PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

Committee of the Whole

Oak Park Conservatory
615 Garfield St., Oak Park
Thursday, May 4, 2006, 7:30pm

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Commissioners Present: President Kindler, Commissioners Gartland, Graves and Philion. Commissioner Bracco arrived at 7:51 p.m.

Staff Present: Gary Balling, Executive Director; Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; and Lisa Lightcap, Business Operations/HR Assistant.

II. Building and Grounds/Facility Maintenance

A. Dogs in the Park Plan

Altamanu has worked since January to determine where one or two permanent dog park(s) could be located in Oak Park through extensive research and public input. Research completed by Altamanu and staff has included site visits; research to develop site criteria based on dog parks in other communities; and discussions with Village Health Department, the IEPA and dog enthusiasts. Director Balling recommended that the Park Board consider action at the Regular Board Meeting on April 20 on the recommendations presented by Altamanu. Executive Director Gary Balling and John McManus from Altamanu, Inc. reviewed a PowerPoint presentation including the process of seven meetings and focus groups. Recommendations presented include:

1. The Park District should establish a Task Force, to work with Cook County Forest Preserve to establish a regional facility.
2. Retain the existing dog park at Ridgeland Common, by far the most popular site.
3. If Ridgeland Common can not be used at some time in the future, (after a master plan in 07), the site at Stevenson Park should be considered as an alternative.
4. Establish a Dog Park in Taylor Park; however, it should be considered temporary until the Master Plan for Taylor Park is carried out in 2007.
5. Investigate the possibility of purchasing the privately held site at Garfield and Home.
6. Evaluate the potential of a Dog Park at Maple Park as part of the master plan in 2007.

The Board expressed their concerns for the locations presented for a permanent Dog Park site, especially at Taylor Park. The Board thanked John McManus for staying and discussing Taylor Park site. The Board requested that the recommendations be shared with the public and President Kindler requested more feedback from the public in coming weeks before Board meeting at which the Board will consider action on the recommendations.

B. Field Park Site Master Plan - Josephine Bellalta from Altamanu, Inc. described the process for the Field Park Site Master plan which included focus groups and two community meetings. Four concepts initially presented to the public were narrowed to one for presentation to the Board. Ms. Bellalta explained that the public generally liked the idea of having a Center at the park, but they were not generally attached to the current facility. People also felt that trees could be moved to gain more open space but also felt strongly that they should be replaced. Of the four concepts, the public preferred Scheme 2. In addition, in all four focus groups, it was mentioned that the parking lot should be moved. Ms. Bellalta presented a plan to the Board which includes the following aspects:

- Field Center remains but is phased out if the Center can be relocated. A new Center is attached to school. This new Indoor space could include a Preschool, a Multi-Purpose and a Gymnasium.
- Two baseball fields, soccer field.
- 1/3 mile Path/loop and increased berms.
- Splash pad
- A theme of Eugene Field is who the park was named after.
- Interesting plantings around pathway with interactive landscape. 28 trees are taken out to increase green space, but 143 new trees would be put into the park

Jamil Bou-saab of Terra Engineering discussed the phasing plan which includes four phases. Phase 1 includes the entry and new playground, Phase 2 includes the south baseball fields, Phase 3 includes the north baseball fields and Phase 4 is moving the parking lot. The Board requested that the Field Park Site Master Plan be placed on the May 18 Consent Agenda. Director Balling explained that Phase I renovation work will take place in 2007 and the Capital Improvement Plan allocates $250,000 for master plan improvements and $232,500 for center and park improvements in 2007 at this site.

C. 218 Madison Master Plan Update – Staff has been meeting on a weekly basis to gather information as we begin this planning process. A working group made up of staff, Commissioner Gartland, Kurt Mackey, Rick Kuner and Doug Varn have been gathered to assist in determining the focus of the plan. The focus of the plan will likely be short term modifications to make the facility more effective and secondly a space study to determine how much space the gymnastics, buildings & grounds and administration need.

D. Recreation Center Historic Stewardship Committee Update – May 8 Meeting - The Committee toured Andersen, Field and Carroll Centers on April 23. Their next meeting will take place on Monday, May 8 at 7pm at Carroll Center with presentations from Marty Hackl and Jack Barclay.

E. Spring Park Tour – The annual spring park tour is scheduled for Friday, May 12 from 8:45am to 11:45am. Sites to be visited include Fox, Longfellow, Maple and Ridgeland Common.

F. Hardware and Lock Improvements Bid – Old Business at Regular Board Meeting We will be accepting bids for community center door, frame and hardware replacement in the next few weeks. Bids are due on this Wednesday, May 3. A recommendation will be given to the board at the Regular Board Meeting in May. Once the bids and costs for locks and hardware are received, staff will prepare to go out for new roofs at Andersen, Carroll, Field and Barrie.

G. Community Center Roofing Bid Update – The Community Center Roofing Bid results and a recommendation will be presented to the Board in June.

H. Oak Park Planning Guidelines for Recreation Facilities – The Board was presented with the Oak Park Planning Guidelines for Recreation Facilities which evolved from the comprehensive master planning process and were established by the Park District Citizen Committee. These guidelines are unique to Oak Park and will be considered during all park planning projects and are necessary for most grant applications. These guidelines are meant to assist in planning, but are not an absolute blue print. They must be taken into account when considering a total, well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas and will be used as a resource in all Park District planning processes. This item will be placed on the May 18 Consent Agenda.

I. Infant Welfare Society ASID Designer Showcase – Cheney Mansion Contract - The Board reviewed a first draft of the Infant Welfare Designer Showcase Agreement. The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society contacted the Park District of Oak Park in July of 2005 to discuss the possibility of using Cheney Mansion for its 35th Annual OPRF Infant Welfare Society Showcase House and Garden. In September 2005, the Park Board instructed staff to proceed with negotiations with the OPRF Infant Welfare Society with the intent of entering into a partnership agreement if all terms are worked out to the satisfaction of both parties. Staff has worked with the Infant Welfare Society and Attorney Burkland to complete the attached agreement for your review. The partnership would result in the majority of the interior of Cheney Mansion being redecorated. There is also the potential of the installation of new appliances and upgrading of the Mansion's kitchen. Although many improvements would be made to the Mansion as part of the showcase, one of the more overriding positive outcomes would be approximately 5,000 visitors to the Cheney Mansion during its term as a Showcase House. Members of the Board will tour Cheney Mansion on Thursday, May 11 at 9am with members of the Infant Welfare Society to prepare for the Showcase. The Infant Welfare Society would also like the Park Board to tour their facility in the near future. Director Balling stated that he hopes the agreement will be finalized so the Board can consider action on it at the May 18 Board Meeting.

III. <u>Administration and Finance Committee</u>

A. OSLAD Grant Authorization - To complete the OSLAD grant application for Carroll Park renovation work, a Resolution of Authorization must be adopted by the Park Board. The Carroll site master planning process began in mid 2005. The Carroll Park site master plan, completed by Altamanu, Inc., was accepted by the Park

Board in December 2005. Phase One renovation of Carroll Park is slated to begin in 2007 to allot time for the Park District to submit an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant application. Park District staff has been working with Charles Schrader and Associates to complete the application for the OSLAD Grant. Possible improvements will include loop around park, ball field improvements, playground improvements, a nature area, a fitness area. The Park District is requesting a matching grant up to $400,000. Director Balling recommended that the Board adopt the Resolution of Authorization for the State of Illinois OSLAD grant application and authorize Executive Director Balling to sign the agreement. The Board requested that this item be placed on the May 18 Consent Agenda.

B. Personnel Policy Manual Update – Director Balling explained that our attorney, Holland and Knight, has completed a review of the personnel policy manual and provided a few revisions. The Board requested that the policy manual be placed on the May 18 Consent Agenda.

IV. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

A. Request for Sponsorship Annual Fourth of July Fireworks – GALA

As in previous years, Community Bank and the Great American Lightshow Association Charitable Trust have requested sponsorship from the Park District for the Fourth of July Fireworks show. Director Balling says this event is a great partnership and recommended that the sponsorship continue. The Board agreed and requested that this item be placed on the May 18 Consent Agenda.

V. New Business - Director Balling explained that prior to meeting on May 18, a working group meeting will be held to talk to others about Regional Dog Facility Task Force.

VI. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

VII. Adjournment - A motion was made by Commissioner Graves and seconded by Commissioner Philion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 pm. Motion carried in a voice vote of 5:0.

Secretary	**President**
Board of Park Commissioners	**Board of Park Commissioners**
August 17, 2006	**August 17, 2006**
Date	**Date**