

city of saint paul
planning commission resolution
file number 12-69
date October 19, 2012

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the *Great River Passage Master Plan* is the City's long-term plan for unifying the entire length of Saint Paul's Mississippi riverfront into one grand and comprehensive vision to be realized over the next 30-50 years; and

WHEREAS, the *Great River Passage (GRP) Master Plan* sets the stage for sustainable parks and open spaces; ecological restoration; economic development; and connection of the city, its neighborhoods and people to the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the *GRP Master Plan* recognizes that the river corridor is Saint Paul's most significant environmental and recreational amenity, while also recognizing that it serves urban development just beyond the river's edge; and

WHEREAS, the *GRP Master Plan* contains goals, objectives, strategies and visionary plans based on three core principles for riverfront public and private development: 1) more natural; 2) more urban and 3) more connected; and

WHEREAS, the *GRP Master Plan* builds on 15 years of planning for revitalization of the Mississippi riverfront in Saint Paul, including the *Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework* (1997), *Mississippi River Corridor Plan* (2001), *Great River Park* chapter of the *Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework* (2007), and various district and small area plans; and

WHEREAS, over the course of nearly two years, the *GRP Master Plan* was prepared by a multi-disciplinary consultant team working with an inter-departmental City staff team and a 56-member task force/technical advisory group that included representatives from district councils, City Council offices, National Park Service, MN Department of Natural Resources, Ramsey County, Friends of Saint Paul and Ramsey County Parks and Trails, Friends of the Mississippi River, and Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation; and

WHEREAS, community direction and feedback were gathered at 29 public input sessions, including focus groups, community task force meetings and open houses; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2012, the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission adopted Resolution #12-05, which: 1) forwarded the full *Master Plan*, with changes, to the Planning Commission and City Council for final approval; 2) requested that the Planning Commission recommend to the City Council adoption of appropriate sections of the *Master Plan* as part of the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan; and 3) requested that the City Council adopt the entire *Great River Passage Master Plan* as official City policy to guide public and private investment within the Great River Passage, plan implementation, and administration of the Great River Passage program; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission released the *GRP Master Plan, Proposed Addendum to Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan* on August 10, 2012, and set a public hearing for September 21, 2012; and

moved by Nelson
seconded by _____
in favor 15 with 1 abstention (Spaulding)
against _____

WHEREAS, notice of the public hearing was published in the St. Paul Legal Ledger on September 4, 2012; sent to the City's ENS list, interested persons and stakeholders; and published on the project website; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission adopted a resolution on September 20, 2012, stating two issues with the Proposed Addendum:

1. The *GRP Master Plan* stresses interpretation of historic and cultural resources almost to the exclusion of protection.
2. There should be a map showing designated sites within the Great River Passage in order to establish a baseline for the recommended inventory/survey work; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission public hearing was held on September 21, 2012, and the hearing record was held open until 4:30 p.m. on September 24, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission considered all public testimony.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission recommends the following changes to the *GRP Master Plan, Proposed Addendum to Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan*:

1. Amend Objective 2 (and move it up to be Objective 1) on p. 38 to read: "Identify, evaluate, designate, preserve and protect historic resources within the Great River Passage." The three bullets under the objective remain the same.
2. Add a fourth bullet to (new) Objective 1 (see above) to read: "Prepare a baseline inventory of designated sites and districts in the Great River Passage."
3. Add a last sentence to page 43 to read: "The vision plans that follow for each regional park within the Great River Passage are a starting point for further public discussion. Concepts in each vision plan will be further refined and developed, with additional community involvement, as funding becomes available."
4. Add the following language to the first paragraph on p. 61: "The redeveloped marina and associated structures and facilities will be sensitively designed and scaled to minimize intrusion on the natural characteristics of the park and river."
5. Add a note to clarify the intent of those areas designated as "river-oriented redevelopment opportunities" on page 27.
6. Amend the fourth objective on page 79 to read: "Explore the intensification and diversification of land uses in the Riverview Industrial Park." Replace the first sentence with: "As part of the update of the *West Side Flats Master Plan and Development Guidelines*, the Riverview Industrial Park should be studied for increased density and land use diversity, recognizing that industrial uses are an important job source for the community and an important contributor to the city's tax base."
7. Amend the map on page 35 to show Walnut Street as an on-street bike connection from 35E to Irvine Park, Chestnut/Eagle and the river.
8. Remove the proposed Shepard Road street sections on p. 56-58.
9. Revise the text on page 95 to clarify that these are recommendations in the larger document but not appropriate for a Comprehensive Plan Addendum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, with these changes, the Planning Commission finds the *GRP Master Plan, Proposed Addendum to Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan* consistent with the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that, with these changes, the Planning Commission recommends adoption of the *GRP Master Plan Proposed Addendum to Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan* by the Saint Paul City Council.