**Carroll Park** **Focus Group Meeting** **Buildings Grounds Safety & Security** **28-Sep-05**
at Lincoln School

Park Users
Local use, local community, some Berwyn users at Park
Convenient location in neighborhood
family use
Lincoln students use play equipment
Well subdivided by age groups
Private party use of building is a concern that the park can't be used (only 3 times last yr)
Policed by sub station in Carroll Center
usually police car in neighborhood
park district polices park well
in the past graffiti at Euclid and Maple Parks but not Carroll
Old Catch Basin for street is existing utility
utilities still under old street can't be moved
Drive pattern and drop off developed for safety
see school safety plan
drop off on Harvard is reason for so many concrete courtesy walk at parkways
buses drop off at east end of Harvard
cars drop off at west end of Harvard
drop off at Fillmore
years ago problems with skateboarders local and less tough drug users from Berwyn
skateboarders have used BB area and were from Forest Park and mooning principal
park district and school have to work together to plan for signage which is inconsistent
regarding usage, hours and access to restrooms
signage inconsistencies are issues for policing
expand gym as shared use
historically significant building -- get report
socially historically significant
bldg. could be moved/demolished
building is part of group set
cull de sac could be moved further away from center of park--improves field of vision
issue for parents to view both play areas of different age groups
Stevenson of age group proximity layout
kindergarten kids exit the cafeteria on south center and go west to playground
safety concern, no view into area and kids could easily go out on the street
parents of k kids pick up at SE seating area
police can't see south end of park while patrolling--mounds, shrubbery, vines, but
neighbors have buffer but can be safety issue
south field positive to be separate, no overlapping users
no place to park for Carroll center drop off of preschool kids
could share existing lot for parents dropping off
Fillmore is open for parking?
check available parking around school
building--moving or replace--collection of buildings
collection of buildings move valuable le as set.
do we need a new building?
expand ex. School building--i.e..... new shared gym
south end of building for K and cafeteria
removing residences??-4 isolated houses
removing residences would need to come from residents themselves

parking used to max capacity
playground--federal grant money--will we have to pay back?
if playground moved there will be unobstructed views
good to have unobstructed views from school and major streets
keep parking numbers, but lot could be reconfigured.
use of church as center and close of street--traffic patterns too difficult.
church building non HC accessible too many levels
nice rooms in church
congregation small and fading.
school--too much asphalt
school--want to keep staff parking
needs to be a contract between park and school re signage, traffic, rules/regulations to be consistent
village secured agreement from school district to be able to use their property--should be added to inter-governmental agreement
wish list--gym, multi use space (Basket ball program, floor hockey, jogging, etc.)

**Meeting #2 Park District and Oak Park Staff**

Carroll Center built 1922-24 approx 800 sq ft, Stucco and Lumber
1965 brick veneer, difficult to repair enlarged to 1600sq. Ft.
1977 Timber form Play equipment on sand
1994 EQ. play equipment approx 15 year life span almost expired
2003 new 6 in gauge 6 ft v. coated fence on North side
Alley fence gal.. CLF 6ft high
Guardrail full length of alley, has been very useful at protecting fence
Light towers, need bolt changes
Subsurface road material still in place
Remnants of cement structure on west side of infield
South Filed shad asphalt parking structure, subsurface may still be in place
New play structure in tot lot (Kompan/landscape structures
Village owns west, school district east of Kenilworth
Main playground 1. Structure 2.Rubber surface. 3 Floor boards of apparatus
Poor condition 2-3 years left
Paid for by CDBG (Community block grant), School District, Park District, PTO and in-kind services
Replacement parts hard to find for playground eqt.
Play ground. Could be removed and reused
District likes hard surfaces in fall and winter
They plow it and pile snow mostly at N and S ends
Deliveries to school come from the Cul-de-sac to back door of school.
Trucks bump curb, drive through the parking lot, and then leave by gap in fence by north entry to school
Parkway disturbed by it
Alley, by houses on south end not used much,
Fire trucks do not use it, nor can they turn around in the turn around of the cul de sac.
Garbage trucks back up many alleys in Oak Pk.
There are no marking on the hard top to direct trucks
Kids use all sides of school and play tennis and other games against the wall
School bus on Grove and Kindergarten pick up at K porch.
K hrs. 8-11 am, 12-3 pm
Possible programming:

couple of centers neighborhood based; preschool & after school care
physical structure does not lend to the above
not conducive to adult evening activities
Demand for organized recreation
does the park district want rental use
with a shared structure you have shared safety and supervision
exterior access for after school and evening programs in a shared program,
cut school off
district 97 and park district could combine funds
at Dole staffing issues-- staff arrive at different times
need to coordinate operations
entry point and prime user on ground floor
Possible entry point to school at south end if new addition on North
north is most logical side for expansion; could be phased in
need flexible space for recreation
what will we need 10 years from now who knows
few places for passive recreation in community in general
school needs more gym space
potential for drop off at north end of site
existing gym has locker rooms to west
Carroll and Mann are the only centers where there is potential for expansion of indoor recreation
neighborhood service program more important than center itself
pool of users has shrunk to kids 5th grade and below
mothers with young children do not want to travel to parks outside the immediate neighborhood
teenagers use outside neighborhood facilities
if center comes down-tell the community that the programs won't be abandoned in the park
need flexibility; requirements may change
keep multi purpose space
some garden areas if there is maintenance and irrigation
some people picnic in south field area
renovated church issues would be how to link to park
potential of closing/repaving area of street with drop off and emergency vehicle use
possible removal of houses
removal of 4 west houses only
concern about taking them off tax roll
concern about politics
acquire properties through attrition or rights of first refusal
cannot get rid of parking on site but could reconfigure
could phase project to eventually incorporate area of existing houses
resources need to be multi task; staff to cover more roles
liked view corridors opening up
Fox Center disastrous example of trying to acquire houses
move drop off to the north
Carroll center has mi escuela program
Vision of expanded gym and multipurpose room = 4000 sf
1500 sf + storage + office (500 sf)
1.5 times the size of existing gym
2-3 meeting rooms
multi storied (2)

can't take out diamond
competition for all open space
soccer; lacrosse; fall ball;
only 2 full size fields (Lindbergh, Taylor; Barrie)
23 softball fields left out of 28 previously
irrigation as base bid --entire site; alternate 1--flower beds only; alternate 2--hose bibs

**Meeting #3 Lincoln School and PTO**

This group examined 5 different locations for a new building
Current site, south and attached to the school at NW and SW
each site had positive and negative effects
The group consensus was to attach it to the building at the north
Baseball field has a conflict behind the cage at the entry,
No protection from kids hitting balls
Move dug outs further down the line
Lots of erosion and muck
Youth Baseball huge in Oak Park
School keeps kids off the grass and field because of mud
if to expand school would need:
individual rooms--running out of rooms
school houses all after school programs--scouts; drama; park district sports; Hephzibah chess club, etc.
park district assigns someone i.e. high school student to man doors in evening, but not always show up
when Carroll is in use no other users can use the center
overflow goes to….
blacktop outside of school has four square; circle to organize groups; used for assembly and lunch time access
fields used for baseball, football, multi-purpose during school hours
tot lot used by kindergarten, first grade and second grade.
first and second grade kids have option of using larger play equipment
black top has track lanes--50 yards, 100 yards--3 or 4 lanes
hoop thing (HT) which would be better relocated to the north side of the building
seating area to the SE of the school is called Lincoln Lane where Kindergarten parents gather to pick up their kids
Issue of uneven sidewalk at Grove st.
No access/egress for kids at Grove st. entrance
Deliveries in back at blacktop for Market Day, summer deliveries, furniture/equipment usually in summer
blacktop used as parking area during summer
south side used for class picnic/Olympic day
new building would like to see: classrooms used for after school, community meetings, basketball, gym, movies etc.
existing gym--sharing difficult, no storage space for equipment
park district schedule takes precedence after 4 pm
school district fills out requests for space, goes to district warehouse, space is assigned
School usually too late to reserve space
park district has stable programming, while schools programming is variable
Hephzibah user mini gym; 3-6 pm everyday of the year / summer
need classroom space which is attached to school
locker rooms, band room, offices for staff and storage

skateboarders are trashing the steps and porches--use bungy material so they can't use.
dead space at east of gym
playground closed to public during school hours
tot lot--local users asked to leave while k+1st+2nd use it (but more neighborhood use in general
principal would like living space close or attached to school
nice buffer between school and neighborhood center area
scouts, etc. cannot usually use the center--because it is booked.
meeting rooms could double as classrooms at new gym
Wednesdays after 2 pm is very difficult; cant share spaces and housing kids is very difficult a lot of conflict over space
*if separate parks and school space then more welcoming to public (!Q!)*
Carroll users are Lincoln users though
*public outcry (will have) demolish center and expand school.*
public thinks as Carroll/Lincoln are one.
*if addition provides new spaces--with clear user*
expand center at current location
*if new gym goes in could access be changed--yes*
parents still use Harvard for drop off
move building to SW end of school.
visibility on 3 sides and 2nd floor for gym, 3rd floor for conference rooms, scouts, etc.
split field use can have advantages
center play equipment gets 12-14 hour use/day
first house at parking lot apt. bldg.
permit perking--not full at night, daytime use full by teachers.
parking must be replaced if taken out of that location
Kindergarteners don't use playground or if they do it is with teacher present
50/50 survey response regarding wanting all day kindergarten
Separate area for kindergarten play, fenced and secure but not high fence, it should not look like a prison
Potentially take 4 houses by attrition, corner house a Lincoln family
Closest house is apartments, may be easier to acquire
Make new park and building bike friendly
protect the memorial trees move if necessary
Number 1 sport is baseball make sure to speak with John R. when we design new fields
Concession stands would bring in income for park and leagues
Could be open from 5 to 7 pm at parks
Ice cream cones would be great and are a success elsewhere
New building and park should have clear user designation
Splitting field could have advantages
One person thought we should expand the Center at the current location
Harvard is still the major drop off, most will not use the turn around
Building should have gym, conference rooms, rooms fro scouts and chess club
Play ground gets used all day
Parking not full at night used by teachers during day
If changed replace spaces elsewhere
Final consensus plan has baseball in south and a large multipurpose field

**Meeting # 4  Creative/Structured Play, Passive and Active Recreation, Gardens**

FOPC Initially wanted gardens but at the end of the meeting stated that the park was

too intensely used

Carroll Center
Not open enough, could be used constantly if coordinated
The Center use for evening social programs and all day weekend
WSSF Needs more space it could be 3 times bigger
How about two stories over a basement
Looking for secured early childhood play space

New building
next to building a great idea,
looked at 5 locations
prioritizing use of spaces is critical
Need building at south end anyway
A building at the south end would prohibit another building att. to school
Existing outdoor restrooms are not known and are unsafe for small kids
Need to be able to get to restrooms from outside at all times park open
Bathrooms at Ridgeland and Taylor
Make sure new delivery route to school and new building
Trucks bump curb and drive across park

Creative Play
How about an adventure play
Discussion of Adventure Play suggests that it would need a lot of maintenance
need storage space as well
Could make an unusual playground that is more educational
Lincoln Lane could be a good site as it is beside Kindergarten
Could be an outdoor classroom for plays, reading see Franklin Park next to North School
Altamanu has some experience with this concept
What would be in an Adventure Playground?
Children create their own play, cycles of growth, learning about environment,
wood, sand, water, building materials, etc.
Must be accessible
Potential grants/funding sources
KABOOM
OPRF Community Foundation
Oak Park /River Forest Foundation got
ADM grant from Grand Victoria, also interest free loans for
Early childhood Development
Land use for creative rec
Work force development
Illinois Facilities Fund

Contact Carolyn Saxton, Executive Director but leaving in November

Soccer
6-7 year olds need 100 x 150 ft.
could get two fields in if we changed hard top and drop off
Park District has indoor soccer at Ridgeland
Some Catholic schools have indoor soccer
Indoor Baseball at High School
Need 30-50-60 ft whatever they can get
Grounds flood, puddle, mucky and in summer are parched

Must remove sub base from field
Create flexibility, if we can get bigger fields we could move soccer from park to park
All public field space is gold
Baseball is sacred in Oak Park
Concessions
Don has a  mailing list for volunteers

Landscape
Keep existing trees, move if necessary
Improve drainage

Deliveries from drop off