



## Scoville Park Master Plan Update Community Meeting

**Re:** Review of Master Plan from 2010 and Park Improvements 2013  
**Location:** Cheney Mansion  
**Date:** March 21st, 2018  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

### Minutes of Meeting

Ms. Jan Arnold, Executive Director of the Park District made introductions and gave a synopsis of the overall PDOP planning process. Ms. Arnold explained how each master plan is reviewed after every 10 years or less to provide the community a forum in which to discuss the continuing evolution of the parks. Tonight was one of those opportunities for the community. There is no funding currently assigned for further improvements to the park.

Ms. Arnold also provided background on the funding for park improvements. Ms. Arnold explained how funds are allocated. The PD looks at each park in turn so the funds and improvements can be spread across the entire community in an equitable manner.

Currently the PD makes over \$3M profit a year from its programs. Approx. \$M1M 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 phases that had been expected. Scoville Park is an example. The PD was awarded a grant of \$1.6 M towards construction.

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.

Mr. Mac Manus gave a presentation that included:

- 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

He then opened the meeting up for public comment.

**The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on line at Website: [www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org)**



## Summary of Public Comments

Overall the community members present expressed their love for the park and an appreciation of the improvements. The primary concern expressed was that the PDOP should concentrate on the maintenance of “this beautiful park”.

### **Overall**

The park shows good design and beautiful workmanship.

### **Water Element**

Jensen always had a waterway / element; any thoughts of adding one?

The history of water elements in the park was discussed. Most of the parks had a water feature however they were removed during the polio scare. Today the safety requirements are also very different. We would probably have to fence off any ponds. Fountains are also a maintenance headache. There was a pond at Austin Gardens. People fed the swans. Unfortunately they were overgenerous and the food pond attracted vermin.

Maybe Boch Fountain is the water element for now?

### **Flowers**

We would like to see more flowers.

The monument is beautiful but it could use more flower beds. It deserves a proper setting.

Flowers used to be changed all the time... with the seasons.

Currently there are more perennials, they are more sustainable, cost effective and are native.

I like the use of native plants but they are not as showy as annuals.

Tulip display on NE corner is great

Soften the new blue signage with flowers

Maybe some annuals mixed in.

### **Tennis Courts**

Please add Pickleball -No pickle ball in center of town.

Ms. Arnold stated: we have no objections to pickle **b**Ball. It makes the best use of the limited space we have. Multiple sports on a tennis court

It is the fastest growing sport for senior citizens in America

### **Monument and Adjacent Green Space**

Gravel spreads, gets on bronze plaques

Kids always playing/climbing on the monument

Getting rid of gravel will help

It does not get plowed



Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds stated that the surround to the monument needs to be porous to drain moisture away from the monument. We will have to look into alternates.

Ms. Arnold suggested adding boulders to the green space to the west as it might encourage smaller children to climb on the boulders and not the monument.

The kids stay in the playground  
Would you add path to boulders?

J Mac stated: Not necessarily, we try to reduce the amount of concrete in the park.  
I don't think the boulders are cheesy. They could work if inscribed with quotes from writers from Oak Park;  
A good connection to the library.

Park is beautiful now-would hate to see more in it.  
Don't put too much into it.  
We have very little ~~space~~ open space in Oak Park.

Does anyone here use that space?  
Yes. The west side is the quiet side of park. It is a good place to sit and read.  
The Oak Park side is loud. Opening up the park let the noise in.

John Borland, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor stated: There are a lot of smaller trees in that area. Trees grow and they often restrict access and restrict sightlines. We (PDOP maintenance) need to be able to get into the park. We used to be able to drive through the SE corner, same on west side. We need to be able to get the machines in for snow removal. When we had to replace the sand in the playground we had to use wheel barrows and take it out by hand. Something that should take hours took all day.

#### **Park Conditions**

There is a lot of trash in the park and around the library

Ms. Arnold said that the PDOP had previously depended on outside contractors for turf maintenance but had now hired staff for turf maintenance with great results. Staff is also working on preventive maintenance.

Sorry back to trash. Is there any attempt to work with the library? Is there any exchange with library?  
There are homeless people in the park waiting for PADS  
Or the library to open.  
Waiting for their next meal  
What about a waiting station for people going to PADS at the Food Pantry.  
When I was in Portugal they had cool looking lockers for the homeless. They were bright yellow -maybe add in strategic locations for homeless.

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Could go in front of the library  
Or in parking garage

Ms. Arnold said that: ~~yes yes I was talking with them today. We,~~ the Park District and Library collaborate on many issues.

There are cigarette butts beside the benches.  
It really bothers me.  
Can we add unobtrusive signs on the benches to not smoke?

We can add signage but that doesn't mean people will obey the signage. Staff regularly request people not to smoke in the park to no avail. Some people chain smoke and leave piles of butts.

Maybe add more receptacles.  
Something functional and good looking.  
There is only so far some people will carry their trash around.

Ms. Arnold said: yes our staff researched that. There is a report by Disney. I will have to look it up.

Do we have recycling bins?

Ms. Arnold said that: The PDOP had tried them, but some people put bags with dog feces in recycling, contaminating it.  
Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds stated that he had heard from recyclers that plastic bags get caught in the brushes and also get shredded. The small pieces of shredded plastic contaminate the recycling. China used to accept contaminated recycling but only take 5% today.

#### **Fountain**

Chris Lindgren met with Andrzej Dajnowski to discuss the potential restoration of the Bock Fountain. Andrzej stated that the concrete was in good condition except for some patches that were added over time. However the internal plumbing of the fountain would have to be replaced.

#### **Final Comments**

Going forward-keeping the park up is the most important thing instead of adding boulders and other things. Keep it the way it is but please just maintain it  
I second that

Ms. Arnold thanked everyone for their input and attendance and closed the meeting.

#### **End of Minutes**

This is a general understanding of the comments made at the meeting.  
Minutes prepared by John Mac Manus of Altamanu Inc.



PARK DISTRICT  
of OAK PARK

Altamanu  Inc.  
planning + landscape architecture + urban design