Scoville Park Master Plan Update

Presentation March 21st, 2018
Tonight

• Brief Review of Park District’s Planning Process
• Cost of Renovations and Repairs from 2013
• Brief Review of Master Plan 2010
• A Comparison: The Park before and after Renovations
• Some Suggestions for new Elements
• Your opinions and Ideas
Comparison 2010 and 2018

“Make the park more open and inviting”
Major Concern of Community Members 2010

“What is Oak Park’s most lovely park? I’d say Scoville Park”.
Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 2018

“and newly crafted, spacious entries at Lake and Oak Park and Oak Park and Ontario, this park is open and accessible”.
Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 2018
Construction Costs

- Essential Peace Memorial Restoration 2010: $320,000

“There is the World War 1 monument Peace Triumphant, at the summit of the crest. As profound and meaningful, as handsome and well cared for as any war remembrance a small town can boast”

Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 03.14.2018

And now it has an Appropriate Setting

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Construction Costs

• Park Renovation completed 2013 : Centennial of Jensen’s Design

Renovation of Park : Construction Cost $2.2 M

Grant Awarded to PDOP $1.6 million

Please Note:
Improvements were to be carried out in 4 Phases over many years

However the PDOP won IDNR PARC grant of $1.6 million
As a result the work was completed in a single phase
Grant Application and Approval

Illinois Department of Natural Resources PARC grant $1.6 million

PDOP
Made Application. Made presentations & gathered support from local Historical Groups & Village Historic Preservation Commission.

Altamanu
Researched Jensen’s Original Designs
Showed How the Park Changed over Time
Showed How the New Plan Restored some of Jensen’s Path System and
How the New Plan Interpreted Jensen’s Design
Prepared Presentations to IDNR
The Scoville Park Site Master Plan – Process in 2010

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 5</td>
<td>Greening Advisory Committee Walk Through</td>
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<td>March 3rd and 4th</td>
<td>Focus Group Meetings at Library</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 24th</td>
<td>Community Meeting #1 at Library</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 25th</td>
<td>1st Questionnaire posted</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 21st</td>
<td>Community Mtg #2 at Library</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 22nd</td>
<td>2nd Questionnaire posted</td>
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<td>Monday, April 26th</td>
<td>C.O.W. Field Center</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 11th</td>
<td>Community Mtg #3</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 25th</td>
<td>Community Mtg #4</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 3rd</td>
<td>C.O.W. at the Conservatory</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 17th</td>
<td>Park Board Mtg. at Administrative Center</td>
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- Additional meetings held about Tennis Courts & potential locations for the fountain

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Scoville Park was a Close Call: 1910 Hotel Proposed on Site

Scoville was “Sacred Ground dedicated to the future glory of the community”

Submitted by Nancy Holmes
From 2010 Master Plan Process: Site History

1912 Park District Established
Buys Scoville Home

1913: House is demolished and Jens Jensen begins design for a park
Jens Jensen forms “Friends of our Native Landscape”

1912: Park District Established, buys Scoville home
1908: Jensen helps found The Prairie Club
1888: Library is built
1871: James Scoville buys and subdivides land
1857: James Scoville buys land including the site
1833: Joseph Kettlestrings buys land
Oak Savanna along edge of The Oak Park Spit
Detailed Site Examination: Especially the Jensen Plan

Overlay of Jensen Plan of 1913 over park 2010. Jensen’s Paths in Orange
Early Consensus in 2010

- Need Path along Ontario
- Fence to protect Playground but with another northern entrance
- Tot lot to be updated and remain 2-5 age group
- Improve tennis courts and lights (but how many was in question)
- Direct Access and Plaza around the Peace Memorial
- Expand meadow but keep it passive
- Path along southern edge of the meadow (Lake Street)
- Stage integrated into park
- Open up entry at Oak Park & Lake

Make park more ‘open and inviting’
but discourage hanging out in problem areas.
“Citizens at the meetings disagreed on whether to remove one of the park's lit tennis courts to expand the park's playground, as well as the eventual location of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed fountain.....

*Wednesday Journal 5/26/2010*
As a result

PDOP requested Altamanu to carry out a study numbering all tennis courts in Oak Park and determining distance from each other and how many were needed compared to national standards.

• Another community meeting was held that was heavily attended by supporters of the tennis courts. The 3 courts were restored.

• After multiple Board of the PDOP meetings the Fountain Remained at Current Location

But Most were Very Pleased with both the Process and Design

5/26/2010

“I think what you achieved here is a synthesis between man and nature," said Redd Griffin, board member of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park.
Find the Entry!!

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
“Not very welcoming - Entryway almost hidden – Open up plaza to welcome residents, Provide lots of seating that can be seen from Oak Park Avenue – Needs a Floral Display”
Design Concept “Welcome with Open Arms”
Entry welcomes visitors and has become a Place
Why? Because of Mound and Wall in Front of Library
Other Issues: The Temporary Stage 2010

Issues: Liability due to temporary design and during erection/dismantling
Cost of labor, Storage and Stage was to be Replaced due to Age

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Power for Stage Added. New Path Completes a Peripheral Circuit around Park. It also provides a Pleasant Path to Library.
Stage became part of Path System and Design Aesthetic

“and a sage area near Lake Street that is both a focal point when the bands are playing and invisible otherwise”.

Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 03.14.2018
Meadow was also Enlarged

Added much needed space and Path for Day in the Village

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Stage After Renovation

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
“One area that nearly everyone involved sought to change is the alcove on the park's southwest corner. The area that has been a hotspot for drug users for years and is difficult for police and other officials to see into, according to police and Park District officials”.  

Wednesday Journal 5/26/2010
Mounds and Trees Obscure Corner
South West Entry 2010 : Small Entry
“How do you get into this Park? Not Very Welcoming”
Unpleasant concrete seating and retaining walls.

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Unpleasant poured-in-place concrete seating and retaining walls. Issues with Illicit Activities.
Unpleasant poured-in-place concrete seating and retaining walls. Issues with Illicit Activities
"It's all about the Memorial, Open Park and Provide Views to Memorial"
Design Comparison
After Renovation Opens Up to Park and View of Memorial

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Entry After Renovation Opens Up to Park and to Library
Park separated from Library by Walls, Mounds and Planting
Park separated from Library by Walls, Mounds and Planting
People wore a path through the planting to Library
Library Plaza: View where there used to be a Wall

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
“How about that library, shining down on Scoville Park, its glass and copper façade, always a stunner” Dan Haley Wednesday Journal 03.14.18
“How about that library, shining down on Scoville Park, its glass and copper façade, always a stunner” Dan Haley Wednesday Journal 03.14.18
North West Side: Playground in 2010

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Desire Lines, Erosion and Mud, No Protection From Street

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
“rest stations... that work and are unlocked for the first time in decades”
Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 03.14.2018

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Playground is more than 3 times the size of the Old One
There Were Issues with the Poured-In-Place Surface

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Need for a Path Along Ontario in 2010

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
2010 and After Renovation

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
North East Corner in 2010

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
North East Corner After Renovation

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Added Bump Out to Reduce Crossing Distance

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The World War I Memorial

Designed by Oak Park sculptor Gilbert P. Riswold in 1921

Fabricated by American Art Bronze Foundry in Chicago

Dedicated on November 11, 1925
Restoration of the Memorial

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Restoration of the Memorial

Conservation by Sculpture & Objects Studio, Forest Park, IL

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Comparison: Restored Monument Unveiled Nov. 7, 2010

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
No Direct Link Between Meadow & Memorial. R R Ties acted as Barriers
R R Ties were falling Apart

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New Plaza Design Interpreted Jensen's Original Design

Jensen had a proto-council ring at Scoville, it became one of his signature design elements

“We can interpret this element and design an urban plaza for today”
Community Meeting 2010
Laid Out Various Potential Spaces On Site
Before Renovation of Memorial & Peace Plaza

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
After Renovation

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
How It Is Used

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
How It is Used
Flower Beds were Popular in 2010

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Some Residents Think There Should Be More Flowers
Construction of Peace Plaza

Major Trees Protected by Root Pruning & Root Aeration Matting

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Scoville Park Fountain or the Horse Show Fountain
Wright in collaboration & sculptor Richard Bock
Originally installed on Lake Street in 1903
Close to the center line of the park
Deteriorated over time and demolished
Replica installed 1969
Commemorating Wright’s 100th birthday
Note: Houses on Lake Street
Note: Scoville House on Hill, Fence Around the Park and Older Lower Elevation of Lake Street
Fountain 1940

Note: Scoville House Gone, Elevation of Lake Street & Metal Bands Holding the Fountain Together
Current Condition

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Potential Additions to Park

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Potential Additions to Park: Consider a Park within a Park

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Potential Additions to Park
Potential Additions to Park

Examples of Boulders

Frank Lloyd Wright

Oak Park History

Pages on Rocks

Ernest Hemingway
Design Comparison Before and After Improvements

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Your Comments

Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park