

Pleasant Home Pavilion FAQ sheet

About the Pavilion:

Who will pay for this structure?

The vendor will erect and maintain the structure at NO cost to the Foundation or the Park District. In doing so, the vendor is anticipated to become the exclusive rental company to Pleasant Home.

What is it made of?

The pavilion would be constructed of a vinyl-like material on a steel frame. It would have a solid floor, clear windows with covers, sound-proofing, fire retardancy, lockable break-bar doors, and no tie-downs. These structures can withstand 70 mph winds, snow, excessive heat, etc. They are constructed to adhere to village code.

How will it look?

The Park District formed the Pleasant Home Foundation to oversee the restoration of the home, comprising the board of architects, community leaders and preservationists from across the Chicagoland area. The custom design of the pavilion will be architecturally sensitive to the home, will be managed by the Foundation, and will be done on a pro-bono basis.

How long will it last?

These buildings in the Midwest generally remain for 8-10 years without major maintenance. The beauty of the pavilion structure is that if in that time it is deemed no longer feasible, it can be disassembled and recycled.

About rentals at Pleasant Home:

What sort of guidelines and restrictions are placed on a renter?

In John Farson's time 1,500 people would turn out for the parties. Today, the Foundation has worked hard to create guidelines that fall well within Village ordinances so that our work remains not only respectful to the home but to the neighborhood as well. General guidelines include: guests limited to 150 inside the home, no dancing inside the home, no kegs of beer, bar must close at 10:30 p.m., music must be off or background-level at 10:30 and fully off by 11 p.m., the home closed and locked by midnight. Securing an event date requires a \$500 deposit that is kept if rules are disregarded. The home is staffed from start to finish of each event, including set-up and clean-up.

What about caterers?

Pleasant Home maintains a short list of approved caterers that we highly recommend. These businesses are familiar with our catering guidelines, are local and are respectful to the historic nature of the home. All caterers must have Village of Oak Park licenses.

What about noise?

Music is not amplified inside the home and amplified music outside the home is discouraged. Foundation staff monitors the level of music to a conversation level outside the area/room where the event is taking place, and walks the sidewalks to monitor noise level.

What if it does not become part of the Mills Park plan?

As mentioned previously, rental events bring much-needed people and money to the home, allowing the home to stay open for tours, educational programming and community service – at no cost to the Park District and taxpayer. If the home is not rented, strong consideration would need to be given to limited tours, no programming and possibly closing the site entirely. If rentals continue within the home, strong consideration should be given to changing the mission of the home to a banquet facility, not allowing tours or programming, and possibly loaning the museum quality furnishings to an appropriate facility, such as the Art Institute of Chicago or the Smithsonian Museum.

Who rents Pleasant Home?

While most people think rentals are strictly wedding receptions, they are actually the least of our rentals. Pleasant Home is rented by local residents and their adult children, local businesses, and community and social service non-profits for many types of events including wedding ceremonies, commercial photo shoots, anniversaries, meetings and retreats, arts events, and fundraisers. The local organizations using the home (generally a free or extremely reduced rate) for fund-raisers, performances, and meetings to keep THEIR service to the community have included:

Community Foundation of Oak Park and River Forest

Festival Theatre

Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust

Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest

Make a Lasting Gift

Oak Park Area Arts Council

Oak Park Volunteer Center

Oak Park Women's Guild

P.I.N.G.

And many local religious and political organizations.

And Barack Obama even filmed a commercial here.

Prepared by the Pleasant Home Foundation

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