



## **Barrie Park Site Plan Creative Play & Passive Space**

### **Focus Group Meeting # 3**

#### **Participants:**

- Nancy Holmes, Memorial Trust Committee
- Stuart Barnes Jamieson, SEOPCO
- Bob Kane, SEOPCO
- Laura Thompson, Parks Foundation
- Paul Aeschleman, PDOP Park Board
- Bob Foster, WSSRA
- Lauren Vandenberg, PDCC
- Brian Kinyon, resident
- 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, 6:00 pm

#### **Introduction**

- John Mac Manus gave an introduction to the project and a Powerpoint presentation, during which some comments were made:

#### **General Comments**

- BarrieFest is held annually by SEOPCO; bands are located center-east of the park, local businesses in the center, food is on the center-west and other venues are located on the edges.
- The back-to-school party is held every year at Barrie on the first Friday night after school starts. The PTO sets-up a movie screen in front of the hill working around soccer practice, etc. On occasion, the event has been extended into the street as if an extended block party.
- Lombard is then closed off for these events.
- Sometimes these events are rained out; the site has terrible drainage
- Cannot pound stakes into the ground due to the irrigation system

- What about a stage platform? It would be a good addition here – use the hill as an amphitheatre, but it is fenced off often.
- A discussion about the rebuilding of the adjacent Eisenhower Expressway and the potential construction impacts.
- Any chance of putting a bathroom facility on the East side of Lombard?
- Occasional issue with bigger kids and language, etc. but has since calmed down. Lack of poor sight lines increase the use by that group.
- Any chances of buying houses nearby?
- Boulder area at Carroll is nice, discovery area at Mills is wonderful, retro park going in at Franklin Park

### **Field Conditions**

- Since they are not using fields at Carol and Anderson – expanding Barrie would be great

### **Ball Fields**

- Youth Baseball / Soccer use this field
- A lot of foul balls end up on Lombard
- Discussion about Artificial Turf – would be better for SEOPCO
- Fields that become Artificial Turf get busier

### **Hill**

- If Artificial Turf was used, would the hill be included?
- Great sledding hill for kids 6 years old and up, younger kids terrified. Any chance to make a smaller sled hill?
- Get rid of the hill completely (SEOPCO discussion)
- North siders come, but it is very crowded. Getting rid of it would be challenging.
- West side of sled hill was once planted with prairie, but ...
- Why aren't there two staircases up the hill? Make a second staircase or a training area.
- What about a larger / longer sled hill and incorporate a fitness hill with other fitness components / stations.

### **Playgrounds**

- Not aware of a toddler park that is totally enclosed.
- Is there space to have a fenced area for smaller kids?
- Tot Lot is small
- Bigger playground is nice, but sight lines are bad and you may not know who is there.
- Switch diamond and the playground? Then the Center could use the playground as well.
- Like that the Tot Lot is somewhat protected, would like it safer.
- Thanks to SEOPCO for the fence along the Tot Lot
- Having an enlarged playground on the reservoir would be safer and more separate.
- Splash pad – it would be nice to use the park more and something like a splash pad.
- Playground and ballfield closer together would be great.

### **Barrie Center**

- How long has the Center building been there?

- A request for two dedicated classrooms; so how will they deal with the restrooms? Not sure how to reconfigure the building.
- Popularity has grown at the Barrie Center and other Centers.
- The building could use modifications, make the Center building expand west, perhaps.
- How does WSSRA use the Center-
  - Pick up spot to go elsewhere
  - Saturday night events
  - Buses go in and out of drop-off
  - Drop-off could be longer
  - WSSRA typically use Longfellow or Fox, would like to see a bigger building
- What about tearing down the Center building and rebuilding where the playground is at SE corner?
- Suggestion to tear down the Barrie center and replace it with restroom facilities similar to Maple and Scoville Parks.
  - Relocate the Center to the SE corner of the main Barrie Park and add a Discovery Area for the pre-school age kids.
  - Construct a fenced in Tot Lot with splash feature where the Center is currently located
  - Build grand steps leading to top of reservoir
  - Construct a playground for older children on the reservoir including a sitting area with chess tables, picnic tables, etc.

#### **Reservoir**

- Is the reservoir working / currently used?
- Reservoir is a lot of acreage, there is a lot of nice space on the reservoir.
- Kind of secluded and has a locked gate so it is hard to access; would be a good place for a playground.
- Climbing wall – what about a climbing wall at reservoir by the center?
- What about a mini skateboard park?
- How much do tennis courts get used – not much due to surface quality and location.

#### **Planting and Trees**

- Tree branches should be limbed up along the pathways and circulation routes

#### **Pathways**

- Mile markers along path and exercise stations – a ‘yes’

#### **Parking & Streets**

- Cannot park along the side of the street when dropping off; it is a challenge where to park in order to drop off.
- Every intersection to cross the highway is scary, especially with a stroller.
- Parking can be an issue. Parents need to park blocks away.
- Teachers / Staff at Barrie have to park far away because they arrive before 8am (CTA station parking restrictions); give staff a pass to park near Barrie