



## **Euclid Square Park Site Plan**

### **Focus Group Meeting # 2**

#### **Participants: Creative Play, Passive Space and Sports Areas**

Tim Bannon, AYSO  
Christine Graves, PDOP Board Member  
Gerard Sullivan, Fenwick High School  
Paul Zimmerman, Roosevelt Road Business Association  
John Mac Manus, Altamanu, Inc.  
Josephine Bellalta, Altamanu, Inc.

**Location: Meeting held at Oak Park Conservatory  
615 Garfield Blvd., Oak Park IL, 60304**

**Date and Time: March 23, 2009, 7:00 pm**

#### **Introduction**

Executive Director, Gary Balling introduced the project and proposed process to the meeting attendees. He spoke about the use of the Tennis Courts by Fenwick High School and Dominican University and that they contribute to PDOP for maintenance. \$5,000 a year per institution is paid to PDOP. Gary also spoke of park improvement time frames. There is \$380,000 set aside for phase 1 in the year 2010. The PDOP will probably apply for a matching grant from IDNR. 5 recreation components are needed to apply for the grant and that could be difficult in such a small park.

#### **General**

This is a pretty park  
Bucolic with the hills—reading, watching a game, etc  
Wonderful neighborhood park  
Tot-lot is great  
Compact area but used quite well  
Euclid Sq. seems to be a park for smaller kids?  
Yes very much  
More people in a park makes it safer  
People like evergreen grouping as buffer;

bank is good buffer;  
Baseball season is wonderful  
people drive there for baseball  
parking is not a problem  
When was park designed [80s and late 60's]

### **Soccer**

AYSO is fine for purposes U8 soccer games (6 on 6) 30-50 space is fine  
Short term goals are being met for soccer

### **Dogs and Tennis Courts**

People let their dogs loose in the park  
Or use the courts  
We have seen a few dangerous incidents with dogs going for kids in the tennis courts  
In spring after thaw we will pick up dog droppings on courts  
No side fencing is fine for playing to prevent use by dogs in Tennis courts  
If no side fencing--Drill group would get balls into Wesley Ave. or playground on west  
Maybe build up a berm on sides of courts?  
How about moving the courts?

### **Roosevelt Road**

Last year, Roosevelt Rd. Business Assoc. sponsored their first street fair from Oak Park Ave to ---.  
Wanted to use park for children activities, but the park is too buffered from Roosevelt to see  
and then use for this event.  
Roosevelt Rd. redo in 2010 fall --more likely a resurface rather than a rebuild  
Underground road work at Berwyn side in progress  
Roosevelt Rd. work involves all three municipalities which is a great step forward  
Start lobbying for a police substation on Roosevelt Road--would like it at Taylor and Roosevelt  
Oak Park side is more residential than commercial. The Berwyn side has a TIFF  
People want green space in the plan for Roosevelt Road--  
being able to see the park from Roosevelt Rd. might be nice  
Could acquire Bank of America and make open space (?)  
Would not be popular with residents.  
I will suggest it anyway

### **Drainage**

If it rains on Wednesday by weekend other parks are still wet but Euclid is draining  
Never seen a problem in middle of field (a complete contradiction to first meeting and on site  
photos)  
But has seen drainage issues behind backstop to the south

Not so happy about patch of yellow grass

## Tennis

We see a few serious players at Euclid

40 kids in Fenwick program on two levels

They have a program for cleaning up Euclid Sq. and Taylor Park each spring

Fenwick program tries not to have competitions at Euclid, they prefer Taylor

Boys and girls are on different seasons, spring and fall.

The entire park is local therefore tennis players from Fenwick may seem to be outsiders to locals?

One neighbor won't let tennis players park their cars on residential side of the street, even though it is public. We have to park along park. We can fill a whole stretch on Wesley with cars. Practice is on weekday afternoons spring and fall. Right after school before public school children get out of school. So there is no conflict.

Fenwick plays mostly in summer in heat of day—around 1-1 :30 pm

Fenwick uses 3 courts of the 4 except a couple of weeks of camps when all 4 are used

Hispanic men play tennis soccer on the courts

Fenwick rarely has to move people off court

But locals find it galling to have someone have more right to their courts

Coach teaches kids to be deferential

Found a pipe with pot on a bench next to tennis court, gang graffiti on sidewalk

Not designed to a really high quality tennis surface

It was in very very poor condition when we started using it in early 90's.

Had five lifts on it, much too many, it is structurally unstable.

Used Forest Park until made it too restrictive and expensive

\$5,000 a year per institution is paid to PDOP.

First year patched up and holes filled

Would probably need to redo the gravel fill beneath the courts, in very poor condition

People standing on the base line have created puddles—dents

Courts are serviceable but not ideal.

Need 5 courts to play competitions and host meets.

Additional court at Euclid would not change much—they would still use Taylor for competitions

USTA will give grants for rehabilitation of tennis courts of 4 courts or more

PDOP should focus rehab of tennis on Lindberg, Taylor, and Euclid with a center for each area of the Village

We should take each sport the PDOP offers and have a plan for it.

If these courts are redone with PDOP money, Oak Park residents will be upset because other sports are more popular. But we could get a grant.

Tennis may not be as popular as it was but it is growing faster than golf

USTA is just starting quick start tennis (300-400 kids) using the AYSO model. Designed for smaller kids (10 & under) utilizing smaller rackets & courts, tennis practice, softer balls, game-based skill development, play on team i.e. each park. It is a huge success.

Problem with tennis with small kids is can't hit ball over net—this model would quadruple the number of courts for small kids

That would fit with this park as it focuses on young kids. This park would be a good site for this USTA quick start program  
People are quitting private tennis and going to public courts  
80% of tennis is played on public courts  
No need for more benches along tennis courts for matches  
Trees are wonderful with shade on slope for tennis teams  
Tennis was occupied all weekend  
lighting courts is not as much an issue if tennis is in south  
we could have coin-fed lights  
other tennis courts in Oak Park are lit until 10 pm  
throw down lanes for quick tennis for small children  
quick start tennis is perfect use for Euclid kids  
fits in with age group of users  
tennis players will drive there  
Courts are used as much by young kids and by adults  
Resident likes watching people play tennis—does not have a problem with where the tennis is  
But if we are going to spend money redoing them anyway where is the best location for them?  
Talked about possibility of moving tennis—discussion  
What if tennis courts would be two and two with playground in the middle  
How would that affect Fenwick use?—fine  
Have things changed since the start of Fenwick using tennis?  
Always uneasy alliance with private and public space  
What is perception of Fenwick using courts?  
People were surprised that there were allotted times for use by others  
Wish there was more transparency for the public as to what PDOP does with Fenwick  
Majority of Fenwick kids using courts are from Oak Park; they are not outsiders  
Last year Fenwick tennis coach tried to put up more signs around the courts to let neighbors know they were playing  
Then again, someone reserves baseball field for most of the summer  
Dominican does not use this one [tennis court] as much

### **Teens hanging out at night?**

A lot of people come from Berwyn but it is not a problem  
What is the park situation on the north side of Berwyn—they don't have much.  
I live a block away and never seen any indication of anything "nefarious"

### **Traffic**

Intersections dangerous---Wesley and Fillmore. People run the stop sign  
Oak Park Ave and Fillmore is a speed trap  
They can't cross Oak Park Ave so cops wait to stop cars  
A flashing cross walk sign at Wesley and at Euclid Ave. would be good  
When you are driving east you don't see park until last minute and people don't realize that there is a park or a tot lot on the corner  
Also, poor visibility at Wesley due to hedgerow and fence

### **Concepts**

Kids are comfortable closer inside the park

The playground is on a busy corner

Not that busy but we could move it

Playground should be immersed in park

Move courts to the south; and if ball field was flipped?

Play up to Shetland 11-12 yr olds in upper league

People with most proximity to park will have most reaction to happenings in park. They are near lights, see more going on, concerned about traffic flow, seems different relationship of neighbors than at other parks

Considered a tranquil park, as long as people feel that there are not going to be other dynamics