



Barn Bluff Park Master Plan Stakeholder Input Meetings – November 2015

Historic & Cultural Resources

November 4, 2015

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Red Wing Public Library, Red Wing

Attendees:

Brian Peterson, City of Red Wing Planning

Bruce Blair, Project Manager

Shawn Blaney, City of Red Wing Public Works

Pat Ramaker, City of Red Wing Public Works

Bruce Chamberlain, LOAM

Jennifer Cater, HKGi

Sarah Evenson, HKGi

Ruth Nerhaugen, Heritage Preservation Comm.

Ryan Howell, Prairie Island Indian Community

Afton Esson, Goodhue County Historical Society

James Clinton, Goodhue County Historical Society

SUMMARY

Introductions

Review why the city is conducting a park master plan and where we are at in the beginning of the process. Purpose of the meeting is to gain input about context, knowledge, activities and sensitives related to park use and planning for the future.

Discussion Items

Goodhue County Historical Society:

- Facilitating guided hikes with Environmental Learning Center this past summer/fall. Focus on lime kilns and lime production.
- Not much information on Dakota history 900-1300AD; lacking native community history
- Historic era of significance for national register does not include Dakota relationship
- Interest in learning more about and doing more with Dakota history to complete the story of the bluff
- Interest in outdoor programming with historic interpretation
- Vandalism of historic structures is a problem

Prairie Island Indian Community:

- Dakota name for bluff is He-Mni Can = wood water hill; linked to sacred oral history
- Bluff is extremely sacred to Dakota people – most are not allowed to go there
- Dakota buried dead using kapahas – sky-exposed scaffold burials
- European impacts and construction are all considered desecrations by Dakota people
- Only acceptable approach to bluff is to not go there; restoration
- Interpretation of Dakota stories (i.e., signage) is not supported if located at the bluff; telling the stories from a non-Dakota perspective is insulting
- Possible to identify the bluff as sacred Dakota ground
- Limit areas of construction to be outside of bluff
- Possible to tell stories of Dakota off-site; maybe through historical society?
- Flagpole is a negative message to Dakota; would like to see if removed, or at least flown with Dakota flag as well
- "Development" in park, if done, should be as natural and low-impact as possible
- Support trash removal and cleanups and promotion of stewardship
- Limit areas of access; parking should be located away from bluff with ped access only
- Wisconsin Ice Age trail is successful example of trail development sensitive to native communities
- Consider honoring Dakota cultural history with park or trail closures at special times of year – November is National American Indian Heritage Month; March is heritage preservation month

Next steps