

Wednesday, February 19, 2014



Park District of Oak Park Pools Master Plan Community Meeting Notes

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Oak Park Conservatory, 7pm

Park District Pool Master Plan Consultants: Eric Penney and Don McKay, Nagle Hartray Inc. and Matt Freeby, Water Technologies, Inc.

Eric Penney from Nagle Hartray and Matt Freeby from Water Technologies Inc. made a brief PowerPoint presentation which included:

- Information about current amenities at Rehm and Ridgeland Common pools
- Future program and amenity options
- A renovation concept for the east end of Rehm Pool which is being considered for an Illinois Department of Natural Resources PARC grant opportunity with a deadline of March 10, 2014

Comments from attendees:

- Can you put spray pad on the other side of the park?
- Indoor pool facility? Sprung Instant structure?
- Partner with the high school
- An obstacle course was suggested
- Seal off the choke off point to prevent kids from going into the deeper end. That would provide a wading pool to replace the one going away.
- Can't permanently cut off the choke point because would need separate, new filtration system for this pool.
- Need a basketball hoop on the deep end of the pool for teens and tweens
- Can we keep wading pool and put splash pad in the grass area?
- Put a special "sand shower" at the exit of the sandbox
- Would rubberized surface get super-hot?

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- What are the parameters of the state grant?
- Concerns were raised about the restroom and the location of the restroom
- Concern was raised about the quick turnaround for the grant
- What would be the hours of the restrooms?
- Concern was raised about taking away green space for the restrooms
- “Neighborhood not in support of tennis court removal”
- Hours of operation for the spray pad?
- Inadequate parking
- When is removal scheduled?
- What is the budget for the grant project?
- Scrap the grant project and put in underground parking at Rehm
- Big investment for only 3 months per year
- Need an indoor aquatic center
- Terrible waste to spend for an outdoor pool
- Seniors & Adults are overlooked
- “I like swimming outside.”
- The locker rooms at Ridgeland Common were switched in 2013. Are they being switched back?
- Is it possible to replace some turf with proposed splash pad?
- Illegal activity around the trains at night
- Confused about purpose of meeting? Master planning or grant project?
- This process feels rushed. Take your time like other planning processes.
- In support of removing wading pool
- Allow toys in zero depth area
- In support of restrooms – use park for t-ball and tennis

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- Restrooms and teens – the Park District has restrooms at other parks with no problems
- Suggested property acquisition on Scoville Avenue
- Rehm Park master planning in 2008 did not include restrooms
- Like separate access to splash pad by the public when the pool is closed
- Whatever the Park District does, don't impinge on lap swimming
- Are you moving the fence?
- Cooperate with River Forest Park District
- The wading pool and sand play areas are not ADA accessible. As much as our family loves the wading pool, I would support eliminating it to make way for an amenity that can be enjoyed by everyone.

Other points:

There were approximately 35 people in attendance at the meeting. Additionally, members of the Park Board were present along with Park District staff and a reporter from the Wednesday Journal. The meeting lasted about 1.5 hours. Attendees were encouraged to complete the online survey which was available on the Park District website along with the master plan PowerPoint presentation. It was explained everyone would be sent a link to the survey and would be notified of the next meeting in April. The survey would be available online until March 1, 2014.