

## Park District Citizen Committee

November 24, 2014

### Minutes

In attendance: Jan Arnold, Diane Stanke, David Wick, Laura Stamp, Steven Miller, Nathan Halsabeck, Ben Ahring, Kassie Porreca, Kate Readling, Susan Cicelsky

218 Madison project: Demolition has begun inside. Roof rip-off begins next week. The building houses not just administrative offices, but also buildings and grounds. Recreation staff (who are now scattered in various parks) will be brought back into the central office after renovations. Approximately 60 personnel are housed in this space. Newspaper reports that quoted much lower numbers were mistaken. Although partnering with D97 on office space did not work out, the Park District will continue to collaborate with the school district on other projects whenever it is feasible and appropriate. Renovation will be completed at the end of March. Staff are working in various locations throughout the Park District until that time.

Field Park master plan update: Altamanu ran the meeting. Some suggestions from the public were: Change the soccer field into three smaller fields, add exercise equipment along the walking path, clean up the bocce ball court, add signage, and put in some benches to make the area more attractive.

Update from the Comprehensive Master Plan team: The last group meeting was held earlier this afternoon. The final draft of the plan will be presented to the Park Board next week for their consideration.

2015 Day Camp Registration timeline: PDOP received feedback the residents like the lottery system; however, staff has requested to waive the lottery system this year. Open registration will begin on 2/2 for Oak Park residents, and after two weeks, registration will open to non-residents. Other summer day camp programs in the Chicago area typically open registration on King Day, so this timeline will bring us more in line with other area programs. All camps will begin at 8:00 a.m. (a uniform start time) and will end between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. Ending time is staggered so that if parents have children in different programs they can pick them up. Last year, drive-by drop-off was instituted and that was popular. That will continue this year. It is a big convenience for parents. The question was raised: What if parents are used to the lottery system and miss the window for registration? Answer: There is a big communication push to alert everyone about the new system. E-mail, notices online, communication in the OPFYI, etc. Camp-A-Palooza will be held at RCRC, with WiFi access so that people can register on the spot. A \$25 deposit is required to hold a spot in a program, with the balance due in May.

December meeting: If a December meeting is needed, it will be moved from December 22 to December 15. Jan and Ben will confer and decide whether we need to meet.

Park Tour for new PDCC members: Jan is happy to schedule a park tour for any PDCC member who has not had one. It will be a drive-by tour of all PDOP facilities and takes approximately 90 minutes. Tours will be held in March.

Capital Project Update:

Lindberg: The project is complete and fences are coming down next Monday. 25-30 plants were stolen (rose bushes and others). Bike racks will be installed in the spring.

Park signage: New signage following the uniform policy is going up in all parks and the old signs are coming down.

Carroll: The fence is up until March.

Austin Gardens: Waiting on cost estimates for the project. Grant was submitted for funding for solar panels and geo-thermal. Timeline is: Out to bid in January, award bid in February, begin project in March. The goal is platinum LEED status, green roof. The building was removed last week. Some damaged and sick trees were removed, but those logs will be repurposed at the Conservatory. The plan is to have an eco-based pre-school program there. A suggestion was made to try to make some of the green features visible for educational purposes (such as plexiglass panels to see into the walls) or a model. It is already part of the plan to have display cases and placards to provide that type of information within the space.

Stevenson: The field project there is postponed. There will be no synthetic turf field. Jan is working with D97 to determine an alternative location for the field. The Stevenson field is leased from the Village and is not owned by PDOP. Some citizens are opposed to the use of synthetic turf. The PDOP is aware of the options that are available and the current research on synthetic turf and its safety.

Maple: The whole project will be completed in 2015, instead of broken up over 2015 and 2016.

There will be a new member joining PDCC: Josh Clayman.

The PDOP and D97 boards have signed an intergovernmental agreement for field maintenance. This includes installing new sod in several fields. The agreement is mutually beneficial and will improve the quality of fields for all.

Submitted: Kassie Porreca

# Park District Citizens Committee Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2014 Meeting

Secretary: Steven Miller

**Attendees:** Steven Miller, Kassie Porreca, Jeff Gillman, Lauren VanderBerg, Nathan Helsabeck, Michael Nowicki, Cate Readling, Diane Stanke (PDOP), Laura Stamp, Ben Ahring, Jan Arnold (PDOP), and Susan Cicelsky

Introductions – Prospective new member Susan Cicelsky

No public present

Approved September 14, 2014 Meeting minutes

## **Discussion:**

D97 Intergovernmental Agreement – Jan Arnold

PD does NOT use D97 fields. PD only schedules the field use.

- PD has not provided maintenance of D97 fields (except 3) in the past but the PD is criticized for all the poor condition of D97 fields
- Intergovernmental agreement will give PD full control of all D97 field maintenance
- PD will be paid/full reimbursement by D97 to cover all costs associated with field maintenance
- PD will hire one full time employee plus part time to care for grass and baseball diamonds
- Estimated to cost \$100-\$125k per year
- Will require purchase of new mower, PD will chose and be reimbursed, PD responsible for mower maintenance
- PD wants to put sod out this fall, weather permitting, to get head start at elementary schools
- Committee member suggested to have PD make hardscape assessment and identify deficiencies (i.e backstops etc..)
- Question: Why does PD want to do this? Jan Arnold response: Everybody benefits and will take load off PD fields. Also, PD has been getting blamed in the past so now they can truly take responsibility.

## **2015 Master Site Plan Representatives:**

- Barrie has never had a master site plan due to recent environmental remediation at park.

- PD needs PDCC committee volunteers for Barrie master plan development, Lauren and Nathan volunteered. Jeff and Steve volunteered to follow the Andersen site plan revisit and Laura and Mike volunteered to follow the Austin Gardens site plan revisit.

### **Open Discussion:**

Lauren suggested gym/rec center location at current health club at former Cadillac dealer on south side of Madison east of Oak Park Ave.

- PD will be hiring a consultant to do a feasibility study for potential Recreation Center in OP.

Another Recreation Center site suggestion was NE corner of OP Ave and Madison vacant lot owned by VOP

Susan suggested PD work with OP YMCA to improve Y. She also suggested a “bubble” over Rehm pool.

Ridgeland Common was tagged/graffitied on east side of building in mid-October. Jan received a call at 6am and the graffiti was removed by 2pm the same day. The “street artists”/criminals gained access via the Union Pacific railroad immediately south of RC. Jan is working with Union Pacific to put up barbed wire to prevent access. Barbed wire cost approximately \$4,000 for 100 feet. Jan also wants to install video cameras to monitor tracks along south side of RC. Cameras can NOT monitor pool area for liability reasons.

Another problem is people going onto railroad tracks from the ball fields west of RC to retrieve balls etc... .

Jan is also working with Union Pacific to help figure out what is feasible to prevent balls from getting onto railroad right of way, i.e. netting.

Jan said PD is looking into new land acquisitions and going to identify potential lots, i.e. RUSH OP Hospital land on 500 block of Wenonah. PD budgets \$200k/year for land acquisition.

PD is trying to get programming ideas for Adults. Need PDCC help. Jan will have Maureen McCarthy (PDOP) come to future PDCC meeting to get ideas.

PD working with Cook County forest preserves to accept OP dog pass at forest preserve dog parks.

PD plans to add Stevenson as an after school facility.

### **Capital Project Update – Jan Arnold:**

Lindberg NE corner opened. Lindberg ball fields will open Dec 1.

Carroll construction fence will come down in March.

Cheney Mansion greenhouse finished.

Cavalcade of Pride award from VOP for Cheney Mansion and for RCRC for the new signage.

PD Administration building renovation started and all occupants have temporarily moved into various PD facilities. Administration building renovations should be completed by end of March 2015.

New Austin Gardens Environmental Center: LEED Platinum goal, hope to have graywater system, geothermal heating and cooling, solar power generation. Hope to have certified preschool at Austin Gardens with environmental emphasis.

Maple Park will have a continuous walking path and pickle ball installed in fall 2015.

Temporary ice rinks will be installed this winter at Austin Gardens, Longfellow, and Taylor parks

Fitness class punch cards starting with a \$60/month unlimited option. Babysitting will be available at Stevenson park.

Oak Park Intergovernmental meeting was held on October 25, 2014. All six government entities were present.

- Meeting was open to the public
- Good meeting/very helpful
- Discussed budgets and fund balances
- Discussed minimum wage increase impact on local government (PD impact - \$250,000/year with \$2.50/hour increase in minimum wage)

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.