



Randolph Park Master Plan Update, Community Meeting

Re: Review of Master Plan from 2009 and Park Improvements 2010
Location: Pleasant Home
Date: April 4th, 2018
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

Ms. Jan Arnold, Executive Director of the Park District (PD) made introductions and provided background on the funding for park improvements. Ms. Arnold explained how funds are allocated and how each park has been improved in turn. Currently the PD makes over \$3M profit a year from its programs. Approx. \$1m is allocated to park improvements. Furthermore, the PD has received multiple grants that have enabled the PD to complete projects in one phase rather than the multiple phase approach that had been expected. Scoville Park is an example. The PD was awarded a grant of \$1.6 M towards construction. The PD works on grant applications on an ongoing basis and has been awarded more than \$5 M in total.

The PD looks at each park in turn so the funds and improvements can be spread across the entire community in an equitable manner. Ms. Arnold explained how each master plan is reviewed within a 10 year period and a community meeting is held. This provides the community a forum in which to discuss the park, master plan and any improvements that have taken place. This meeting was one of those opportunities for community input. There is no funding currently assigned for further improvements to the park. However, an updated plan featuring suggestions from the community will be presented to the Board for their review at the COW in July. All are welcome.

Ms. Arnold introduced John Mac Manus and Josephine Bellalta of the landscape design firm Altamanu. Altamanu has worked on many of the park master plans and improvement projects. Mr. Mac Manus gave a presentation that re-examined the Master Plan from 2009 and described the improvements carried out in 2009 - 2010. He then showed images of present day conditions and of some potential ideas for future improvements. He then opened the meeting up for public comment.

Mr. Mac Manus gave a presentation that included:

- Site Transfer from Village to Park District
- Cost of Renovations and Repairs from 2009 - 2010
- Brief Review of Park District's Planning Process
- Brief Review of Master Plan 2009
- A Comparison: The Park before and after Renovations



He then opened the meeting up for public comment.

The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on line at Website: www.pdop.org

Summary of Public Comments

Approximately twenty community members were in attendance including one Park District Citizen Committee representative. The majority of the comments by community members were positive. However, the lack of use of the east side of the park was noted and most of the suggestions made addressed potential changes to that side of the park.

Public Comments

West Side

I live on Grove near the park. The tot lot is always in use.

Considering it is now 10 years old, the equipment is in pretty good shape

Some of the (poured-in-place) surface is getting worn

Could use more waste baskets as people often eat their lunch there

Could be more seating

The mound is very popular but too popular with small children

It is eroded

- o Mounds are very popular with small children. We added mounds made from concrete covered in poured-in-place rubber to the playground at Euclid and they are a great success.

We could add more mounds to the playground

Go for it for the frog area as well

(later mounds were suggested as a theme for the east side as well)

East Side

If the east half is not being used by virtue of the rule (agreement), the rule should change

Water Feature

I am a fan of water

Dominican has a water feature. It is not well maintained. It is just a rectangle but I walk out of my way to see it

It is at the North end of campus



A water feature would be great

Also thinking of water as well

Other communities have splash pads for kids + adults

There are many in Chicago parks

- A water feature was considered but at the time of the improvements. The white noise generated by the fountain would have countered the noise of traffic on Oak Park Avenue. However, at the time the PD did not have the funds. The feature became the central planter. Also, water features require a high level of maintenance.

The Ginkgo tree at the Wright Studio is famous. What about an unusual tree as an anchor for the park?

Exercise Equipment

There was a plan in 2007 or so for a park with exercise equipment for intergenerational groups

It wasn't at this park

Exercise equipment for the elderly?

Outdoor exercise equipment is popular in Europe

Or have it mixed with attractions for children and mix the age groups

Would like to have children take part and participate

I like to see that kind of equipment interspersed with kid's equipment.

I like not having separate areas for adults and children.

Could have universal playground

Universal playgrounds for adults and kids at the same time.

Oak Brook is installing one now.

Forest Park put some equipment by the fitness center

It could get vandalized

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation installed a series of exercise parks in New York that are very popular. Their popularity protects them from vandalism.

When there are many eyes on the park, vandalism diminishes

Why not add a discovery area with mounds and tree trunks?

Could be a very natural addition mixed with exercise equipment

The right turn creates a lot of traffic there

People wouldn't want their kids there?

The area is fenced in and should be safe



Seating East Side

Perhaps, the design formality on the east side isn't conducive to interactions. Perhaps it is the placement of the benches. They might be better side by side or in a circle, more conducive for conversation.

What about a small arched bridge

Could go well with mounds and make a circuit

Why not transform it into a meditative peace garden like at Duke or a Japanese tea garden?

Attendees were very appreciative of the presentation and the information shared

How would improvements be afforded?

Ms. Arnold stated that a plan would be developed by Altamanu and would be presented to the Park Board at their July COW. After their review and acceptance of the plan at the next meeting improvements may be added to the Master Plan and to the Capital Improvement Plan. The PD could also add features to the park over time that are relatively inexpensive. For instance, at Taylor Park the tennis courts were striped for Pickleball. The PD is also always applying for grants and that could be a way of funding some of the improvements. Diane Stanke, Director of Marketing & Customer Service will contact the attendees with more information on future meetings.

Ms. Arnold thanked everyone for their input and attendance and closed the meeting.

End of Minutes

This is a general understanding of the comments made at the meeting.

Minutes prepared by John Mac Manus of Altamanu Inc.