



Scoville Park Historic Markers and Memorials Meeting

Location: Oak Park Public Library – Veteran’s Room
Date: July 19th, 2010
Time: 3 pm

Present: Frank Lipo, Executive Director, Historical Society of Oak Park River Forest
Doug Kaare, Urban Planner, Village of Oak Park
Gary Balling, Executive Director, Park District of Oak Park
Redd Griffin, Board Member, Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park
Norb Teclaw, President, Institute for Science Education and Technology - Oak Park
John Mac Manus, Altamanu Inc.

Minutes prepared by John Mac Manus of Altamanu Inc.

Minutes of Meeting

Mr. Gary Balling, Executive Director of the Park District, made the introductions to the meeting. Mr. Balling welcomed the attendees and provided a brief summary of the park planning process thus far noting that Scoville Park is the seventeenth of eighteen parks to go through the planning process. There have been four community meetings held to date and meetings with the Park Board and the Park District Citizen Committee. During the process it was decided that it would be more appropriate to establish a special sub-committee to discuss historic markers and memorials rather than having the community meetings devoted to the subject. The members of the public invited to this meeting were people who had expressed an interest in the history of the park, placement of sculpture and historic markers.

Public Comment at Meeting

The consensus from the community meetings was that we should have a plan for the placement of historic markers that exist in the park. Oak Park is associated with Ernest Hemingway, Frank Lloyd Wright and many others that should be represented in the park.

The Hemingway Museum is adjacent to the park.

There is a tree in the NE corner dedicated to Hemingway by his sister. The plaque at the base of the tree states EH from sister Sunny.



We should approach it from the general to the specific and have images that allow people to project their own thoughts.

Universal subjects

Urban versus Rural

Which was the case when the park was first designed?

Also American versus European as this park reflects how Jens Jensen put the Midwest on display.

How about interpretive signs and handouts for a self guided tour?

We should not take away the focus from the plaza/gathering space. It should not get too crowded with memorials.

Move Percy Julian to SW corner so that Kettlestrings, a founder of Oak Park, and Julian are together.

Julian represents education, learning and openness.

Have interpretive signage that has layers of history.

One color for each type of information.

We have a lot of great architecture nearby in addition to Frank Lloyd Wright's work.

How about a see through map on glass?

We could have it at Prairie (the restaurant) or Oak Park corner and you could compare past with present.

How does Oak Park relate to the world?

Provincial versus Universal

Do not have all that info here. Let people know where the OPRF Historical Society, Hemmingway Museum and Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio information are located. They can follow up.

We will need a committee for historical signage.

Do not and should not try to tell the whole story, too much info.

A prelude and intro only

There was some divergence of opinion on approach

But we should have an International Plaza, displaying how Oak Parkers have contributed to the world
Flags of the world

Statues

Maybe but keep it simple

Not too much clutter

Put info at the entryways and keep it out of the park

Images in pavement



Dots on a map, saying here are some points of interest
Story of Jensen
Cultural transformation from Jensen's and Wright's day to today.
Agrarian versus Urban
Put images in the pavement not raised, keep it low key

Don't forget the Continental Divide
And extraordinary history
Native trails
Lake Street a native trail
Trappers and farmers
Thousand year old finds of arrow heads

Name the stage
Get a sponsor
A tent like structure would be impressive
Like a sail

Wright liked to use Platonic forms, earth, water and fire

Prehistory could be in the NW near the children's play area
Children would like the idea of Native Americans on the site
Please add a sign about the building.
The restrooms were designed by Hodgkins.
In the future we might have electronic devices, plug in an I-Pod for a tour.

Consensus Items

We will need a committee for historical and interpretive signage
We will need interpretive signage to all entryways
Should not try to do too much but act as a prelude and intro only
And let people know where the Historical Society, Hemingway Museum and Wright info is. They can follow up.
Each sign would have the same base information and something special about that area of the park and neighborhood.
i.e. Hemingway at the NE where the memorial plaque is and near the Hemingway Museum.
Move Percy Julian to SW corner so that Kettlestrings, an Oak Park founder, and Julian are together.
Julian represents education, learning and openness.