



Barrie Park Site Plan Park District Staff

Focus Group Meeting # 1

Participants:

- Jan Arnold, PDOP
- Travis Stephan, PDOP
- Patti Staley, PDOP
- Chad Drufke, PDOP
- Paul Goedjen, PDOP
- Amanda Heimon, PDOP
- Maureen McCarthy, PDOP
- Chris Lindgren, PDOP
- Mike Grandy, PDOP
- Gabrele Romanucci, PDOP
- Josephine Bellalta, Altamanu, Inc.
- John Mac Manus, Altamanu, Inc.

Location: Meeting held at Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield Street

Date and Time: February 3, 2010, 1:00 pm

Introduction

- Jan Arnold gave an introduction to the group.
- John Mac Manus gave a Powerpoint presentation and an overall view of park and center and its conditions tiles over reservoir. Staff says they are 'awful'

General Comments

- Keeping, heavy equipment comes in from North East side-- does not want mixed with the playground
- Was lit, but residential neighborhood, don't see light going in now.
- Lighting system could be addressed
- How to attract more people, but will also annoy residents
- What about archway/gateway at entry to let people know they are entering the park—similar to Ridgeland

- Mile markers would be nice

Field Conditions

- Patchwork of sodding- Travis : tough to manage cause of high clay base, compacted, doesn't drain. It takes a long time to establish.
- Could be sand-based field : 6" sand topping
- 27' of clay compacted to 99%, 12" of topsoil. sod
- Turf field would be good for the sports field.
- Could we fence sides if turfed it? Maybe use trees instead
- Have drainage at base of sled hill
- Irrigation at field--as well as at playground. Kids like to play with irrigation heads, not all at baseball field working.

Ball Fields

- What about moving backstop to the northeast?
 - Left handed hitter bounce balls into the play center
 - 200'+ feet now to the sidewalk
 - Areas are disconnected--would be nice to connect east and west sides across Lombard.
 - NE corner is lower and holds more water, but fixable
- What about adding TBall at SE side--so they could play two games at once. 4, 5, 6th grades playing back to back was a hazard.
- Keep it a TBall as well as soccer
- What about putting batting cages along the north side of the baseball backstop (at large part of park)
- Geometry might be working against moving the ball diamond
- Maximize soccer with two baseball fields similar to Ridgeland
- Pre-schoolers don't cross because too dangerous larger soccer--not used enough now--135x 275' roughly now
- 180x300' soccer field is a U18

Hill

- Would we be able to turf the sled hill?--could you still run up it?
- Unused section use to run up. Running up kills the turf in the summer. (Runners get mad if they are stopped).
- Put fencing at bottom of hill in summer to prevent
- What about non crumb rubber material on hill.
- Storage under sled hill
- Outdoor fitness stations could be located closer to hill would work with those people using the hill to train.
- What about rock climbing on the back of the sled hill wall?
 - Would have to close off the area due to liability what about un-screwing the knobs--too much labor.
- Don't they have downhill skiing on artificial turf--but nylon. (or a ski jump).

Playgrounds

- Pathetic little park; not a real big site
- Would you use playground if by center at NW corner, but downside is that near highway and noisy.
- Ideal world big playground next to small playground/center
- Playground is really hidden
- Doesn't have water feature
- Desire lines suggest the space around playground is not used the way it was meant to -JM
- What about putting in a mister like at the zoo
- What about water feature where water jumps
- Integrate fitness with playground so parents can use while kids use playgrounds. This would be neat at all of our playgrounds.

Barrie Center

- A lot of unused space by building - good place for water feature (splash pad)
- A lot of kids that like to skate board around the center
 - Charlotte: with benches with brass leaves along benches. Main library has built in skate deterrents.
- Has little playground always been there? Can we use the space for something else
 - 9 am to 6 pm kids are in the building.
 - Highly used center.
 - Safety at corner playground is low, busy intersection, could we move the small Tot Lot across street.
- Could you put batting cages where Tot Lot is now? Combine other playground with Tot Lot. Put Tot Lot behind building and over reservoir.
- Batting cages behind bldg.?
- What about a courtyard space by bldg.
- Pavilion would be used by camp in the summer
- No additional bathrooms going in
- Bathroom traffic is high due to park and blue line
- We don't have family bathroom in center
- Could convert office into a family bathroom (Recreation staff moving back to 218)
- Retrofit work station into kitchen
- What about courtyard area that can be locked off at night like shutting gate during pre-school hours. Outdoor classroom space where you can lock yourself in
- Storage-current storage area but build a 1-2 bay garage for storage and access from alley would not go into green strip

Reservoir

- Gets really hot on reservoir in summer
- Older kids with shooting court on North side of reservoir
- When reservoir courts are open, it is staffed
- Can't supervise batting cages
- Basketball area would be supervised
- Would still need to access Basketball courts from east side.
- Southern court is meant to be ball hockey/roller hockey
- Plastic pads are like cheese grate when you fall

- Plastic on top of reservoir is there because concrete is spalling
- Underused as a basketball courts due to surface
- Could you put a playground on it? Then put Basketball at SE corner of site
- Reservoir is hot concrete box in summer where no one wants to be. It feels like a minimal security prison
- What about misters at reservoir to cool things down? Long term maintenance and expensive
- Shade structure at reservoir would be good
- Add an airnassium? Cover the whole reservoir?
 - a gym without walls.
- Basketball despite the hot environment, since there is so little space in town, people are still desperate to play.
- Never seen anyone play tennis; some play volleyball.
- Two people would not suggest full-size Basketball courts.
- Security cameras? doesn't help.
- Playground might work--but what surfacing to use over the reservoir?
- Putting in baseball batting cages - might work--used 1/4 of the year.
- Metal roof? Impervious material? Village might not go for it.
- Is there more need for fitness station? Could be up on reservoir?
- What about a golf driving range on the reservoir with the baseball cages.
 - Swinging clinics.
 - A putting green.
 - Mini golf.
- Other ideas at reservoir:
 - Bowling
 - Horseshoe
 - Archery range.

Planting and Trees

- There were more trees before the remediation
- What about planting? - Making Lombard more of entrance at both corners
- Planting areas are currently depleted of plant material
- Get rid of edge mowing areas and make more planting beds
- Try different vine species along the concrete walls of sled hill
- Playground areas would take out beds and revisit plant material
- No irrigation currently at Center/Tot Lot area. Area gets hot, foot traffic, plants struggle
- Can we tree up the exterior of the park with structure trees?

Parking & Streets

- Lombard Street is often busy with cars
- Drop off could be bigger - parents need to drop off, come inside and sign off their kids
- Like the idea of linking at North West and play center at the North East corner, but it is not strong enough of a connection. A speed table would work.
- Lombard being a non-arterial it could possibly work as a speed table location
- There are signs that say it is 20 mile/hr. speed zone
- Would like to color streets green all around the park