

Greening Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 2014

Present: Travis Stevens, Chris Wollmuth, Peggy McGrath, Steve Miller, Ginger Vanderveer, Don Nehr., Patti Staley, Jan Arnold, Scott Stewart, McLouis Robinet, Mark Pellettieri.

Approval of October Minutes – approved.

Building Task Force Summary – Austin education building to be nearly NetZero with 70 PV panels and a ground source heat pump. The building footprint will be 2400 sq. ft. with interpretive displays to show the function of the power sources. New sidewalks around the building will be crushed stone for permeability. Budget allowing, there will be two rain collection systems, one will be underground and another will sit above ground and show how the gutters send the water to the storage unit. A nearby patio will use permeable pavers. The building layout will consist of one large education room and a smaller room for workshops. Bathrooms will be accessible from both the inside and outside of the building. Part of the lower ceiling roofs will be green roofs with vegetation (no access – just photos). The Park District is looking for suggestions from our group on education programming. One suggestion is that a model of the building be produced to show how the PV and geothermal work to produce power.

Report from Jan – The Park District submitted grant requests for much of the clean energy technology for Austin. Decisions will be announced in February. The plan is for the Austin building to be LEED Platinum. Some storage access will be given to the nearby theater group.

The Comprehensive Master Plan is almost complete and will cover the next 10 years in the Park District. Jan will present plans to the board on Dec. 4th. Master Plan for Barrie and reviews for Austin (after the current plan is complete)/Anderson will be completed in 2015. An intergovernmental agreement has been worked out with District 97 regarding field maintenance. The Park District decided not to join work space with District 97. The existing PD building will be renovated. Staff are currently working in various facilities until the PD office building is completely renovated. Lindberg's fence (protecting renovations) will come down in December.

Old Business – Conservatory grounds renovations are starting. The Bioswale on the east side will be complete in December. The Discovery Garden will be 3000 sq. ft. This and the Garfield Street design are almost complete (Altamanu doing the design). These new gardens will comprise the 4th and 5th showrooms for the conservatory. Expecting bids in January and start of work in March.

Artificial Turf Discussion – Talked about the issues and the Washington State discovery of cancer in soccer players. Discussed how GAC can contribute to a critical, analytical, and scientific evaluation of research being produced about artificial turf fields. Discussed the possibility of using some other type of fill (not rubber tires) in order to diminish potential health dangers of artificial turf. Jan has said she will look at all factors when deciding on artificial turf. Stevenson will not be artificial turf. The Park District would like one more artificial turf field in order to provide enough play time in adverse weather conditions.

Greening Advisory Committee
Park District of Oak Park, Illinois

Minutes January 13, 2015

Members Present: Chris Wollmuth (Chair), Peggy McGrath, Don Nekrosius, Mark Pellettieri, McLouis Robinet; Park District Staff Jan Arnold, Mike Grandy, Patti Staley, Travis Stephen.

1. There were no public visitors.
2. No public comment.
3. Minutes of the December 2, 2014, meeting approved as submitted.

4. Task Force Reports

A. On the topic of turf, members met with Travis Stephen to review the current status of turf management and found that to the greatest extent possible, organic methods are followed by the PDOP staff. Travis reported that the turf tests out at 10% organic matter, well above the amount typically found in playing fields.

An experimental application of "Nike Grind," a mix of ground tennis shoe soles and sand is under discussion with District 97 for use on the field east of Percy Julian Middle School. In the current turf planning, this will be the final, foreseeable artificial turf surface. Given the limits of labor and economic resources, and given the demands on all our park surfaces, the PDOP follows management practices that are efficient and of low impact on the high demand for safe and playable fields.

B. PDOP Updates from Jan Arnold: Two projects are under way at the Oak Park Conservatory, the Elsie Jacobseon Discovery Garden and the Garfield St. renovation. The projects will be bid out in January with work expected to start in March and finish by June of 2015. The bioswale along East Avenue was delayed due to inclement weather. Additionally, the proposed plant list for the Discovery Garden was approved, and a 400 gallon in ground cistern will serve the water feature there.

The interview process seeking a Conservatory Manager and Environmental Leader is underway with anticipation that a candidate will be chosen and installed by March of 2015. Former Manager Scott Stewart has generously agreed to continue to advise on the ongoing projects at the conservatory and Austin Gardens begun under his leadership.

The Illinois Department of Transportation has moved into a six month environmental study phase for work on I-290. PDOP facilities—Barrie Park, Rheem Pool and the Conservatory—will be impacted by both the IDOT and CTA work, and they will be meeting with the Board of the PDOP to present expected effects.

ASLAD has awarded the PDOP a grant for Euclid Park.

The Austin Garden Environmental Center bids will go out in February, 2015, leading to a LEED platinum facility. Charlie Seville will advise on that process. The facility will include a geothermal system, solar energy array, and rain water