



Wenonah Park Master Plan Update Community Meeting

Re: Review of the Master Plan from 2009 and Park Improvements
Location: Fox Center
Date: February 21, 2018
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

Ms. Jan Arnold, Executive Director of the Park District (PD) made introductions and provided background on the funding for park improvements. Ms. Arnold explained how funds are allocated and how each park has been improved in turn. Currently the PD makes over \$3M profit a year from its programs. Approx. \$M1 is allocated to park improvements. Furthermore the PD has received multiple grants that have enabled the PD to complete projects in one go rather than the multiple phase that had been expected. Scoville Park is an example. The PD was awarded a grant of \$1.6 M towards construction. The PD looks at each park in turn so the funds and improvements can be spread across the entire community in an equitable manner.

Ms. Arnold introduced John Mac Manus and Josephine Bellalta of the landscape design firm Altamanu. Altamanu has worked on many of the park master plans and improvement projects including work on the Conservatory.

Mr. Mac Manus gave a presentation that re-examined the Master Plan from 2009 and described the improvements carried out. He then showed images of present day conditions and of some potential ideas for future improvements. He then opened the meeting up for public comment.

The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on line at Website: www.pdop.org

Comment (Notes only)

- Community members were very positive about the improvements in 2010.
- Next door neighbor:
 - The park is nice, pleasant, kids enjoy it.
 - She does not like the bell though. It is very loud.



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- Glad to see the turtle used--three generations in their family have played with it.
- It is a small park and there is no more space for additional equipment.
- There used to be small cars the children could play with but they have disappeared over the years.

- There are lovely plants to the left of the Wenonah side entry gate but they get mauled by the kids. This could be a place for logs and wood steppers.
- The planting in general does poorly except the grasses. Better to give it over to play space.
- I live ½ block away. Grandchildren use the park and in winter they need to get out of the house and so come to the park.
 - The kids are attracted to the mud pit that develops at the sand box.
 - The park should be an all-weather environment
 - Drain the puddle
 - Plants are a waste in a play area as they get trampled.
- Other resident:
 - Agrees with the sand box pooling issue
 - Cats are also attracted to the sand box
 - Resident called for the removal of the sand box. Meeting in agreement.
 - Landscape is a waste as it gets trampled
 - But trees are very important, lots of shade.
- There is not enough stuff to do in the sand box
- Kids throw sand at the face on the one kid using the digger
- Sand ends up piled up on the picnic table
- It would be good to be able to use it
- A swing set with bucket swings would be great
- Lives 4 blocks away:
 - Love the park
 - Seems run down all the time
 - Sand is everywhere, there is mud, and the landscape is trampled
 - Would love mounds like at Euclid (covered in rubber)
 - Park is nice and shady
- Encapsulate the turtle as it is too big and tall for the small kids. Maybe put it on a mound.
- Plants along alley are nice and survive
- Screening along fence at alley would be good
- Could use netting as is used at Ridgeland
- Add play panels that kids could draw on
- Concern about panels being covered with graffiti. It has been an issue in the area
- Like the idea of bringing in natural components (log steppers, tree trunks - most agree)
- Sand is nice but it is an issue
- Lives 2 doors from park:
 - Sand is a mess



- There is not a lot of space in the sand box
- Would be nice to block off alley views
- Add grasses at the Harrison fence
- Harrison access is used sometimes, but the gate needs to be fixed as the latch sticks
- Wenonah access gate drags, needs to be lifted
- Don't like entrance on Harrison – closing it would be a good idea
- Don't want to have to worry about two gates when you have small kids
- Need to protect the playground from people on Harrison coming from train
- Maybe block some of the views from Harrison with play panels
- But police need to be able to see in
- Are there going to be sound walls along I-290 when 290 is reconstructed?
- Yes the area voted for them but there will be a revote closer to construction

Summary of recommendations

- Make park year round
- Add mounds
- Add logs in particular at NW of Park
- Remove sand box
- Remove gate on Harrison
- Fix drainage
- Add some sort of screening to alley and parts of Harrison fences
- A loop path is a good idea
- Bell is irritating and gets full of tree sap (yellow piece on play structure)
- Maybe include natural sound idea like at Garfield Park (xylophone made of wood not all agree more noise?)
- Add a periscope as at Carroll Park
- Keep the picnic table if the sand is removed
- Could we mound rubber over tree roots as at Euclid?
- Maybe add fence at SE corner to keep plants from being trampled
- Add planting clustered at east side corners of the park
- Add warning sign/speed bump on Harrison (neighbors need to petition from Village)

Ms. Arnold thanked everyone for their input and attendance and closed the meeting. Ms. Arnold stated that Altamanu would work with PD staff to come up some concepts for future improvements. Currently there are no funds allocated for improvements as the improvements to the Park are only 10 years old. However, there will be a presentation to the Park Board about this meeting and the potential of additions and improvements in April to which all were welcome to attend. Ms. Arnold stated the PD would contact attendees by email with updates. Ms. Arnold informed the meeting that the presentation would be uploaded to the PD website and that attendees should share it with their friends and neighbors. Ms. Arnold then thanked the attendees for their involvement and closed the meeting.

End of Minutes



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This is a general understanding of the comments made at the meeting.
Minutes prepared by Josephine Bellalta of Altamanu Inc.