

THOMPSON DYKE & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

*Land Planning
Landscape Architecture
Urban Planning*

**Rehm Park and Oak Park Conservatory 4th Community Meeting
October 7, 2008 – 7pm
Oak Park Conservatory**



Meeting Notes

Approximately 35 people attended this meeting. Park District Staff in attendance included Gary Balling, Mike Grandy, Neil Adams, Henrietta Yardley, Mark Omi and Diane Stanke.

Meeting facilitators included Bob Zolomij and Jane Chen from Thompson Dyke & Associates.

Gary welcomed residents to the 4th public meeting, introduced TD&A team and explained project requirement and project timeline. Every attendee received copies of draft concept recommendations for Rehm Park and the Conservatory.

Rehm Park:

Bob Zolomij (TD&A) presented the draft concept recommendation for Rehm Park. Following the presentation, meeting attendees were each given 3 minutes to make comments.

The following are the comments received:

Comment #1

Felt the entire project is ridiculous
Money should be diverted to improving housing, not on park improvements

Comment #2

Okay plan overall
Not a bad place for the proposed sand volleyball court
Like to keep the existing three (3) tennis courts – keep as long as possible
Like the tennis courts to be fenced
Why the need to redo two courts with complete fencing?

Comment #3

Nice plan
Good compromise on location of sand volleyball courts

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Comment #4

- New concept is improved
- Overall good improvements
- Walk across the north side of meadow not needed
- No need to fence tennis courts
- Do not remove 3rd tennis court

Comment #5

- Good improvement over previous plan
- Walk south of pool not necessary
- Excellent choice for sand volleyball
- Wants the 3 tennis courts to remain
- Too much for too little space
- Wants west parking lot as green space

Comment #6

- Good improvement over previous plan
- Better location for sand volleyball courts – but no lighting
- Need to keep the 3 tennis courts
- The north path cuts into the open meadow too much
- The open small meadow south of the playground needs to be fenced along East Avenue
- Improvements to playground should be made
- 4 trees on the south boundary east of Scoville are not correct

Comment #7

- Supports the sand volleyball courts
- No need for the parking on the west side of volleyball courts – volleyball players walk or bike to the park
- Rehm is the last resort for volleyball courts

Comment #8

- Likes the pathway across the park south of the pool
- Do not know why the need to fence the tennis courts
- Raised a question as to what other activities can take place on the sand volleyball courts, compared to the tennis courts where kids can do other activities such as rollerblade
- Does not like Gunderson cut-out for drop-off/pick-up
- Overall did a good job addressing needs/desires

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Comment #9

Does not like west parking lot – could cause traffic/pedestrian problem
Better layout
Do not fence tennis courts
If north tennis court is removed, take out paths and open the area up

Comment #10

Do not fence tennis courts unless a safety issue
In favor of green space
The extra parking will create more problems

Comment #11

Do not fence tennis courts – people will use the fenced tennis courts for their dogs
No path on the south side of the pool
Doesn't like west parking lot near the playground
Best compromise we have seen so far

Comment #12

Likes the sand volleyball courts
Likes the parking lot west of the sand volleyball courts

Comment #13

No need for path on north side of meadow
Keep the 3 tennis courts
Keep the trees
Better plan

Comment #14

Okay for sand volleyball courts
Suggested that third tennis court be turned in an east-west direction on the north side of the two tennis courts

Comment #15

Issue with the number of parking spaces – the west parking lot could be open space
Fence along the south meadow on East Avenue
Too much sidewalk

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Comment #16

West parking lot is needed for the Conservatory
Good compromise
Reiterated trees have life cycles too

Oak Park Conservatory:

Bob Zolomij (TD&A) presented the draft concept recommendation for the Oak Park Conservatory followed by comments by meeting attendees.

The following are comments received:

Comment #1

This plan now provides another park
Wonderful addition to learn about plants
Keep it open to the public
Appealing and peaceful area
Install native plants
Thinks it's going to be gorgeous

Comment #2

Need to provide a perspective sketch of the street level

Comment #3

Much more sustainable plan
Able to showcase plants people can use in their yards
Currently have a terrible parking situation for the Conservatory – encourages the west parking lot in Rehm

Comment #4

Will the remainder of the alley (south of the garden) remain in concrete?
Able to showcase plants people can use in their yards
Have a terrible parking situation for the Conservatory – encourages the use of the west parking lot in Rehm Park