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 Vandenber, 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-
  o Pick up spot to go elsewhere
  o Saturday night events
  o Buses go in and out of drop-off
  o Drop-off could be longer
  o 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.
  o Relocate the Center to the SE corner of the main Barrie Park and add a Discovery Area for the pre-school age kids.
  o Construct a fenced in Tot Lot with splash feature where the Center is currently located
  o Build grand steps leading to top of reservoir
  o 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