gathering areas including shelters, tables and benches
- Technology incorporations into trails and parks
- Provide information about upcoming activities
- Add new activities
- Provide a welcome and friendly atmosphere at all events
- Better shelters where people can sit, congregate, play games etc.
- Events – plan and publish
- Sports leagues- pickle ball/ volleyball

### Uses & Activities

- Year round activities (Indoor recreation facilities)
- Different/ new sports – Lacrosse
- Place for people to learn – Garden/build
- Events providing access to concessions – Experience Little Canada (businesses invite people to explore)
- Inc. events like yoga in the park. \*Target uses- something for young adults?
- Bike stations, bike racks and additional Trails/connections
- Food festivals – food trucks; local restaurants; cook-offs
- Food truck nights at a park; Park tours (history, describe areas)
- Community education classes and events: gardening, fitness, crafts, arts, cooking etc –things that might be fun outdoors.
- Engage local business in events and promote the goods
- Movies in the park
- Dog day
- Pork Chop in the park
- Bring in a theater group or a play geared towards the outdoor
- Something in the arts such as a painting class- water color.. (for adults and kids)
- Demonstration. More music, maybe even some type of traditional dance
- Business sponsored activities and events
- Broadened programming for seniors and disabled
- Include apartments/ mobile home parks
- Exercise stops with instruction
- Live music with dancing
- Tour with a horticulture expert
- Water features/ outdoor pool+ slides
- Update playground element (stuff climbing wall etc)

**Error! Reference source not found.**

July 17, 2017

Page 3

Access & Linkages

- More bike friendly facilities and events (safety demonstrations; bike racks; bike rental)
- More convenient water fountains and additional fountains for walkers/ bikers along trails
- A fully connected trail system within Little Canada that connects all the parks with road crossings
- Shuttle buses for those further out or the elderly
- Widening of roads where and when possible for bike lane. Walk/ bike around Lake Gervais
- Safe sidewalk connection with signage at various points
- Signs and maps for the trails to the parks
- Maps showing linkages at major access points
- Gervais Lake walking and biking options that are safe
- Safe!! Modes of transportation peds+ bike
- Residential impacts – parking
- Safe shared trails well marked. Speed monitored.
- Bike linkage east to west
- Connecting waterworks to Gervais? Or parks?
- Trail Link to Maplewood boardwalk
- Link to national parks with lighting or other connections to regional trails from our system
- Better east/west connection access
- Review to see if added neighborhood parks are desirable
- Ensures sufficient parking for cars and bikes
- Pedestrian crossing over 35E

Comfort & Image

- FB- weekly pictures at the park
- New lower shelter at Spooner?
- Motion lights on trails – firefighter / Spooner Park trails dark at night during events like Canadian Days
- Clear out the brush/weeds, visible trails
- Appropriate lighting at neighborhood and Spooner (*many times*)
- Shaded areas to sit or gather
- Comfortable benches, tables etc. (shade, seat padding/ comfort; a place to rest)
- Flowers- pollinator gardens to attract birds. Bees and butterflies
- Benches, tables and fire pit for gathering or meeting
- Continue to maintain buildings/grounds
- Good lightning (solar)
- Constant inspection for deficiencies
- Easy way to get input from public
- Neat/ clean/ manicured if that is the park sign with a planting