

Carroll Center Public Meeting #1

Date of Public Meeting: 10/5/2005

Location of meeting: Carroll Center

Notes taken at meeting of comments made by attendees

The drawings from the Focus Groups was reviewed
Concerns and opportunities brought up at those meetings were listed briefly

Mike Grandy discussed:

Major Park Issues

- Erosion
- Compaction
- Playground falling apart

History:

South Fields

- Ice Skating
- Volleyball
- (Mike interrupted)
- Dancing Was a vital park center
- Slip and Slide
- Crafts
- Now Nothing here for the kids to do

Need:

- Saturday morning activities
- High School Dances (memories of the past)
- Need Positive 'Hang out' for summer space

Programs:

- Spray pool
- Picnic
- Slip and Slide
- Drop in Program

Current Programs:

- Camp Acorn
- West Suburban Rec.
- Center has programs and is staffed but not every day

South School Entrance: used by Kindergarten kids

- K--Before and After School: use the Kindergarten porch and exit East/SE and move North to Harvard
- K--Recess-south from multi purpose room and then to go to play ground
- Lincoln Lane dark

There was a fence but removed between houses and school

There is a CL fence

Lincoln Lane not well landscaped but has trees

Later in meeting concept of creating an outside classroom was discussed

Concern Lincoln Lane was too dark

Suggestion to add lights

Issue and Opportunity

Improve the current center or build a new one?

Current building is limited, old

Spend money on rehab of existing or new building?

A new multi purpose facility would be very popular

How would gym and new facility relate to Lincoln Students?

Gym Availability? Would it be really available to the public?

One Entry/Shared after hours

Park/School Relationship? It is improving. New President. PD and school meetings

Gym attached to school:

- Helps with security and staffing

- Access: Day/night?

- Pre school

- Older kids

- Separate Gym

- Main user on ground floor

- Could be multi storey

- Could be linked to school gym

- School could be locked after hours

- School needs space

- More economic for PD and school to pool funds

Center:

- Should be open all day

- come and go 9-9

- Summer--need shelter from elements/heat

- need shade, no trees near main playground

Bathrooms:

- Access during games

- need to be safe and clean

- Kids use the trees

Water:

- Accessible

- attractive

- Secure

One community member wanted center separate but real concern seemed to be a worry that community would lose out

Build the new center first then demolish old center

Most seemed to like concept of new center attached to school

Why can't we have a fully staffed center?

Times have changed, PD focus changed from local community driven model to Program driven model

People drive

Teens do not use the park

Role of Carroll within larger community?

How does Carroll fit in?

Budget for improvements - \$300,000 for park - could be doubled with

with grant

House Prices:

- Can park improvements affect?
- Will it encourage gentrification
- Worry about making neighborhood too attractive
- Do not worry not enough money

Look at entire park system rather than bit by bit.

Chicken and egg situation. Need master plan of all parks to determine final distribution of amenities

Carroll Center: Ca. 1920's

- Building changed many times
- Some residents attached--not to building, but to location
- why site lines an issue--police/school concern
- Center, trees and play ground block views
- Principal could have office with views to all of park

Could make an open space that has a multi purpose green

Rebuilding of playground (ex. Ca. 1994--present)

Timeline of Planning:

80 year master plan? Let's do it in 4-5 year phases

Traffic:

- most use Harvard
- drive and bus traffic are mild
- If new center we need a traffic study
- Parking on Grove
- Very little parking or traffic on Fillmore

Center:

- Why not have a new center at SW corner? What is security issue with south west corner?
- Blocks view across park
- Not very economical Need shared facility

Parking:

- turn Church into parking not new center
- Historic building not a chance
- Separation of church from park a safety issue
- Change existing parking into playground
- Existing parking not full at night
- Teachers park on Grove and use the lot

Any suggestion of using entire block as a park?

Not 'TAKE" but right of first refusal at market value (discussion)

Or houses could be greened over time

Do not take all just 4 house and turn a round

Turn around doesn't work very well
Fire trucks back up
Garbage trucks back up alley
Could get rid of E-W alley and widen existing parking
Drive through parking lot
Do not take houses as more green space could come with the Cap the Ike
Unlikely
Oak Park badly underserved by Green space
Green space: will get more green space with cap the ike project
Lack of green space 1/5 of need. Oak Park is underserved

Residences--Access blocked because of fences
Possibility of alley becoming drive with green buffer
Widen Harvard with diagonal parking
do teachers need/like lot?
They could walk
use Grove because closer to center

how would multi-purpose green space be used?
Tennis courts rarely used, waste of space
Open Green--"Wonderful addition"
Maple Park: why is it used more?
because more visible?
Carroll is inside neighborhood

Short Term:
for young children
they use playground rather than open green
not for dog walking
put up miniature soccer goals
encourage use?
kids do not know how to organize play any more
need structured unstructured
Anything to get kids away from computer games
Structure--inspire activity

Other examples of School/PD partnership
That way both get more than working alone
School needs space, classrooms, gym, storage etc.
Would give up hard top for gym

Multi Unit Development : why is village allowing more dense development?
Houses could end up as condos

Entrance where is it
don't need 'Fancy schmancy entry
Traffic study: Harvard St., alley
with potential building at Harvard St. -- too much traffic on weekends
School can reconfigure classrooms--create more space
classrooms are tight
school out of space

Shared Space:

Testimonial by attendee: both groups benefit
off hours parking on grove?
pick up parking for school parents is issue
if shared facility--programming would be more efficient and diverse
where will little kids play? If north building addition--swings.
use kindergarten porch and Lincoln Lane

Potential New Center - 3 locations:

Shared at NE
at SW
Purchase houses and put at South

Center expanded in current location is out

General Discussion

Two houses bought --30 years ago ca. 1958 Kenilworth came out.

Outdoor space: Music and events

Exercise stations:

Some liked others said would not be used
for older people 20's, 30's , and 40's

Gary stated that the people requested circulation/jogging g paths in community survey

Carroll Center--How to make sure it is not lost if move is attempted

Community must not be abandoned

South side should get something even if new center is built on Ridgeland Commons

Wish List:

Remove Drains

Fill compacted/eroded areas

think 10 years to 4 years

Phasing every 4-5 years

Parents need place to sit

visit Barrie Park

Tot lot/Playground--sight lines between them

Tot lot: need place to push stroller--a path

Previously:

sand boxes

monument at corner of Kenilworth and Harvard

Merry-go-round

Play eq. wearing out.