

**Park District of Oak Park
Lindberg Park Site Master Plan
Community Meeting #3
November 3, 2010, 7pm
Mann School, 921 N. Kenilworth**

Introduction

Community Meeting #3 for the Lindberg Park Site Master Plan was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at Horace Mann Elementary School. Representatives from Wolff Landscape Architecture (WLA), Park District of Oak Park (PDOP), the Park District Citizen Committee (PDCC), the Greening Advisory Committee (GAC), and approximately 150 members of the public were in attendance.

Gary Balling, Executive Director, PDOP, introduced the project. PDOP has been developing master plans for all its properties, and the Lindberg Park Site Master Plan is the eighteenth master plan undertaken to date. The Site Master Plan is intended to provide direction for the site moving forward as funds become available. \$450,000 has been allocated in 2013 for improvements to Lindberg Park.

Two focus group meetings were held on September 14, 2010, with representatives from the following organizations: PDOP (building and grounds, safety and security, recreational and athletic programming, and other staff), GAC, PDCC, American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Oak Park – River Forest Strikers Soccer Club (OPRF Strikers), Oak Park – River Forest Pony Baseball (OPRF Pony), and the Memorial Trust Committee. Minutes from the focus group meetings are available on the PDOP website (www.oakparkparks.com).

Community meeting #1 for the Lindberg Park Site Master Plan was held at 7:00pm on Wednesday, September 22, 2010, at Horace Mann Elementary school. Representatives from WLA, PDOP, the Park District Citizen Committee (PDCC), the Greening Advisory Committee (GAC), and approximately 25 members of the public were in attendance.

An online questionnaire was posted on PDOP's website from September 23 to October 1 to seek additional public input.

Community Meeting #2 for the Lindberg Park Site Master Plan was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at Horace Mann Elementary School. Representatives from WLA, PDOP, the Park District Citizen Committee (PDCC), the Greening Advisory Committee (GAC), and approximately 90 members of the public were in attendance.

A second online questionnaire was posted on PDOP's website from October 14 to October 27 to seek additional public input.

Input received at the focus groups, community meeting #1, community meeting #2, and the responses to the two questionnaires were used in preparing the presentation for community meeting #3.

All presentation materials from the Lindberg Park Site Master Plan process have been posted on the PDOP website.

Project Overview

WLA presented a brief history of Lindberg Park, Lindberg Park's mission statement, and a plan showing the existing conditions of Lindberg Park, including a breakdown of "active" and "passive" recreation areas, nomenclature used by the PDOP to characterize Lindberg Park.

Previous steps: Focus groups, Community Meeting #1, Community Meeting #2, Questionnaire responses

WLA summarized topics of discussion from all previous meetings and read a selection of questionnaire responses.

Areas requiring further discussion

WLA identified the following areas requiring discussion and presented options and recommendations for each:

- Athletic field turf options
- Athletic field lighting
- Athletic field revised layout and re-grading
- Shelter

Areas of general agreement

WLA identified the following areas of general agreement and presented recommendations for each:

- "No Parking / Drop-off Zone" signs
- ADA warning strips at park entrances
- Ornamental plantings at park entrances
- Remove or relocate shrubs at park edges where low visibility causes safety hazards
- WLA / PDOP recommended walking loop path
- Replace tot lot at the end of its useful life; add bucket swings for tots
- Upgrade baseball backstops, fencing, bleachers, and provide designated pitching warm-up areas
- Shift tennis courts to allow for minimum 12' between courts
- Replace prairie plantings around flagpole with low-profile seed mix
- Continue annual prescribed burn of Prairie Trial Gardens (PTG); add interpretive signage

Recommendations

WLA summarized the presentation and made the following recommendations:

- Add entrance to the northeast corner of the park (west of intersection of LeMoyne Street and alley)
- Add path along southern edge of raised "plateau" area on park property, and along the east edge of the park near the alley in order to complete loop around park
- Replace existing tot lot at the end of its useful life; expand to include bucket swings for younger children; do not add equipment for older children (available at Field Park)
- Upgrade backstops, benches, fencing, and bleachers; install bleachers on concrete pads; provide designated warm-up areas with small backstops
- Expand existing paving to provide three regulation recreational tennis courts; remove excess paving west of courts
- Do not add lighting to tennis courts
- Do not add basketball courts

- Remove existing prairie planting around flagpole and replace with lower-growing plants
- Install 3 –4 foot turf edge or “mow strip” around Prairie Trial Gardens
- Continue annual prescribed burn regimen
- Recruit volunteers to ensure success of the gardens
- Add interpretive signage to identify plants

Discussion

WLA opened the floor to members of the community, who were each given three minutes to speak. The following comments were made:

- Consider a model vegetable garden for children; this should be located near the tot lot
- Concern about PDOP’s financial and logistical ability to maintain high performance athletic turf
- Ongoing interest in synthetic turf
- Ongoing interest in sports lighting
- Perception of poor / no irrigation in athletic fields
- Ongoing concern about pedestrian safety on LeMoyné Parkway due to proximity of north soccer field
- Ongoing interest in parking “lay-bys”
- Greater police presence is needed, especially in times of peak sports activity
- Request for more benches on east side of park, near sports fields (park benches, not bleachers)
- Use tents or temporary shelter instead of new permanent shelter structure or extension to roof of concession / rest room building
- Concern that re-engineered playing fields will direct water into neighbors’ basements
- Existing north field is not too small for synthetic turf
- PDOP should study athletic field options on a village-wide basis
- Do not overlap baseball outfields
- Consider expanding north “plateau” area to make room for only one larger playing field (may not require tree removal, etc.)
- Consider cisterns and other rain-harvesting techniques in conjunction with re-engineered athletic fields
- PDOP / Village of Oak Park should have a weather warning system
- Don’t shift the northwest baseball diamond; instead shave the berm to separate from left field foul line
- Build on existing partnerships with athletic organizations to improve field maintenance
- Concern about added pressure from re-grading / addition of fourth soccer field
- Eliminate north soccer field to expand “passive” recreation area
- Turf maintenance problems persist throughout all of PDOP’s parks
- Permanent tables in shelter may attract undesirable activity, e.g. large informal gatherings

Next Steps

The third on-line questionnaire will be posted on November 4 and closed on November 14.

Community Meeting #4 will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 17th at Horace Mann Elementary School. The purpose of said meeting will be to present the final draft recommendations

Lindberg Park Site Master Plan
Meeting Notes, Community Meeting #3, November 3, 2010
Prepared November 5, 2010
Page 4 of 4

Attendees were encouraged to participate in the third and final online questionnaire, to attend the fourth and final community meeting, and to invite their friends and neighbors.

Prepared by Paul Blanding and Ted Wolff of WLA. The foregoing represents the writers' understanding of the matters discussed and the comments and directions given. Please contact Paul Blanding (pblanding@wolfflandscape.com) within three (3) calendar days from the date of the minutes with any corrections, additions, deletions, clarifications, or other changes.

Distribution

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