

RecQuest Community Advisory Committee (CAC) information and application

Project Overview

The MPRB operates 47 year-round, neighborhood-based recreation centers, and leases two recreation centers to non-profit entities. Most facilities were built in the 1960s and 1970s and are nearing the end of their useful life. In addition, the centers are not keeping pace with changing demographics and recreation trends of Minneapolis. Therefore, the MPRB is embarking on a critical effort to develop a plan – RecQuest – for the next generation of recreation centers in Minneapolis.

RecQuest will set the stage for the next 25-30 years of capital improvements for recreation centers, and is an opportunity to tailor recreation center facilities and programs to meet the current and projected recreation needs of communities across the city. RecQuest will take into account existing system plans and concurrent planning efforts (ADA Transition Plan, Service Area Master Plans, Closing the Gap: Investing in our Neighborhood Parks).

Our city, of course, is changing. It is more racially diverse than ever before. It is growing faster than its suburbs for the first time in decades. And its people are asking for more variety in recreational activities than they did even just ten years ago. It is time to revisit our neighborhood recreation centers so they meet the needs of park users of today and tomorrow.

Considering changes in demographics across the city and the fact that RecQuest will set the vision for the next generation of park users citywide, applying a racial equity lens to the planning process will ensure the needs of under-represented and underserved communities are included in the final plan. To augment the MPRB's work to build its capacity around racial equity, Voices for Racial Justice (VRJ) has been contracted to provide guidance and direction for a racial equity impact assessment (REIA) for RecQuest. MPRB staff will work with VRJ toward the goal of ensuring that historically underrepresented communities, in particular communities of color, are authentically engaged in project decision making.

Project Phases

The project will unfold in three general phases:

Phase 1: What is. November 2014 -August 2015

- Phase 1 involves broad-based outreach to introduce residents to RecQuest, gather information on the current facility use, programs, and partnerships, and identify community recreation needs.

Phase 2: What can be. August 2015- December 2015

- Phase 2 will determine a vision and possible scenarios for the next generation of recreation centers and programs.

Phase 3: What will be. From January 2016-March 2016

- Staff and consultant team will work with the community to determine preferred scenario.

Final Approval: Public Hearing, April 2016

What is a Community Advisory Committee (CAC)?

As a CAC member, you will participate in public CAC meetings, advise MPRB staff and consultants throughout the planning process, and recommend to the Board of Commissioners a preferred plan. The MPRB places a high value on the opinions, recommendations, and guidance of its community advisory committees. Your endorsement of the final plan will have significant effect on the Board's approval of RecQuest.

A CAC is one of two types: non-appointed or appointed. An appointed CAC is typically utilized for projects of regional or citywide significance to ensure that the CAC is representative of stakeholder groups impacted by the project. RecQuest will have an appointed CAC and the appointments will be made by the MPRB Board of Commissioners. The project manager in collaboration with consultants will review the appointees with the goal of ensuring equitable representation from stakeholder groups. Staff and project consultants will make up to four additional appointments as needed.

Role and Responsibilities of CAC members:

Members of the CAC are expected to work collaboratively to provide comprehensive recommendations to the Board about the project. Through this process, CAC members are expected to become knowledgeable about the project and its scope, understand and represent the park and recreation needs of the community as a whole. We will ask that you try to put yourself in the shoes of all the people that do use (or will use) recreation centers and think about their needs as well as your own.

Specifically, the RecQuest CAC is charged with:

- Work collaboratively and provide input toward final project recommendations for approval by the Board of Commissioners.
- Become knowledgeable about the project and its scope and advise MPRB staff and consultants throughout the planning process.
- Contribute to broad community outreach and engagement by enhancing the project's interaction with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Understand and represent the needs of all community members.
- Apply equity principles in decision-making based on training provided by staff and project consultants.
- Report back to appointers or appointing bodies, as requested, on the plan process, information presented, and possible recommendations.
- Evaluate potential scenarios and deliver a preferred, actionable alternative for recreation centers and programs to the Board of Commissioners.

Time commitment for CAC members:

The total time commitment for RecQuest CAC members is estimated at 12-18 hours. We expect to have three or four CAC meetings over the next 9 months- the meetings will be held at the end of each phase of the project. The first CAC meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks and we will work to ensure that as many CAC members as possible are able to participate.

The MPRB can provide assistance for CAC members in getting to and/or from meetings, with child care, language translation/interpretation, or other help to ensure that the CAC member can fully participate in meetings.

Appointment process:

All completed CAC applications will be forwarded to the appointers. Applicants may be contacted directly by an appointer to discuss the project. Jamie Neldner, project manager, will follow-up with all applicants by early August notifying them if they have been selected to serve on the CAC.

More about the project:

More information on the project can be found at

https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/recquest/

Please sign up for project email updates by clicking on the red envelope at the bottom of the webpage.

Contact: Jamie Neldner, jneldner@minneapolisparcs.org, 612-499-9305

HELP PLAN THE FUTURE OF MINNEAPOLIS RECREATION CENTERS!

RecQuest
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Application
Application deadline: July 31 at 4:00 pm

Please print if you are filling out a paper, rather than on-line, application. Use the backside of the form for longer answers

The charge of appointed CAC for RecQuest is to:

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Name: _____

Address: _____ **City, Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

How do you currently use recreation centers in Minneapolis?

Please describe your interest in volunteering for the CAC and how your contributions could help the project?

The Minneapolis Park Board is committed to ensuring that diverse community input informs decisions for a project.

Please briefly describe your experience with and/or your commitment to promoting diversity in the areas of :

*Race/Ethnicity *Immigration experience *Gender/Gender identity *Sexual orientation *Disability *Age

Who is your park commissioner Don't know Wielinski (Dist 1) Olson (Dist 2) Vreeland (Dist 3)
 Tabb (Dist 4) Musich (Dist 5) Bourn (Dist 6)

*Application deadline: **July 31 at 4:00 pm***

Submit by: Mail- MPRB Attn: Jamie Neldner, 2117 W River Rd Minneapolis, MN 55411

Email- jneldner@minneapolisparcs.org

Questions? Contact Jamie Neldner, project manager at 612-499-9305 or by email