



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

Maple Park Community Meeting 1

Meeting held at: Park District of Oak Park, Carroll Center
1125 S. Kenilworth, Oak Park, Illinois
Date: June 18, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Comments Made By Attendees at the Meeting

Homeless

- Homeless sleep everywhere in park

Fence along Harlem

- Keep chainlink fence in order to keep visibility and let plants grow on western edge
- Fence crashed into once a year
- Perhaps using guardrail, Colorado rail, etc. on streetside of the sidewalk and another fence on the parkside of the sidewalk
- Create an ornamental fence with a combination of alternating brick and wrought iron
 - Mills Park fence is one example
- Question of closing fence for the entire Harlem length
 - Kids would jump over fence anyway – don't close the fence
 - Pedestrian deaths have happened in Maple Park area before
 - One for closing fence
 - Some people don't have cars and need to walk across park to Forest Park
 - One for leaving openings in fence
 - A gate with latch could prevent children from running through openings in fence and into Harlem

Sledding Hill/Mounds

- Dislike of mounds, dirt and mud washes onto paths after rainfall
- Place sledding hill away from paths to reduce runoff onto paths
- Kids could do drugs on the hill and police would not walk up onto hill

North End/Passive Area of Park



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- One for placing a new baseball diamond at north end, rest of attendees against idea
- T-ball practice already happens at the north end
- Lack of field space for baseball and t-ball in Oak Park
- Maybe t-batters could practice in area where tennis courts are now if the tennis courts are to be moved

Playground

- Playground is too dark, needs better visibility
- Mounds around playground are nice
- Entry to playground is too open – kids can run onto street easily
- Needs better handicap accessibility
- Playground is always full – nice playground for children
- Way too many bushes – point of visibility and hygiene (children pee in bushes and others run around in those same bushes)
- The sandlot needs to be improved and there are no swings anywhere
- Playground has a microclimate with an oasis type feel in cool shade
- Shrubs on Maple Ave. side of playground block views into and out of playground

Tennis Courts

- Tennis courts fairly popular
- Concrete court no longer used
- Tennis court area needs better handicap accessibility at entries onto courts and to the path around restrooms
- Tennis courts could be reoriented 90 degrees so there is more room for a path through the park
 - This east/west orientation would be better for tennis players at night because passing headlights would no longer be an issue
 - The east/west orientation would not be better for tennis players during the day as the sun moves east to west
- Lighting at night is poor compared to lighting at Forest Park tennis courts
 - People go to Forest Park courts at night instead
 - Keep the tennis courts at Maple, just improve the lighting at night

Dog Park

- Needs to be located by access to water
- Maybe dog park could end up at south end by gas station
- Currently no access to water at south end



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- Could get water at south end – 12K cost an issue
- Existing dog park in Forest Park on Circle across bridge
 - Need permit for Forest Park dog park
- Size of dog park?
 - Forest Park's is about 3 lots in size
 - Glenview's is 6.75 acres (almost the entirety of Maple)
 - Currently proposed area at Maple is 1/3rd of an acre or approximately 3 tennis courts in size

Skateboarding

- Impromptu skatepark at Lincoln School at evenings
- Creates lots of noise
- Could a skatepark go into Maple?
- Noise would not be an issue because of Harlem
- Skateparks already exist at Stevenson Center, Forest Park, and Berywn on 16th and Harlem
- Issue of transportation to these skateparks for younger skateboarders

Possible Playground By Baseball

- Too many traffic and parking issues at Fillmore and Maple already
- Children would run into street
- Children already run into street there
- Is there enough room for a playground between the diamonds?
- Space between diamonds would be sufficient
- Wouldn't the dust coming off of the diamonds be a problem?
- Dust is not that big an issue – needs to be a lot of wind for dust to come off infields
- What would be the cost of this playground?
- It should not be the majority of the budget

Traffic

- Too much car traffic at Maple and Fillmore – safety concern for tots running into streets
- Children already run into street with T-Ball
- Maybe use speed bumps to slow traffic
 - Oak Park does not use speed bumps – cars can hit speed bumps and lose control/swerve into park
- Make Maple one way?
 - Maybe just make the 1100 block of Maple one way



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- Maybe make it one way outbound
- Close off Maple?
- If Maple is made one way or closed, then traffic becomes increased and affected on other streets
- Maybe use cul-de-sac or half cul-de-sac
 - Could be placed at Lexington or just north of alley by Salernos
- Need to block or slow traffic on Maple somehow
- Cars come speeding off of Roosevelt
- Heavy traffic comes off of Roosevelt
- Most speeding occurs south to north – cars turning off Roosevelt onto Maple heading towards 290
- Roosevelt supposed to be redone in near future
- Roosevelt is a state route – it will not be changed by the state
- Needs to be a stop sign at Harvard
- Maybe make it No Right Turn off of Roosevelt
- Street could be narrowed like Jackson St. in order to slow traffic
 - Traffic on Jackson has not slowed
 - According to a traffic study it has slowed
 - Jackson is a wider street than Maple
 - Maple barely has enough room for two-way traffic as is
- Traffic count from Village, with note of cars' speed, needs to be done

Parking

- During t-ball season with addition of Salerno's Pizza means parking can get backed up to the tennis courts

Possible Gateway

- Creating a gateway into Oak Park could be a great idea
- Maybe using obelisk(s) like the one at Harlem and Garfield
 - Obelisks placed at the south and north ends of the park on Harlem could bookend the park
 - Could Village finance obelisk or gateway?
 - The Park District will work with the Village on the gateway costs

Final Input on Park

- Would the community have input into what will and what won't go into the park if the budget is limiting?



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- Yes it would – John to come up with general price categories (inexpensive, somewhat expensive, expensive, very expensive, etc.) for different elements that might go into the park

Walking Path

- There should be a path connecting the north end to the south end
- What would the walking path look like?
 - Concerns include baseball, Harlem, etc.
 - There could be any number of possibilities if the tennis courts move

Dogs at Maple in the Present

- Lots of dog owners who don't pick up – hygiene concern
- Issues with ticketing these owners who don't pick up
 - No Park District police
 - Oak Park Police Department has to ticket owners
- Park District should have an employee at Maple in the mornings to report dog owners who don't pick up after their dogs – he or she does not need to confront the dog owners, just ID them for the police
- Village needs to show some leadership in solving dog problems
- The Oak Park Health Department should be contacted regarding owners who don't pick up
- Otherwise tell the dog owner he should be picking up after his dog

Other Notes

- Pee-wee soccer at south end is a good idea because soccer and t-ball are in different seasons
- Garbage cans should be along Harlem and Maple so staff does not have to drive into the park in order to pick up the trash