



**Near North Unity Program (NNUP)
Membership Meeting Notes
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Monday, October 28th, 2019**

**Cornerstone Center, Leslie Hall
1111 N. Wells St.**

Welcome & Introductions

- **Review Question and Answer Guidelines**
 - One question per person, one follow up question and then the meeting facilitator will move on to the next community member's question.
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- Update
 - Park 598, Near North Park on Larrabee (North of the old Near North High School)
 - Michael Lange, Chicago Park District Planning and Construction
 - Michael was at NNUP last spring presenting in March..
 - Chicago Park district acquired land - transferred to park district back in May - went through community process - goals that were identified in the community process, Park should be an anchor, visible, flexible, and inclusive.
 - How can things be sustainable and low maintenance Keep the track for running and walking but also have lots of passive space - lots of grass, off leash dog area. Park created a plan last spring. Programming August 2019 hired "Ratio" a Design firm - who utilized community input
 - It is a Unique site - can include more play areas that are nature inspired. Climbing elements, inclusive play for adults, outdoor fitness - American Ninja style, focal point in the park for community to come together. Opportunity to create art in the park, create a sense of place, hammock, Dog Park - growing population of dog owners, create space for off leash dogs,
 - Layout concept plan - diagonal oval to take advantage of views.
 - Introduce some topography into space, 3D renderings
 - Wood playground equipment, engineered wood fi-bar
 - 3.75 acres
 - Finish design, bid in spring, 2nd quarter 2020 start - finish end of 2020.
 - Fenced in.
 - Water fountain - no bathrooms -
 - Lights on pathway
 - Employment - pre qualified pros - sub out by Park District Women and minority owned contractor standards.
 - Stanton Park oversees no other employees

- Chicago Public Arts Group (CPAG)
 - Jeff Huebner, Walls of Prophecy and Protest, Author
 - CPAG members
 - Mural historian -
 - How community create mural and how murals create community
 - William Walker is the Father of mural movement, wall of respect 1967, South side
 - Several dozens outdoor murals - Chicago and Detroit - 3 left
 - 1972 Chicago Mural group longest running art group 1985 Chicago Public Arts Group renames

- All of Mankind mural - 1971-1974 - reject racism and religion hate.
 - Save all of Mankind Coalition has been created
 - Dennis Kendrick - Benedictine priest allowed Catholic church to commission mural back in early 70s.
 - Telling story about how murals are created. Murals tell great stories. Tell stories about city, neighborhood, and country. Murals don't happen in a vacuum - need to understand context.
 - Tell a people's history. Walker mural on Stranger's Home church was Whitewashed 2015.
 - Why murals need to be restored - message - only surviving mural that still has civil rights related content.
 - William Walker master and leader of muralist movement. Landmark work of national movement. Could be a reminder of what was here.
- Discussion
 - Eradication of community art, including the white washing of William Walker murals
 - Next steps to bring awareness and save history and art in the community
 - NNUP became involved about 2 1/2 - 3 years ago when Strangers Home church was sold and William Walker mural was white washed. Chicago Park District and CHA has been involved in discussions about p and Chicago Public Arts Group.
 - 617 W Evergreen
 - Interior murals -
 - Landmark Planning Commissioner new, see if CPAG can talk to him. Could be new opportunity. Maurice Cox

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- Suggestion Box at the check-in table or email mdreczynski@nnup.org with comments
- Oct 31 - NNUP Youth and Family meeting CANCELLED
- Oct 31 - Halloween
- Nov 12 - CAPS Beat meeting 1821-1824
- Nov 25 - NNUP Monthly Meeting
- Nov 28 - Thanksgiving