

MEETING MEMORANDUM

Date: April 18, 2011
Project: **Stevenson Park Master Plan**
Date of Meeting: April 13, 2011
Time: 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Place: Park District of Oak Park, 218 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL

Subject: **Focus Group—Staff**

PRESENT: Bobbi Nance, Recreation Manager, PDOP
Robin Dunn, PDCC
Tracey Brooker, PDCC
Henrietta Yardley, Conservatory Manager, PDOP
Chris Skidmore, Youth Athletics Supervisor, PDOP
Chad Drufke, Adult Athletics Supervisor, PDOP
Matt Ellmann, Superintendent of Recreation, PDOP
Gary Balling, PDOP (introduction only)

Altamanu Inc.

Josephine Bellalta, Altamanu, Inc
John Mac Manus, Altamanu, Inc.

PURPOSE: Examine and review existing site conditions, issues

The following minutes are submitted as representative of the items of information exchanged, actions agreed upon, and discussions that took place. If no exceptions are received within five (5) days of issuance of the Minutes, then it shall be deemed all are in agreement with the general contents of these Minutes.

Minutes of Meeting

Introductions

Gary Balling welcomed the attendees and encouraged them to take part in the meeting and offer their comments. He briefly introduced some information regarding Stevenson Park:

- In 2004 (ASA) active sports area, was renovated
- In 2007 the base ball field was renovated
- The new programming did a good job of disguising reservoir to the east
- We are updating master plan for Stevenson park
- PDOP has a 99 yr lease of the reservoir areas with VOP

- \$300K is set aside in capital improvement plan for 2014
- The Master Plan will talk about phasing of the improvements once complete

Gary asked that the attendees please give input of what you would like to see; challenges, etc.

John Mac Manus of Altamanu, Inc. also welcomed and thanked the attendees for their participation and in particular he welcomed the attendees.

John Mac Manus gave a quick overview of the project site:

- Building is so small compared to everything else on site
- One of most isolated parks we have worked on
- Views east west from bldg
- No views north and south from building

Entry/Building

- What about extending median further west?
- Drop off is limited time because through traffic can't get around when someone is stopped dropping off
- Entry to park from Taylor is offset
- Entry not welcoming
- Not welcoming, functional, don't like entry all around; makes security and comfort levels not good.
- Expansion plans for an elevator in building part of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) proposal but did not receive this grant.
- Is it possible to cross through median for east crosswalk from Taylor?
- Medians questionable
- Entries are tight
- Could reduce concrete sidewalk amount at entry
- Whole east end is concrete, not inviting
- Needs to be more color and vibrancy
- All green, brown and tan
- Through natural and man made products add color
- Planting annuals by sign—at current location they are always trampled
- Would be nice to have raised planters
- Entrance very tight—walking through garbage can lane

Safety

- Chad has office in building
- Sight lines or coming out at night—front area anyone can jump out anytime—can't see anything
- Shrubs need to be cut down,
- Could use lots of low growing plants and groundcovers instead
- Site entry/building need to be well lit.
- Right now there is a safety hazard
- Lots of nooks and crannies
- Lights on and activities at night best for safety

Park Layout/Users

- Wide range of ages use this park
- There is no natural lead in to connect uses/spaces/age groups
- Early childhood can enter west, if no strollers come
- Like different entrances for different users/very different groups
- Ramp in worst possible place.—should have been on the west side
- Have separation for people to come in—makes sense to another entrance for the athletic field?
Come in mid field would be natural—yes second that
- Some people not familiar with park don't know how to get to fields
- What about from the west sidewalk of Taylor—or more central?

Fencing

- Couldn't you get rid of fence? Need for safety
- Could isolate tot lot with fence instead
- Could we move the fence?
- What about retaining wall with decorative fence
- What about roses at the fence
- Would like to be able to see into the field
- Would a wall get graffiti?
- Building gets graffiti periodically

Programming

- That programming not create congregating spaces where they can't be supervised
- If there was a spot out in the field where kids could i.e. have lunch.
- If you are not playing baseball you should not be out here is the message

We do play:

- Flag football
- Soccer
- Try to offer more
- We do have lights
- What about some type of pergola—i.e. for camps-
- Softball field is undersize
- don't make sense that there is baseball here
- Should be more soccer/kick ball
- Chris-won't use baseball diamond for any of program
- What about the affiliates?
- Pitching mound permanently in ground—safety issue
- Could explore if dedicated soccer/lacrosse
- We build everything to be multifunction but that limits what a specific sport can become
- Need to lock certain uses in to certain places and make them very good--This might be a test case to roll that out.
- If it should happen to be synthetic turf the field is maximized
- Least residential park in the system—less complaints from neighbors
- Timer on lights to about 10:30 pm
- Dimension to playground—approx 290x320(w)-300(E)

Playground

- If we do anything to playgrounds—be careful what type of equipment goes in—adult use is an issue.
- Do the playgrounds have to be separate age appropriate?
- Is there any age appropriate equipment for teens?
- Middle school kids that want to run around-enjoy running around the play structures
- Two age groups are almost like two worlds colliding
- What if younger kids with mothers go to the area near the historical society?--Bathrooms are too far for that
- Could you put a small bathroom over at west end?
- Provide one specialized area where teens on east
- Do away with playground and grow fields
- Do get a lot of non permitted child care centers using the playground—which are not abiding by PDOP rules
- Could shift playground around the corner of the building
- Kids and bad language proximity to BB and Skate Park
- Move and donate equipment to Beye school and recapture the space for defined use instead trying to do everything for everyone
- Could you study how the playground is being used?
- PDOP handles all the programming of schools fields
- If playground is taken out—something big would have to be put in its place—parents are natural security—affiliate groups might not supersede those parents
- Reduce size of playground and orient where it can maximize field sports

Access Lane

- What about the lane?
- PDOP Greening Advisory Committee suggested community gardens at the lane—keeps coming up
- Could flip the lane to the south side to maximize sun exposure and less exposure to RR spraying weeds.
- Stevenson is not a park that I want to spend time in has come up
- BB court is loud as adjacent user
- Skate park is loud with creative language
- Train going by is loud
- Didn't even want to bring dogs there, so community garden?
- Artificial turf wouldn't require the access drive

Skate Park & Basketball (BB)

- What if skate park expanded towards RR embankment
- Would have to change some of the skate park features
- What about taking out BB?
- Reality of our closeness to Austin
- Would worry about the trendiness of skate park and BMX—BB will always be here
- No programming for BB
- Skate park programming is still increasing—is programming justification
- Bigger skate park-skate plaza route—have different user levels
- Skateboarding is independent sport (doesn't need a team to play)
- Some groups are looking for new ventures—(this coming from high school)

- Initial support will likely be there with taking out BB, then should be meeting population realities, then will revert back, but eventually it is a community decision
- What about using the lane for more skate park
- Community garden is a trend that will come and go—should be other areas that could be used for that instead—would encourage the Village to do this.
- Community gardens come with rules. Must have strict guidelines and enforce them.
- We could have Half BB courts lined up at north edge of RR—and still get truck through—intriguing
- Take up the existing BB space and turn it into more skate park
- Have to think about BB spectators in this scenario
- Could we have shade structures in color at Skate Park?
- Other than teen center programming--There might be more programming if parking wasn't so challenging plus bldg not HC accessible—when elevator comes in programming will go up

END OF MINUTES

MEETING MEMORANDUM

Date: April 18, 2011
Project: **Stevenson Park Master Plan**
Date of Meeting: April 13, 2011
Time: 1:00 to 2:45 p.m.
Place: Park District of Oak Park, 218 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL

Subject: **Focus Group—Buildings & Grounds, Safety & Security**

PRESENT: Rafael Murphy, Beat Officer, Oak Park Police Department
Frank Lippo, OPRF Historical Society
Bert Patania, Oak Park Township Youth Services
Craig Failor, Village Planner, Dept. of Planning & Community Development, VOP
Jim Budrick, Village Engineer, VOP
Marianne Birko, West Suburban Special Recreation Association
Tom Holmes, Memorial Trust Committee, PDOP
John Borland, Maintenance Staff, PDOP
Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, PDOP
Bobbi Nance, Recreation Manager, PDOP
Neil Adams, Project Manager, PDOP
Ron Calloway, Safety Coordinator, PDOP
Tracey Booker, PDCC
Diane Stanke, PDOP (introduction only)

Altamanu Inc.

Josephine Bellalta, Altamanu, Inc
John Mac Manus, Altamanu, Inc.

PURPOSE: Examine and review existing site conditions, issues and potential future improvements.

The following minutes are submitted as representative of the items of information exchanged, actions agreed upon, and discussions that took place. If no exceptions are received within five (5) days of issuance of the Minutes, then it shall be deemed all are in agreement with the general contents of these Minutes.

Minutes of Meeting

Introductions

Diane Stanke welcomed the attendees and encouraged them to take part in the meeting and offer their comments. Diane gave an Overview of Project and mentioned that there is \$300K set aside from the capital improvement project funds for park renovation in phase 1 to take place in 2014. We are here to collect information from the participants as it relates to Stevenson Park and surrounding area.

She also announced to the group that the First community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20th, 2011 at Stevenson Center.

John Mac Manus of Altamanu, Inc. also welcomed and thanked the attendees for their participation. He gave a quick introduction of the site layout and location and adjacent use of the original 1898 fire house to the west which will be the building where historical society will be housed.

The group jumped right in and began to discuss the project site:

Area Development/Improvements

- Nothing really planned to be developed in area any time soon
- Aldi store empty so it is a potential redevelopment site, but there are no plans at the moment
- The Pumping station's first floor--not sure how it will be used
- could have underpasses improved
- Would be nice to do underpasses. The village has improved a couple and a couple more are in the works
- The Village painted viaducts in the 90's although don't belong to VOP

Park Use

- Haven't thought too much about layout of property
- Don't use park much although closest to home
- Kids do use Skate Park some
- Daughter will be playing softball this summer
- Use bye school playground instead

Roadways

- Are there issues with the Road?
- Lake Street improvements were done in 2002. Put in the medians, reduced width of road at Taylor, that in itself slows traffic down.
- Lombard further west of park is pretty hard to cross. People walking with traffic. Maybe median should come all the way down to Lombard.
- People come out of bldg and cross diagonally across Lake St.
- Overnight parking is leased out at Harvey by the Village

Reservoirs

- The majority of water serving the village comes from this site—lifeblood of the community
- Reservoir 20' deep on west.
- East reservoir is elevated.

- Old Fire Station (OPRFHS) garage taken out to install reservoir overflow that is being installed currently.
- The area where the overflow is being installed will be able to be driven on. It will be a paved area, but there is underground piping that needs to be maintained so nothing can be built on it.
- There is a 1.5" lip on edge of east reservoir which creates an ADA issue

OPRF Historical Society

- OPRFHS has an agreement with the Village to use bldg for 50 years
- There is an idea of adding addition to building and make this modern space ADA accessible.
- Thinking of adding pavers in front outside historical presentation/plaza area.
- This area would show a timeline of the community history,
- There will be a closed gate further back into site.
- Would like to explore how it might better tie into Stevenson Park.
- Is there a way to soften that edge by bleachers?
- Barrier on south side. It is isolated.

Safety, Crime and Surveillance

- Concerns are empty space behind courts at RR tracks
- Area behind building not visible from street
- Area where bleachers were installed on the west also poses visibility/security issue
- The police do get some calls of suspicious activity right in front of bldg on street level rather than in the park itself
- There are issues with crossing safety across Lake St. partly due to the fact there is no traffic break between Harvey and Austin
- 25 mile hour speed along Lake St. is not always followed by drivers
- Drivers do u-turns at the east end of the park around the median.
- We do have taggers at police sub-station right now
- Camera locations-- For security--don't skimp on your cameras
- We Can actually see footage after a crime and this is a great thing
- Historical society--→are there any spots where kids can be dealing drugs
- Problem with break-ins/with the windows (have sometimes been taken care of—with camera)
- There are cameras at exterior of the doors and one of general over viewing fields
- There is a VOP Outdoor camera on a utility pole—homeland security SW corner, because water source
- Foliage on north end of building can provide safe havens for people not doing right thing;
- Can't see beyond the height the first level of the bldg
- By June good crop of hedges obscuring views
- Not a big advocate even as certified building inspector of having foliage on the buildings. It wicks water and degrades the brick.
- Cameras have had a really positive effect on other buildings. I.e. schools,
- When working on a case get good/clear footage—and being able to access the film easily
- Cameras will reduce any type of crime.
- Seeing a lot of defacement/graffiti
- When I go to Stevenson I have to pay more attention—a lot of foliage at entry —than at other centers in the parks
- Entry is a confined space
- Entry into the park is heavily used when nice outside; there is nowhere to hang out/sit; middle

school, high school age. So, the steps lend themselves places to sit. The ramp as well concrete patio at entrances are the biggest and are the closest thing to a patio so a lot of congregation there—other people find it intimidating.

- Access by BB courts is where the ramp is—i.e. parents with strollers have to go by the BB courts which are the most intimidating to them.
- The more we could get people “inside” the park the better
- Entrances will be more inviting and will get people into the park
- because the stairs are there at the entry, it becomes major social intersection
- What about benches in front of playground? There are some.
- The language some kids use is an issue and it is intimidating
- What about take retaining wall out and expand steps into a grand entrance
- Or Take out steps and ramp in
- Hedge was put in to soften look of bldg
- Don’t want to take all vegetation away
- Could use a little color at this site. Very drab.
- Rather than solid planting bed, have smaller in ground planters
- Is there any reason for front retaining wall—was a bicycle biking area—people were unobserved to steal bikes, so it was discontinued
- Open north wall—would be nice to have a window on the building—agreement
- When looking at this location (regionally) this is considered a hot spot (40% heroine that comes into Midwest comes through Austin neighborhood)
- With right supervision, security etc. it will be better
- That location needs to be secure and we send a clear message that it is a safe place.
- Have rowdies, sometimes not local kids
- With supervision, they will pay attention,
- But don’t want it to look like an institution
- At entry behind hedge the 9-10 yr olds hang out.
- Back of building is a dead zone (south)
- Would like to be able to survey the south of building area better
- Bench at SW corner of building is where middle school kids hang out
- Existing location of playground --is it visually acceptable for supervision? Continually loop around building for supervision—outside and inside
- Dogs/ride bike rules are hard to enforce

Circulation & Use Layout

- Whole lower level opens up to ramps area
- Front door is best to go upstairs
- Back door is used for teen center and bathroom on lower level—and for going in and out
- Would prefer back door as main entrance for supervision
- There is no good place to sit in Stevenson
- In the grand scheme of things this building does not work
- Adults to young children in the east entry area are mixed
- Maybe you want some separation between the uses
- Stevenson Park reminds me of Scoville Park with corner hang out spot in a bad way
- Is there a way to make a teen hang out that is attractive but not hidden vs. hanging out on tot lot?
- Challenge --if all teens were behaving well and were local residents. (Teen center is for Oak Park residents only)

- A Picnic table would be cool, but would not be good for the park
- Want to give people a place to sit but not in the east corridor
- Eastern exposure is two story, so make all sides two story exposure
- Put a moat around bldg, would have more exposure of the building then
- Where does the reservoir start off the sidewalk—drew on plan outline of west reservoir. Back wall at west is the edge of the reservoir
- West end—if gathering space scary—will make supervision difficult (at historical society bldg)
- Is there some way to unify the building with other uses?
- Is there a way to tie this building (OPRFHS) together with Stevenson center?
- Taking paving from sidewalk back into site (OPRFHS)
- Embankment at west end of field—how do you tie it together with the OPRFHS building?
- Be careful what you build and how accessible it is—after hours some will be looking for a place to hang out or do things they shouldn't be doing.
- You move people from one place and they will go to the next hiding space
- Another hiding place is the train. For adults. Get rid of train in tot lot and replace with something that does not have a roof and adults can't get inside.
- Jack Barclay designed this bldg. Can't figure out why he designed it the way he did.
- What about changing the building layout
- PDOP had an application for CDBG for improvements/elevator. Timing of improvements is a question of money and priorities

Sports Field

- How do you rank this softball field? It is one of the better ones and 1 of 3 lit fields. But, currently use of lights at this field is zero use for leagues
- Bronco team uses the field from April to June--First year last year were using the lights a couple times a week
- Sport lighting locations are not conducive to sports
- What about rotating the infield—flipping it east
- There are Issues with flipping and right handed batters
- Could use netting to stop balls flying into street.
- Netting to stop home runners? Is it very expensive
- Replace 8-10 years—problems—attractive nuisance, will cause other things.
- Then having a low wall by historical society --Something attractive that you can get into the park at the NW corner
- What about taking softball out?
- The trend is moving into other sports. Would definitely be used by more sports.

Mound/planter

- That's where people sit—not a lot of places to sit
- Skateboarders using curb line
- All for giving people more places, but not here—brick doesn't work as deterrent
- Plants don't survive

Skate Park/Basketball Courts

- Surfacing of concrete on reservoir is the skate park surface
- Prefer smoother—starting to get cracks, water pools on it
- Skateboarders want more space so would take out the BB court
- BB court gets heavier use

- Extra space for skate park would be awesome, but
- What would the reactions be if BB came out—users would be upset but a lot of people in neighborhood would like it
- Tough one, always in use, but who is using it?
- Skate Park camps are very popular
- Structure was envisioned as supervisor booth, shade
- Could insert posts into perimeter wall for shade structure
- If we were to eliminate BB and expand skating, what would you put there? --Half pipe or mini ramp
- Trend is not to have modular units but to have skate plazas
- But can't do integral skate plaza on top of reservoir
- Modular cement modules are being made now--So could be faux 'skate plaza'.
- Pieces need to interconnect, might need to redo the park layout
- If we got biker demand, would be outsiders – and would need more space
- Decision was made not to use for trick bikes due to damage that can come from the bikes

Entry plus

- What about considering opening front space—for accessibility
- Have an interactive space like field splash pad-- And add peripheral seating
- And don't take away socialization that needs to happen for whatever age group
- Part of the intention is to intimidate
- Water and sand are expensive and high maintenance---Recycle water then?
- Maybe not a fountain but something interactive
- Water feature of sorts would be nice—Loud train/natural sound would be nice

Rail Road

- Trees might compromise field but help ameliorate train
- Vines on wall, but RR sprays to kill plants

Memorial Trees

- Still some empty spaces for memorial trees
- Don't see a problem at the moment

Lighting & Programming Schedule

- Lights—balance for security and resident sensitivity
- Mount on bldg under eaves
- Programming goes to 10 pm latest, as late as 10:30 for baseball
- Skate park and BB closes at 8 pm
- Playground closes at 6 pm
- The more programming the fewer problems you have
- Sometimes at night it is black from lack of exterior lighting
- Don't want light on late, encourages people to jump fence and use at night—even use of the playground
- It's a bit dark
- Provide low level surveillance lighting
- Sloping entry with low level lighting—won't have a propensity to loiter
- Love trees, but if you get rid of some of the trees for safety and spruce up building.

Artwork

- Building looks like a public works bldg.
- Murals—can we do that here? On the building—something inspirational
- Bench system—all were mosaics in California
- Once the mosaics go in at Barrie will see how it goes.
- VOP RR Mural program will likely stay downtown.
- Would rather see mosaic rather than paint

General Wrap Up

- I like what we are saying.
- Park is a highly used space
- But we don't want it to look like an institution
- Secure the spaces
- Nice place and thinking ahead about what the space is
- Highest concentration of Chain Link Fence at this park

MEETING MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2011
Project: **Stevenson Park Master Plan**
Date of Meeting: May 11, 2011
Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Place: Stevenson Center, 49 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL

Subject: **Focus Group—Youth**

PRESENT: Diane Stanke, PDOP (introduction only)

Altamanu Inc.

Sean McKay, Altamanu, Inc
Josh Andersson, Altamanu, Inc.

PURPOSE: Examine and review existing site conditions as pertaining to the skatepark, basketball court, playground, issues

The following minutes are submitted as representative of the items of information exchanged, actions agreed upon, and discussions that took place. If no exceptions are received within five (5) days of issuance of the Minutes, then it shall be deemed all are in agreement with the general contents of these Minutes.

Minutes of Meeting

Introductions

Diane Stanke welcomed the attendees and encouraged them to take part in the meeting and offer their comments. She mentioned how great it was to get the opinion of the people that actually use the park every day.

Sean McKay of Altamanu, Inc. also welcomed and thanked the attendees for their participation and noted his use of the park's facilities when he was younger.

Sean McKay gave a quick overview of the project site:

- Hard to access, particularly from the south
- Area in front of the center gets crowded
- Space directly behind the center is a dead zone

- The area along the railroad wall is used for maintenance vehicles but could be used for a skate park extension
- A lot of people hang out on the handicap ramp and stairs near the basketball and skate park entry
- The basketball courts and skatepark get hot without any shade

After the brief overview the meeting was opened up for discussion and comment:

Basketball

- They need to loan out extra balls, they only loan out two at a time
- There need to be separated basketball courts for little kids, they never get a chance to play
- Court for kids should have an adjustable rim so they can pick the height
- The bleachers in the basketball area get in the way, they need to be moved
- Most of the time they only put up two rims at a time, it would be better to have all three.
- It gets really crowded there need to be more hoops
- Need good drinking fountain that works
- It gets too hot, no good place to sit

Park

- Not many of the focus group participants use the park
- Swings are the best part of the park
- Would like a splashpad
- Misters would be better so you could cool off and not get too wet (and could keep skating or playing basketball)

Skatepark

- Like the idea of moveable obstacles- jersey barrier, picnic table, kicker ramps
- This park needs a halfpipe, but not one that is too high
- Halfpipe should be like one at Forest Park Skate Park but longer, that one isn't long enough
- Need a water fountain in the park
- The area with water fountains in the building needs to be colder and have a place you can sit so you can cool off for a minute
- They should get rid of the helmet rule
- The park closes too early, especially in the summer
- Can barely skate at all on Wednesdays after school because of skateboard lessons
- Get rid of the obstacles at the front of the park, no one uses them. Same with the curved ledge and the rail behind the big ramp
- Another stair set- like 5 stairs
- There is a good mix of different obstacles for different skill levels
- There should be more banks and transitions
- The metal gets really hot in the summer
- There should be a longer ledge along one of the edges or something

END OF MINUTES

COMMUNITY MEETING for Stevenson Park Site Plan



Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00pm Stevenson Center, 49 Lake Street

The Park District of Oak Park values community participation and input in helping to shape the future of Oak Park parks and facilities. Oak Park residents are invited to attend a community meeting to provide input regarding the current and future use of Stevenson Park for the development of a site master plan. The overall objective of a site plan is to provide “a blueprint for future park renewal.”

Stevenson Park encompasses 3.3 acres of open space. It features an all-purpose sports field, a baseball/softball field, and playground equipment for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12 years. In 2004 the Active Sports Area opened on the east side of Stevenson Park featuring 3 half-court basketball courts and a skatepark. Stevenson Center, located in the center of the park, is home to the 49 Lake Teen Center.

A questionnaire will be available online at www.oakparkparks.com beginning at 5pm on April 21 through May 10 to collect additional community input regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan.



If you need special accommodations, please contact Diane Stanke at dianes@oakparkparks.com. For more information on the Stevenson Park Site Plan, please visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects.



Park District of Oak Park
Stevenson Park Site Plan
2nd Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – 7pm – Stevenson Center

Please sign in

Name	Email (to receive project updates)	Check here to receive the Park District e-news with the latest Park District information
Beth Houle	bethhoule@gmail.com	
ROBIN DUNN		
HEALI SIMONS	CuriousKittie@gmail.com	
Paul Aschlerman	aschlermanf@stglobal.net	
MARK MORONEY	marktmorey@hotmail.com	
Jodi Walker	JOJULIA@AOL.COM	
Dan Jordan		
Maggie Testore	m.testore@comcast.net	
Dick McKinnon		

In partnership with the community, we provide quality parks and recreation experiences for the residents of Oak Park.



Park District of Oak Park
Stevenson Park Site Plan
2nd Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – 7pm – Stevenson Center

Please sign in

Name	Email (to receive project updates)	Check here to receive the Park District e-news with the latest Park District information
Monica Saydah	monica@saydah.com	
Mark Bartlett	MARGARET@ATT.NET	
H. Kyung Weisbrod	eitheror@Comcast.net	
Crista Fuentes	fuentes.xochitl@gmail.com	
Jon Paul	jonpaulbasse@gmail.com	

4th COMMUNITY MEETING for Stevenson Park Site Plan



Wednesday, June 22 at 7:00pm Stevenson Center, 49 Lake Street

The Park District of Oak Park values community participation and input in helping to shape the future of Oak Park parks and facilities. Oak Park residents are invited to attend the 4th and final community meeting to review two final site plan concepts and provide input regarding a final Stevenson Park site plan recommendation. The overall objective of a site plan is to provide “a blueprint for future park renewal.”





Stevenson Park encompasses 3.3 acres of open space. It features an all-purpose sports field, a baseball/softball field, and playground equipment for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12 years. In 2004 the Active Sports Area opened on the east side of Stevenson Park featuring 3 half-court basketball courts and a skatepark. Stevenson Center, located in the center of the park, is home to the 49 Lake Teen Center.

The final two concepts will be available for review by 5pm on Friday, June 17 at www.oakparkparks.com. A brief questionnaire will also be available to collect community input.


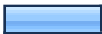


If you need special accommodations for this meeting, please contact Diane Stanke by June 21 at dianes@oakparkparks.com. For more information on the Stevenson Park Site Plan, please visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects.

1. How many Stevenson Park Site Plan Community Meetings have you attended?

		Response Percent	Response Count
0		64.4%	139
1		21.3%	46
2		8.3%	18
3		6.0%	13
answered question			216
skipped question			3

2. Which Stevenson Park site plan concept do you prefer?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Concept A		85.7%	180
Concept B		14.3%	30
answered question			210
skipped question			9

3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

	Response Count
	118
answered question	118
skipped question	101

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

1	Do NOT remove the backstop as it is needed for baseball. A well placed backstop will allow for both baseball and soccer to be played on the same field.	Jul 5, 2011 8:09 AM
2	Please make the largest turf field possible and keep the lights.	Jul 4, 2011 2:05 PM
3	As a parent of children who play sports, I find it very sad that neighboring villages have better facilities than Oak Park. I have been finding it more and more that our village seem to have a self agenda and not good for the residents of the village	Jul 3, 2011 10:33 AM
4	Please do not remove the backstop.	Jul 2, 2011 7:42 PM
5	Would have liked to see the skate park/basketball site plans. These items are very important to my family.	Jul 1, 2011 3:05 PM
6	I support concept A, even though it is small for soccer. Specifically U12 that requires 300 ft. Please consider redesigning the park to allow for an adequate soccer turf field. Keep the lights. The kids will thank you.	Jun 30, 2011 1:50 PM
7	Oak Park is in clear need of field space.	Jun 29, 2011 11:52 PM
8	I'm happy the backstop and infield was removed. I prefer the larger field area in Concept A. Both of my two children play lacrosse, and Concept A comes closer to a regulation lacrosse field size. I don't think a walkway is needed--it will just sit there unused. People can walk ANYWHERE in OP, including the track at OPRF which ALREADY EXISTS. But large, open field space to support all our programs is extremely difficult to come by. I hear we have to rent field space from Berwyn and Elmwood Park!	Jun 29, 2011 5:46 PM
9	I would a U12 size soccer field.	Jun 29, 2011 1:32 PM
10	I am hoping that Stevenson stays a multi-use park. I live in the neighborhood and use the playground for my young daughter. However, I have a 7 year-old son who plays AYSO soccer and Oak Park t-ball (and soon, baseball). I certainly hope the park can be configured to allow for desperately-needed sports space. Lastly, as I've said in other surveys I've answered, one of the biggest deterrants to my family using the park is security, which I have also heard from many of my neighbors on the 100 block of N. Taylor. We simply don't feel safe and comfortable at the park at times and I'm hoping better security will address that.	Jun 29, 2011 9:08 AM
11	A looped path around the park is unnecessary. It is much more important to have a larger field to accommodate youth soccer players.	Jun 28, 2011 10:54 PM
12	I'd love to see field turf soccer field but figure out a way to still keep the backstop for baseball. Baseball must not loose on more field	Jun 28, 2011 10:37 PM
13	There is enough hard surfaces in Oak Park to walk on and not enough green surfaces to play on.	Jun 28, 2011 10:29 PM
14	DO NOT REMOVE the backstop from Stevenson; it will not preclude any other play at that park. Don't limit our kids to only one choice in sports.	Jun 28, 2011 9:59 PM
15	Please consider making the open space large enough for U12 soccer. We have the whole beautiful city of Oak Park to walk and enjoy but very limited space for organized sports.	Jun 28, 2011 9:18 PM

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

16	A larger multi-use field seems to serve the greater good.	Jun 28, 2011 9:03 PM
17	Don't need more paths	Jun 28, 2011 8:55 PM
18	There are many places to walk. There are not enough open green spaces. A turf field will help preserve the grass fields across Oak Park. Please do not diminish the needed green space with a walking path. Any walking path can be part of the east side of the park.	Jun 28, 2011 4:51 PM
19	The neighborhood has plenty of great walking blocks, no need for the walking path. Thanks!	Jun 28, 2011 4:49 PM
20	I feel that there should be a permanent backstop for the baseball and softball fields.	Jun 28, 2011 3:48 PM
21	Need to incorporate baseball/softball field. Need community-wide planning on # of fields. Use temporary backstops if nec. -- Jon Hale, former Village Trustee	Jun 28, 2011 3:13 PM
22	U12 soccer space is needed.	Jun 28, 2011 3:02 PM
23	I would like to see even more flexible green space to accomodate organized sports (especially soccer) and less paved walkways. I do not think they are needed in such a small park. Additionally, if the green space was just a little big larger it would have allow for more scheduled events (i.e. soccer games) which bring families into the parks. I do LOVE that you have soccer playing area adjacent to play lot. That is nice to families, but I think you can easily accommodate both.	Jun 28, 2011 2:43 PM
24	Go for it!	Jun 28, 2011 2:30 PM
25	Keep the costs reasonable!	Jun 28, 2011 1:36 PM
26	We think the walking path is more important to the overall populace of the park rather than the self-servicing needs of AYSO's desire for a larger field. We have also received unsolicited blanket emails from AYSO asking that everybody vote for option A.	Jun 28, 2011 1:30 PM
27	If the soccer field is not big enough for U12 play then it should not be labeled U12. Better to call it what it is to not mislead anyone.	Jun 28, 2011 12:14 PM
28	While a gives a larger field area, it is missing the loop around the field which we feel is important.	Jun 28, 2011 11:23 AM
29	Why are you removing the softball fields? This makes no sense. We do not need a walking path or shade area. Come on. Softball fields in the spring are more important than soccer fields in the spring! Play soccer in the fall. Share.	Jun 28, 2011 10:51 AM
30	We do not need a walking path. Please do not tear down the softball fields for soccer fields, as this would be a great injustice.	Jun 28, 2011 10:43 AM
31	A dedicated backstop for baseball and softball is essential for Stevenson.	Jun 28, 2011 10:28 AM
32	Keep the backstop for the baseball field!	Jun 28, 2011 10:18 AM
33	I, and my soccer playing boys, would prefere a larger soccer field.	Jun 28, 2011 10:18 AM

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

34	get something done	Jun 28, 2011 10:14 AM
35	However, the baseball field must be retained! There are not enough spots to play/practice baseball as it is! Getting rid of the diamond here is nuts!	Jun 28, 2011 10:11 AM
36	Please consider not paving over the few large open space we have for sports. Even for field hockey the minimum dimensions are 90 by 50 yards.	Jun 28, 2011 10:11 AM
37	OP has a crazy-big shortage of field space for soccer, lacrosse etc. compared with nearly all other suburbs or the Chicago park district. Sidewalks, on the other hand, we have in PLENTY, and the h.s. track is just a few blocks away - it would seem completely crazy to sacrifice field space for WALKING space in this town! Especially in a location where you're liable to be bonked with a soccer ball (ouch) or a lacrosse ball (SUPER ouch). Plus, if at all possible, the entrance should be reduced to give us at least one field large enough to accommodate the older kids playing soccer (11 & 12 yr olds) - the shortage of field space for those games is especially acute. Artificial turf fields would be an amazing thing to have in this town. Thanks!	Jun 28, 2011 10:10 AM
38	I didn't get a chance to look at the plans before option C was taken out, but I liked the walking path that option offered. Thanks for asking our opinion!	Jun 28, 2011 10:04 AM
39	Although not usable for U12, the Concept A field might support TWO U10 fields going "sideways." The Concept B field would support only ONE U10 field. More is better. Concept B sacrifices open green space that could be used for practices by teams and for free play in many different sports and replaces it with a paved walking path that would likely create a potential for injuries to those playing sports and walking alike. There is a far greater community need for open green space than paved walking space (especially at a small park like Stevenson which is only a couple blocks from the rubber track at the HS). I believe a larger field than shown should be built. I believe the neighborhood needs a playground (and the little siblings need somewhere to play during the soccer games!). But the park district board should consider reducing the size of the proposed broad double north entranceway that would cut through the middle of this small park as shown on Concept A to allow for a slightly bigger field without having to reduce the size of the playground.	Jun 28, 2011 9:39 AM
40	I would like to see a permanent backstop for baseball and softball.	Jun 28, 2011 9:37 AM
41	In a nation where obesity is a growing epidemic, our parks need to be geared toward physical activity, particularly for our children. Soccer/softball/baseball fields, along with playground space is optimal. As much as I also think basketball courts are a great place for kids and adults to exercise and have fun, they generally attract interlopers from the west side who don't live in OP, and come in merely to enjoy our amenities and cause trouble.	Jun 28, 2011 9:33 AM
42	My preference is actually niether...I would like one bigger field for 12U soccer. A bigger field under lights is ideal for this age group to play/practice in the evenings.	Jun 28, 2011 9:31 AM

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

43	More green space please. Less pavement and less entrance, taking up green space. Please get rid of paved walking path that would likely create a potential for injuries to those playing sports and walking alike. Need is for open green space. Please build a larger field than shown. Please consider reducing the size of the proposed broad double north entranceway that would cut through the middle of this park as shown on Concept A to allow for a slightly bigger field without having to reduce the size of the playground. Regards, David	Jun 28, 2011 9:31 AM
44	The High School walking path is so close to Stevenson, I don't see a need for one here.	Jun 28, 2011 9:27 AM
45	Stevenson should continue to have a permanent backstop for both softball and baseball games.	Jun 28, 2011 9:26 AM
46	I think a walking path is not necessary given the abundance of good walking opportunities elsewhere in Oak Park - such as the high school track nearby.	Jun 28, 2011 9:17 AM
47	I have concerns about the amount of field space that is being eliminated. Oak Park already has very limited field space for soccer, baseball, and other field sports. Please consider this in your park redesign. The field space that is available for baseball and soccer in general does not drain well when it rains, and causes many cancelations. Stevenson is one of the only parks on "high ground" that can handle a bit of rain! So, why is it proposed to take away this playing space? I cannot believe that you chose to take away the baseball field!	Jun 28, 2011 9:13 AM
48	I strongly feel that Stevenson Park should continue to have a permanent backstop for baseball and softball.	Jun 28, 2011 9:12 AM
49	Maximizing the turf field benefits all parks.	Jun 28, 2011 9:07 AM
50	It would be my household's preference to have a plan that would include a turf field large enough to hold a U12 AYSO game.	Jun 28, 2011 9:05 AM
51	I think having a backstop is essential to the safety of the spectators for baseball and softball games. I would prefer that Stevenson Park continue to have a permanent backstop for games in the future.	Jun 28, 2011 9:02 AM
52	Can you reconsider the size of the north entrance way? Reducing this entrance size would allow for a larger playing field. Please do not underestimate the growing need for playing fields that can accommodate older teams in Oak Park.	Jun 28, 2011 8:52 AM
53	I believe that the more playing space the better. Just because there is no walk way does not mean that people can not walk along the surface when games are not going on. The maximum space allocated to free play the better.	Jun 28, 2011 8:50 AM
54	The improved Stevenson Park should continue to have a permanent backstop for baseball and softball. There are 1800 kids who participate in that sport in Oak Park and we cannot lose another baseball field.	Jun 28, 2011 8:49 AM
55	We need a full size, full time soccer field in Oak Park, preferably not one that will close with the slightest amount of rain.	Jun 28, 2011 8:47 AM
56	Oak Park NEEDS turf!	Jun 28, 2011 8:40 AM
57	We need more green space in this town	Jun 28, 2011 8:31 AM

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

58	the walking path is unneeded.	Jun 28, 2011 8:22 AM
59	Neither concept has large enough field for U12 play (despite what you are claiming). Seems silly not to make soccer field 22ft. longer--perhaps that can be done by reducing playground and/or walking path. This town needs more soccer fields! Concept A is definitely better than B--you could get 2 soccer games for U10 going sideways on it, but I'm sure the Park District could do even better on this design by making the field just a bit larger.	Jun 28, 2011 8:21 AM
60	I respect the need for fields in Oak Park. I think any field needs to be multi-use and not exclusive to one sport [i.e. soccer]. My son has used Stevenson for baseball and it is a great field for that sport. It has not been that long since it was rebuilt. PLEASE keep the baseball feild as part of your plans! It is hard enough as it is to find practice and playing space for baseball too.	Jun 28, 2011 8:19 AM
61	A baseball field NW corner of the park is good.	Jun 28, 2011 8:17 AM
62	A baseball diamond is an asset.	Jun 28, 2011 8:15 AM
63	The baseball field is a keeper.	Jun 28, 2011 8:14 AM
64	Keep the base ball field.	Jun 28, 2011 8:13 AM
65	there is no baseball accomidations in any plan here so a concept with a baseball diamond would be preferred. we have already lost at least two and cannot afford to loose any more baseball fields.	Jun 27, 2011 4:11 PM
66	Please see if any additional space can be found to squeeze a 90 yard soccer field, and keep the lights	Jun 27, 2011 3:50 PM
67	A larger field will mean older children will be able to use the field, altho if the field is made unusable by a rain shower any size will be a waste of money.	Jun 27, 2011 10:29 AM
68	ball field space is very limited in OP and anything that can be done to increase space and usage would be great.	Jun 27, 2011 9:01 AM
69	I remember when the play area was revamped the last time and my oldest is only 12. Is it possible that the life-cycle of these play areas is too short? I would think you could get many more years out of it. There are other, better ways to spend our PD money -- like working with the schools to improve their play areas (i.e. Irving could use some \$\$).	Jun 27, 2011 8:29 AM
70	We need more open field space in Oak Park!!! A turf field would be nice.	Jun 27, 2011 7:00 AM
71	We need reliable all weather playing space for our kids more than we need a walking path along railroad tracks.	Jun 26, 2011 8:42 PM
72	B with a full time backstop. Let's call this what it is. This is a move to decomission a baseball park under the guise of refurbishing a neighborhood park. You don't move the playground or the skatepark. You want to put a toxic rubber surface over our drinking water. This is nuts. Scrap both plans. A move to take out baseball by soccer is all this is.	Jun 26, 2011 9:17 AM
73	A baseball field is needed in any plan.	Jun 26, 2011 8:16 AM
74	The baseball diamond should be included.	Jun 26, 2011 8:15 AM

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

75	Keep the baseball field.	Jun 26, 2011 8:13 AM
76	Maintain the baseball field.	Jun 26, 2011 8:13 AM
77	The plan is most appealing with a baseball/softball field.	Jun 26, 2011 8:12 AM
78	Why do we need such a big entrance? make the field space as big as possible.	Jun 25, 2011 2:33 PM
79	With the talk of possible movement of the historic pumping station it was not clear if that would allow expansion of the park west. If this is a real possibility perhaps in the immediate term meeting the athletic needs of youth sports would be viable. Then at the point of expansion adding a walking path could be accomplished. Having natural green space available for sports also means that space is available for walking and other not athletic activity when not utilized for organized sports.	Jun 25, 2011 11:44 AM
80	I would like to see the field maximized - adding 10 more feet so it can accommodate more leagues/sports.	Jun 25, 2011 10:37 AM
81	Please consider a temporary backstop. No to the path and make the largest possible soccer field (300 ft)	Jun 25, 2011 9:02 AM
82	I would prefer keeping the baseball diamond. How come that is no longer an option?	Jun 25, 2011 7:33 AM
83	We have 4 kids who play sports and would like additional field space (for all sports) in Oak Park.	Jun 24, 2011 9:40 PM
84	make the largest field possible for soccer. Keep the lights.	Jun 24, 2011 8:54 PM
85	I have three kids that play soccer. We love it and want better soccer fields.	Jun 24, 2011 6:26 PM
86	Soccer is becoming increasingly popular in OP. The PD should accommodate the needs of our children.	Jun 24, 2011 2:45 PM
87	I would agree that a soccer field is needed that does not turn to swamp when it rains.	Jun 24, 2011 2:19 PM
88	Concept A could be much improved by increasing the length of the field 20 feet so that it could be used for a U-12 soccer game. To do that it needs to be at least 270 X 150 feet, so the width can even be reduced if necessary.	Jun 24, 2011 12:54 PM
89	Put lights on the field.	Jun 24, 2011 12:47 PM
90	Please make the biggest possible soccer field suitable for U12. We have nice walking paths throughout the village but very few playing fields. Keep the lights.	Jun 24, 2011 12:27 PM
91	Keep the lights. We have other nice walking paths in the village, not that many playing fields.	Jun 24, 2011 12:24 PM
92	Please consider the removable backstop for baseball and the largest possible field for soccer. Please do not pave over the scarce playing fields we have in the village to add a walking path.	Jun 24, 2011 12:15 PM

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

93	I do not prefer A or B as there is no baseball diamond. WE NEED MORE BASEBALL DIAMONDS IN OP, NOT LESS! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? (Yes, I realize I am yelling....)	Jun 24, 2011 11:50 AM
94	Please just make a field that is USEful (e.g. large enough) for kids to play on.	Jun 24, 2011 11:36 AM
95	Make the largest possible soccer field and keep the lights. Relocate the playground. Thanks	Jun 24, 2011 9:07 AM
96	Consider a portable backstop. Keep the lights.	Jun 24, 2011 9:02 AM
97	How much space beyond the soccer end and side lines are required by the artificial turf construction? The field current dimensions are not fully adequate for U12 which requires at least 300 ft in length. Can you move the playground further east?	Jun 24, 2011 8:58 AM
98	Keep the lights. The path around will not give enough space for the goals. Which are 10-12 feet deep.	Jun 24, 2011 8:44 AM
99	Please consider the largest possible (east-west) field for soccer, keep the lights and consider a portable backstop for baseball. Love the artificial turf.	Jun 24, 2011 8:35 AM
100	I think the looping walking path is a must have but will definitely not like losing the baseball field.	Jun 23, 2011 9:38 PM
101	As a neighbor of the park, I prefer concept B because it offers people of all ages a chance to enjoy the park through nice entrances and a walking path that provides good circulation. I like the size of the field in concept B which can be used for U10 soccer and also the idea of a temporary backstop so that baseball/softball can use the area too.	Jun 23, 2011 6:15 PM
102	DO NOT REMOVE BALL FIELD!!!!	Jun 23, 2011 4:53 PM
103	trees are essential to clean air and beauty- so the more that can be incorporated, the better.	Jun 23, 2011 4:45 PM
104	I believe B (with a baseball diamond that includes a temporary backstop), is the most practical solution. Complete removal of walking paths turns a neighborhood park into a sports park...and that just isn't fair or just. Those of us living around/near the park could enjoy walking paths YEAR ROUND and provide added vitality, security (through our presence), and engagement with all generations if walking paths are provided. While Concept A provides more walking paths, I KNOW that I can compromise..just like advocates for soccer and baseball can...and successfully coexist with Concept B. Lets make this a community/neighborhood park -- not a sports park.	Jun 23, 2011 4:33 PM
105	Very exciting!	Jun 23, 2011 3:55 PM
106	Neither Concept A nor B included keeping the ball field. What happened to Concept C? Baseball is important in Oak Park.	Jun 23, 2011 3:41 PM

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

107	As a neighbor of and frequent visitor to Stevenson Park, I prefer Concept B for many reasons. First, I am a big fan of the walking path as I believe it will literally and figuratively open the park up to many groups who currently don't use it much. The loop path makes the park fully accessible to those with strollers, those with disabilities, our seniors, adults looking to exercise and families taking a walk. It could help make Stevenson Park a destination location for people within the immediate neighborhood and beyond. Second, I favor Concept B because it has more trees incorporated in the plan. I strongly support this from both an aesthetic and ecological perspective. Lastly, I support the inclusion of a large multi-use field. I support OPYBS and AYSO and my kids happily participate in both. That being said, the size of the field in Concept A is not that much larger than the field in Concept B. According to AYSO, neither field is large enough for AYSO U12 use. So I ask, why not choose a plan that provides a path and more trees if the field sizes are, for all intents and purposes, equivalent? I sincerely thank you for your time.	Jun 23, 2011 3:00 PM
108	I would hope the location and size of the field could be designed to accomodate a (permanent?) baseball backstop, preferably in the NE corner, to allow for the circulation path,a new NW entrance and a useful (even if not the ultimate) synthetic multi-purpose field.	Jun 23, 2011 1:11 PM
109	I only support a or b with a baseball backdrop in one corner of the open space. Otherwise I support new options.	Jun 23, 2011 12:53 PM
110	Add a baseball diamond and you have the perfect compromise of a very large multipurpose field (and not "maximum" that crowds out other uses!), a welcoming NW corner entrance, walking path, larger playground. Win, Win, Win!	Jun 23, 2011 12:42 PM
111	Please change Concept A to include an extra 10 feet of field space on the west and an extra 20 feet of field space on the east. The broad double entranceway that cuts through the middle of this small park is not needed. Get rid of the western portion of that and recapture that space for the field and playground. Plant buffer trees between those two uses. There is a shortage of field space in the village but there is not a shortage of places to walk. Please stop paving over open space with walking paths.	Jun 23, 2011 11:58 AM
112	Please make the best of both A and B by adding a shade-element to B and keeping the lovely walking path. Parents would like to get exercise while keeping an eye on the playground and monitoring games of their kids.	Jun 23, 2011 11:14 AM
113	We need all- weather playing surfaces	Jun 23, 2011 10:53 AM
114	Elements of concept B that I prefer to concept A include: straight entry way from Humphrey into the park on the south side (as opposed to the curved), maximized playground space after final massaging of design (not less than 9,000sf), improved entryway to the park from the northwest corner of the park --- even if that is simply to the playing fields, and not connected by pathways to the rest of the park. As for the size of the artificial turf field, as long as it does not exceed the size of the current field, I honestly have little opinion. As for removal of the backstop, I am in favor of whatever reasonable solution, in terms of cost and maintenance, may be reached to possibly keep baseball at the park. I also want to thank the parks department and the planners for all their work to bring the community the best plan possible, and refining the designs to meet the needs of us, the neighbors of Stevenson Park.	Jun 23, 2011 10:12 AM

Q3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Stevenson Park Site Plan?

115	Stevenson represents the best chance for an artificial multi-sport field with lights. In order to maximize the effectiveness and provide the most relief to the stress on other grass parks, we should seize this opportunity to maximize the size of the field. I believe a temporary backstop solution is best, and OPYBS President Jeffries is committed to supporting it. While I support a playground, it should be recognized that the two most vocal supporters are running private daycare businesses and using the park to support their business.	Jun 23, 2011 9:57 AM
116	Keep the lights	Jun 23, 2011 9:52 AM
117	Please try to make the field as long East-West as possible, and try to accomodate a removable beisball backstop	Jun 23, 2011 9:50 AM
118	Yes...keep a baseball diamond on the large field also....do not take away this element,	Jun 23, 2011 9:36 AM