Barrie Park Site Plan
Park District Staff

Focus Group Meeting # 1

Participants:
- Jan Arnold, PDOP
- Travis Stephan, PDOP
- Patti Staley, PDOP
- Chad Drufke, PDOP
- Paul Goedjen, PDOP
- Amanda Heimon, PDOP
- Maureen McCarth, PDOP
- Chris Lindgren, PDOP
- Mike Grandy, PDOP
- Gabrele Romanucci, PDOP
- Josephine Bellalta, Altamanu, Inc.
- John Mac Manus, Altamanu, Inc.

Location: Meeting held at Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield Street
Date and Time: February 3, 2010, 1:00 pm

Introduction
- Jan Arnold gave an introduction to the group.
- John Mac Manus gave a Powerpoint presentation and an overall view of park and center and its conditions tiles over reservoir. Staff says they are 'awful'

General Comments
- Keeping, heavy equipment comes in from North East side-- does not want mixed with the playground
- Was lit, but residential neighborhood, don't see light going in now.
- Lighting system could be addressed
- How to attract more people, but will also annoy residents
- What about archway/gateway at entry to let people know they are entering the park—similar to Ridgeland
• Mile markers would be nice

Field Conditions
• Patchwork of sodding- Travis : tough to manage cause of high clay base, compacted, doesn’t drain. It takes a long time to establish.
• Could be sand-based field : 6" sand topping
• 27’ of clay compacted to 99%, 12” of topsoil. sod
• Turf field would be good for the sports field.
• Could we fence sides if turfed it? Maybe use trees instead
• Have drainage at base of sled hill
• Irrigation at field--as well as at playground. Kids like to play with irrigation heads, not all at baseball field working.

Ball Fields
• What about moving backstop to the northeast?
  o Left handed hitter bounce balls into the play center
  o 200’+ feet now to the sidewalk
  o Areas are disconnected--would be nice to connect east and west sides across Lombard.
  o NE corner is lower and holds more water, but fixable
• What about adding TBall at SE side-so they could play two games at once. 4, 5, 6th grades playing back to back was a hazard.
• Keep it a TBall as well as soccer
• What about putting batting cages along the north side of the baseball backstop (at large part of park)
• Geometry might be working against moving the ball diamond
• Maximize soccer with two baseball fields similar to Ridgeland
• Pre-schoolers don’t cross because too dangerous larger soccer--not used enough now--135x 275’ roughly now
• 180x300’ soccer field is a U18

Hill
• Would we be able to turf the sled hill?-could you still run up it?
• Unused section use to run up. Running up kills the turf in the summer. (Runners get mad if they are stopped).
• Put fencing at bottom of hill in summer to prevent
• What about non crumb rubber material on hill.
• Storage under sled hill
• Outdoor fitness stations could be located closer to hill would work with those people using the hill to train.
• What about rock climbing on the back of the sled hill wall?
  o Would have to close off the area due to liability what about un-screwing the knobs--too much labor.
• Don’t they have downhill skiing on artificial turf--but nylon. (or a ski jump).

Playgrounds
• Pathetic little park; not a real big site
• Would you use playground if by center at NW corner, but downside is that near highway and noisy.
• Ideal world big playground next to small playground/center
• Playground is really hidden
• Doesn’t have water feature
• Desire lines suggest the space around playground is not used the way it was meant to -JM
• What about putting in a mister like at the zoo
• What about water feature where water jumps
• Integrate fitness with playground so parents can use while kids use playgrounds. This would be neat at all of our playgrounds.

Barrie Center
• A lot of unused space by building - good place for water feature (splash pad)
• A lot of kids that like to skate board around the center
  o Charlotte: with benches with brass leaves along benches. Main library has built in skate deterrents.
• Has little playground always been there? Can we use the space for something else
  o 9 am to 6 pm kids are in the building.
  o Highly used center.
  o Safety at corner playground is low, busy intersection, could we move the small Tot Lot across street.
• Could you put batting cages where Tot Lot is now? Combine other playground with Tot Lot. Put Tot Lot behind building and over reservoir.
• Batting cages behind bldg.? 
• What about a courtyard space by bldg.
• Pavilion would be used by camp in the summer
• No additional bathrooms going in
• Bathroom traffic is high due to park and blue line
• We don't have family bathroom in center
• Could convert office into a family bathroom (Recreation staff moving back to 218)
• Retrofit work station into kitchen
• What about courtyard area that can be locked off at night like shutting gate during pre-school hours. Outdoor classroom space where you can lock yourself in
• Storage-current storage area but build a 1-2 bay garage for storage and access from alley would not go into green strip

Reservoir
• Gets really hot on reservoir in summer
• Older kids with shooting court on North side of reservoir
• When reservoir courts are open, it is staffed
• Can’t supervise batting cages
• Basketball area would be supervised
• Would still need to access Basketball courts from east side.
• Southern court is meant to be ball hockey/roller hockey
• Plastic pads are like cheese grate when you fall
- Plastic on top of reservoir is there because concrete is spalling
- Underused as a basketball courts due to surface
- Could you put a playground on it? Then put Basketball at SE corner of site
- Reservoir is hot concrete box in summer where no one wants to be. It feels like a minimal security prison
- What about misters at reservoir to cool things down? Long term maintenance and expensive
- Shade structure at reservoir would be good
- Add an airnassium? Cover the whole reservoir?
  - a gym without walls.
- Basketball despite the hot environment, since there is so little space in town, people are still desperate to play.
- Never seen anyone play tennis; some play volleyball.
- Two people would not suggest full-size Basketball courts.
- Security cameras? doesn’t help.
- Playground might work--but what surfacing to use over the reservoir?
- Putting in baseball batting cages - might work--used 1/4 of the year.
- Metal roof? Impervious material? Village might not go for it.
- Is there more need for fitness station? Could be up on reservoir?
- What about a golf driving range on the reservoir with the baseball cages.
  - Swinging clinics.
  - A putting green.
  - Mini golf.
- Other ideas at reservoir:
  - Bowling
  - Horseshoe
  - Archery range.

Planting and Trees
- There were more trees before the remediation
- What about planting? - Making Lombard more of entrance at both corners
- Planting areas are currently depleted of plant material
- Get rid of edge mowing areas and make more planting beds
- Try different vine species along the concrete walls of sled hill
- Playground areas would take out beds and revisit plant material
- No irrigation currently at Center/Tot Lot area. Area gets hot, foot traffic, plants struggle
- Can we tree up the exterior of the park with structure trees?

Parking & Streets
- Lombard Street is often busy with cars
- Drop off could be bigger - parents need to drop off, come inside and sign off their kids
- Like the idea of linking at North West and play center at the North East corner, but it is not strong enough of a connection. A speed table would work.
- Lombard being a non-arterial it could possibly work as a speed table location
- There are signs that say it is 20 mile/hr. speed zone
- Would like to color streets green all around the park