



18 September 2012

Commissioners
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Commissioners,

The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) Board of Directors at its September 5, 2012 meeting became aware from one of its Board Members that the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is planning to reconfigure Kings Highway between 38th Street and 40th Street in order to add eight (8) on-street parking spaces.

EHFNA is requesting these proposed changes be suspended until additional research and community engagement can be conducted to understand the parking needs and desires of the community. Our position is based on these facts:

- 1) Extensive research done by MPRB Staff at the request of the CAC shows no additional parking is necessary for the dog park at this location. Their research showed sufficient on-street parking was available without negatively affecting the neighborhood. This is a key finding.
- 2) The CAC approved a “concept drawing” that included 8 parking spots within the walled area of the Operations Center where the dog park will be placed. The parking was added by staff in the concept drawing as a “nice to have” but not essential component of the dog park since the research showed no additional parking is necessary.
- 3) While there was extensive community engagement on the dog park site within the walls of the Operations Center, there has been almost none on the significant changes to Kings Highway planned by the MPRB. That the neighborhood association knew nothing of these proposed changes until last week is evidence insufficient engagement has been done.

East Harriet Farmstead
Neighborhood Association

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We consider this is a significant change to character of this area. This section of Kings Highway is a unique walking area with no on-street

parking and very wide boulevards planted with trees. The CAC recommended and the MPRB approved a new dog park, not a 160-176 feet long on-street parking lot that removes boulevard.

EHFNA is requesting that the MPRB separate the dog park project from the on-street parking project. Instead, it is recommending the dog park project proceed as scheduled this fall and next fall revisit whether additional on-street parking is warranted. During this time data on use can be collected and more fulsome community engagement by those affected can be done.

Sincerely,

Adam Faitek
Chair, East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association