



Barrie Park Community Meeting #2

Location: Barrie Park Center

Date: March 11, 2015

Time: 7pm

Minutes of Meeting

Ms. Jan Arnold, Executive Director of the Park District, made the introductions to the meeting.

Jan Arnold welcomed the attendees and Park District Commissioners and staff that were present. She provided a brief summary of the park planning process thus far noting the previous Community Meeting and Focus Group sessions. Ms. Arnold then confirmed the project will be presented to the Park District Board of the Park District as well as the Park District Citizens Board. The next community meeting is scheduled for April 22nd at which Altamanu, Inc. will present refined concepts and the discussion points addressed at the Board meetings.

Park Dist. Citizen Committee Monday, March 16th, 2015

Park District Board April 9th, 2015

Community Meeting #3 Wednesday April 22, 2015

A 4th community meeting will be held if it is necessary to reach a consensus on the future design of the park.

There will be a questionnaire posted on the Park District website starting on March 13, 2015 and residents can also contact the Park District through telephone, emails, and mail.

Website: <http://www.pdop.org>

Contact: Diane Stanke Email: Diane.Stanke@pdop.org

Ms. Arnold then introduced the design team and handed the meeting over to John Mac Manus of Altamanu, Inc. Mr. Mac Manus presented a PowerPoint presentation acted as moderator for the meeting.



The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on line at Website: <http://www.pdop.org>

Summary of the Presentation

The purpose of the meeting was to review feedback from the previous Community Meeting and Public Survey and to gain input from the proposed concepts and ideas.

He then reviewed the following:

Regional Park vs. Neighborhood Park

Safety and Security - Police report

National Park Trends - Sports and Fields / Natural areas / active adults/ spontaneous play

Access and Safety - Village Response to Lombard Street Concepts

Concepts for the Barrie Center Entrance

Concepts for the top of reservoir

Park Entries

Sled Hill

Southern Entries

Playground

Fields

Concepts (6) for Barrie Park

The proposal for a speed table at the Center on Lombard was discussed

The speed table, similar to the speed table on Marion at West Gate would slow traffic, alert drivers and help join the park and Center together. The proposal was popular with the attendees.

Public Comment on Concepts for the Barrie Center Entrance and Tot Lot expansion:

Two concepts were presented. They both reduced the extent of concrete, increased planting and expanded the playground. The attendees favored the curved ramp solution.

- I like the curvy concept, it adds interest



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- Skateboarding could be controlled better compared with the angular path. There are now longer paths (in the proposal) for the skateboarders to accumulate speed.
- How important is vandalism? Is it a great expense? PDOP Response: vandalism is not a great problem in this park and fortunately it a big isn't an issue in most parks.

Public Comment on Concepts for the top of Barrie Center Reservoir:

Proposals for partial roofs on the north and south sides of the reservoir were presented.

- I have concerns about the proposed pier foundations and load bearing ability of the reservoir wall.
- These shade structures could be considered for green roofs on the cantilever, this could be the beginning of a discussion for Green Solutions
- This could be an opportunity for interesting lighting under the canopy
- This could be a place for solar panels, perhaps a firm would be interested in partnering in on the project to provide these materials.
- If we proceed with a roof/shade structure concept, I would like to get neighborhood feedback and hear directly from the residents.
- If the structure is located on the North side, it will be a great buffer from 1-290
- Garfield is an obvious location, but you could bring that shade structure around the West side and mimic the character of the neighborhood
- The fence makes the space unwelcoming. Is it necessary?
- Gates are locked on the west side and it shuts the neighborhood on Harvey from the park. I've always wondered why that was a policy to lock the West side entry from the residents.
- I also noticed that there isn't an entry from Harvey and wondered why these areas are off limits, maybe the policy is the reason these facilities are underutilized. I believe that adults would use this area later in the evening when their work day is complete.
- PDOP Response: The reservoir is handled similar to Stevenson Park – the area is secured when there is no staff available. Similar to Longfellow Park – the basketball rims are removed when there is no Staff available to supervise. This is something we are willing to explore, however the reservoir is tucked away so there is a safety and supervision concern.

The attendees reached consensus on pursuing the design of these roofs and using the top of the reservoir as a multi-use space.

Public Comment on Concepts for the Barrie Park Entries:

The presentation showed revised entryway proposals including a large rain garden.



- Is there really an MWRD issue? Why not revise the subsurface and allow the water to actually infiltrate below the surface?
- These drainage issues shown (in the presentation) are compounded by the mounding and the slopes and I would appreciate if you addressed this on a macro scale. This is important for the whole site.

Public Comment on the Hill:

The concept of providing an exercise stairs on the unused area of the hill on the west side was popular. Suggestions for lowering the hill and planting with a short grass prairie to prevent erosion were discussed briefly but the moderator suggested that this should be presented directly to the PDOP rather than discussing it at the community meeting. Attendees also liked the idea of smaller hill for children.

Public Comment on Playground Concepts:

- The rustic play 'looks great'
- Look at surface at the ground level and the height of that piece (a series of tree stumps transformed into a climbing feature) is specific to the feature and planned. It is not different than the playground pieces over at Irving.
- Irving as an example: 'Is there adequate shade?'

Question to the group - what is the surface that people want? Rubberized artificial surface similar to Irving or mulch like today?

- I'd be interested to hear the community respond on preference. What is the cost difference?
- Response: The cost is approximately 5-1 rubber vs. mulch. In addition, mulch is not considered ADA accessible by many municipalities.
- I'm not a fan of rubber; for example, today at Irving School the surface has frosted over and they kids were not allowed to play.
- I'm not a fan of mulch because it gets hot in the summer.

Question - How many people have kids that use this park?

- My kids are getting older and I don't care for the tiny rubber pieces that are popping up in the tot Lot, it is a concern. I like the surface at Irving, though it does get hot in the summer time.
- I like rubber surfacing the best. For example, Longfellow is great - there is shade and the kids love it.



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- If we move the planters, at the South East playground, can we have a splash pad?
- PD: maintenance is an ongoing issue, especially when the sand and water are close to each other. Kids put sand and mulch in the water and cause maintenance issues.
- Much also has to be raked and replenished and there are other issues with it.
- At Rehm Park, there is a balance of mulch and rubber – has that worked well?
- Response: One issue with the combination of materials is that the mulch tends to travel and the mulch washes onto the rubber.
- A long time ago, I saw a man get electrocuted by flying a kite. I also saw a kid unsupervised playing with an electrical wire – you have to make these items child-proof. These kids need to have supervision.

There was no consensus at this time at the meeting, however, later when scheme 6 was presented the ability to have both a rubberized surface playground and a more nature based playground and discovery area was discussed.

Public Comment on the Park Fields:

- Have you done exercise stations elsewhere (in other places)?
- Response: No, but it's coming up more and more in many different situations.
- I have noticed a group coming here every morning and this pop-up group is a very positive use. They use the playground area and they keep an eye on the park. It should be noted that when people come from different neighborhoods to visit this park, they can use it in a positive way.
- Also, there is a group that comes here on Sunday to play soccer and it is very popular. I can see that soccer is becoming popular, even for adults.
- I'd like to see more football
- If someone is charging people for an exercise program, I think PDOP should be in control of permits

Public Comment on Grass vs. Artificial Turf Fields:

- PD comment: what we currently have at Irving School and at Ridgeland are fences surrounding the field; we don't have a stated position, but we do have fences on our facilities. Dogs are a constant issue. I don't see an issue of artificial turf becoming a dog park if fenced, but I do think there would be damage from dogs running on the field.
- Can PDOP maintain the high level turf fields?
- PDOP Response: I think the Park District has made an exceptional change with our new plan to maintain fields and we have seen an improvement in the conditions over the last



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two years. We know there is a drainage problem here at Barrie and we will need to address that.

- So it seems that regardless if the field is Artificial Turf or Turf Lawn, drainage will be an issue to be addressed. I prefer to see a well maintained Turf (grass) field if that is possible rather than an Artificial Turf field.
- You have to look at the problem and consider all of the solutions and you have to use local labor.
- I love the idea of the turf and it works in some communities, but I think the need for a fence would take away the openness of the park.
- If it comes down to the need for a fence (for Artificial Turf), I would vote for a well-maintained turf field

Later the discussion recommenced when detailed proposals were reviewed. Please see comments in next section. The issue of creating an Artificial Turf or a Grass field will be addressed by the Board of the Park District.

Public Comment on Concepts for Barrie Park:

- I don't think we need two baseball fields
- The configuration of baseball - I think if home plate is facing west it could be an issue with the afternoon sun, same with the soccer orientation. East – West orientation does not work best during the time of day soccer is played.
- If the baseball is situated on the South edge of the field, there could be conflict with the hill and baseball backstop.
- Would batting cages add noise to the neighborhood if they are located along the East edge of the field? If located on the reservoir or north side of the field, the sound could be drowned out by the traffic
- In the Master Plan for recreations – Batting cages are called to be located on the reservoir.
- The purpose of the batting cage is not to warm-up the batter prior to hitting in a game, but to arrive and practice. It is not necessary that the cages and the baseball fields be connected.
- There is a desire to warm up a pitcher before a game, but the baseball people will be happy if we can provide cages at the park or on the top of the reservoir.
- I like the openness on scheme 3
- Is the turf conversation already dismissed? What if it wasn't necessary to be fenced?
- PDOP Response: We don't currently have a stance, but it happens that all of our facilities are fenced. The fences didn't go up because of the Artificial Turf, but the Artificial Turf was installed in fenced areas.



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- I think this is a great place for Artificial Turf and I am surprised that it has been dismissed so quickly.
- You don't have to dismiss Artificial Turf immediately; you just have to figure out how to keep the dogs off.
- Would it be possible to have the Park District make a decision on fences and then provide the answer at the next meeting?
- Artificial Turf should be considered for two reasons – this field is used a lot. Artificial Turf fields are very forgiving on budgets and maintenance. If the Park District continues to program activities and heavy use, then they should consider Artificial Turf at this location.
- Scheme 1 gives a much larger field.
- This should be considered as a park first and by the way it has a soccer field.
- We could look at reducing the Artificial Turf field space.
- I am tired of neighborhoods tying the Park District's hands and restricting use. I do feel like we should give input, but let the Park District answer that question and needs.
- Is it necessary to have this field now that Ridgeland can be scheduled more?
- The Park District Master Plan states that they want three Artificial Turf fields in the Park system. They are currently looking for that 3rd spot. This is a great use for an Artificial Turf field, but the fence makes it an issue.
- Thinking about the Village as a whole – is there any movement on the middle schools?
- PDOP Response: The Park District and District 97 have been in conversation about this and D97 wants to have both Middle Schools done (with art turf) at the same time. The discussion is ongoing with the user groups and we are looking to fill the funding gap. D97 and PDOP have been in conversations with various funding groups. Unfortunately there no answer yet to solve the immediate question. We will know how the D97 project will play out later this year. We hope to get to a point of understanding.
- I have a house that overlooks the beautiful park, I don't want to look at an Artificial Turf field, but more so I don't want to look at a fence.
- It makes sense to have Artificial Turf fields adjacent to a school.
- I think you could look at other resources to see how other entities manage turf fields, possibly how the Morton Arboretum maintains grass fields.
- I advance the position that if PDOP will continue to program the heavy use of the Barrie Park fields and if we do not decide on an Artificial Turf field, then we have to dial down the use of the field.
- PDOP Response: We did a study and looked at the demand. If we were to tell people they cannot use the space, it would be an issue. We can control the permits, but we cannot control the pop-up active people who use the spaces. We are very fortunate to live in such an active community.



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- Or – can we propose an Artificial Turf field in another field and direct the heavy use over there?
- Maybe there is a balance.
- As a resident, I would feel less bad by an Artificial Turf concept that was smaller in extent and surrounded by trees.
- On Scheme 6 – I like the tree buffer on the north; you wouldn't believe how the trees make an amazing buffer to the noise from 1-290. I never heard the highway when the old trees were in the park.
- On Scheme 6 - As much as I like aspens, I don't like how dense that is becoming, there becomes a safety issue.

Response: They could be spaced as in other parks

- On Scheme 6 - I like how the playgrounds are connected, the relationships are great.
- On Scheme 6 - Is the South East corner open or is there a bigger wall there and now more closed off?

Response: All these schemes can be massaged. There could be an expanded entrance.

- I like the fitness equipment and see that can be put everywhere (in all schemes).
- On Scheme 6 - If there are more concrete walls I do not care for that.
- I think the functions of this facility are better when the playground is moved back to the north, where it was originally located (in the original park).
- It was moved due to the noise from 1-290 but it would be different if we had mounds on the north end of the park.
- I like Scheme 5, but now have changed my mind. I like that there is some element that draws you into the park at two opposite ends of the park. I like Scheme 6 but you need something to draw people in at the SE corner.
- On Scheme 6 - Maybe there you can introduce natural areas, Butterfly gardens, picnic grove.
- Mounds and ridges are the most popular areas in all of the parks. They are so popular that there is erosion on all the mounds and sod has to be replaced every year. – Randolph Tot Lot, Euclid Park, Field Park etc.
- There may be issues with the hill and soil mixing with the artificial turf.

Scheme 6 appeared to be the preferred choice of the majority of those attending but it would have to be adjusted according to the comments made by attendees.



At 9:15 PM Mr. Mac Manus took the final comments and thanked the attendees and encouraged them to attend the next meeting on April 22nd. He encouraged the attendees to tell other residents and to please come back themselves to the next meeting. Diane Stanke then invited the attendees to complete the online survey and the meeting formally ended.

End of Minutes