

2nd Community Meeting for Rehm Park/Oak Park Conservatory Site Plans Meeting Notes



Re: 2nd Public Meeting for Rehm Park and OP Conservatory Site Plans
Date: August 19, 2008 at 7pm
Location: Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield Street

Gary Balling welcomed residents to 2nd public meeting, introduced TD&A team and explained project requirements, budget and project timeline. Every meeting attendee received concept plans for Rehm Park and the Conservatory.

Bob Zolomij (TD&A) presented 4 concepts for Rehm Park followed by comments and questions by residents.

Rehm Park:

The following are comments from public:

- Do not like drop-off area on concepts A, B, D – it would take away street parking along Gunderson Ave;
- Any concept that would remove existing parking in the park was not supported due to the impact on street parking;
- Generally, residents like the 3 tennis courts on concept B and C. They are heavily used by adults and children and do not want to lose one court;
- Likewise, there were residents who wanted at least one volleyball court in place of a tennis court, or two courts located farther from tennis courts (concept B) along Garfield Street;
- Question was raised about lighting for tennis courts. Some people don't like the idea of lights which would be too bright for nearby residents;
- They like the seating area by tennis courts (concept B)
- It was suggested to locate sand volleyball courts on north-east corner;
- They like the entrance to firehouse on concept B. That would help to define the walkways and traffic sign better;
- They like the concepts B and D and pergola from concept A;
- Some residents liked the idea of a new path along the north side of the meadow;
- Some liked the idea of the park area at the northeast corner of the park – improved visual appearance along Garfield;
- Suggestions included considering on-street angle parking on Garfield and making it one-way;
- Liked the idea of street trees along Garfield;

Jola Jablonska (TD&A) presented 4 concepts of Conservatory followed by comments and questions by residents.

Oak Park Conservatory:

Concepts providing larger patio areas (concepts A, C) are better solution for private events, and also provide bigger service area;

Historical entrance area as well as areas along Garfield are not the best place for seating – due to noise, wind, etc;

Parkway (concept C) would be optimal solution of streetscape improvement. Residents liked the sidewalk located farther from the street for safety reasons;

Residents generally do not like the fence around the garden on the east side (concept D). They want to freely walk through the garden;

Consider placing the Gazebo (in the west Garden) in visible spot so it could be used as a waiting area for older people;

They like open feel and natural lines of landscaping and design elements echoed through the site (concept C);

They like brick/ stone retaining wall and groundcovers instead of lawn by the sidewalk (concept D).