



Barrie Park Site Plan Sports Areas

Focus Group Meeting # 4

Participants:

- Paul Aeschleman, PDOP Park Board
- Lauren Vandenberg, PDCC
- Greg Price, OPYBS
- Colette Heally, Chicago Edge
- Tom Kindler, AYSO
- Regina Ripley, OPRF Alliance
- Chris Smith, OPRF Alliance
- 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, 7:30 pm

Introduction

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

General Comments

- Would also love lights at this park
- Lights keep this at two fields
- There is a security issue at the park and the middle of the park gets dark; lights would help immensely
- The park needs to turn around a bit so you can use both sides together
- Unorganized sports are great; at Ridgeland Frisbee players use the field as well.
- This could be the premier facility for this area of town.
- All want their name on the pavilion – came from the sports field.

Field Conditions

- Soccer players don't like playing on clay, but if we turf the field it will not matter.
- This field is like playing on cement
- Turf for us is a big deal. We lose a lot of money because we guarantee to play and otherwise still need to pay umpires.
- Are there youth lacrosse dimensions?
 - 60x110 yards is a regular field

Soccer Fields

- Stored goals are currently on the field locked together – 11vs11
- 9vs9 – we need some place to play this in South Oak Park. We have 2 sets of goals like that at Ridgeland.
- Consider having multiple sets of lines and then move the goals
- These comments all assume artificial turf and anchors
- AYSO perspective:
 - A full-size field (50x100 yards) would almost be ideal. (Berwyn is 55x95 yards)
 - U8 can drop in
 - U10 playing at Irving
 - U13 at Ridgeland
 - Ridgeland – whatever day/time/weather, there are kids playing soccer. All those kids used to go to Taylor. No one goes to Taylor anymore, now they go to Ridgeland.
- Need a field for U12 in town. When Lindberg comes back, it will alleviate some of that need.
- To have another all-weather field of that size would alleviate a lot of fields.
- Could back goals up with proposed batting cages so they are not locked up in the middle of the field; perhaps there could be a dedicated storage area for the goals.
- Want to be able to play U11 and U12 – a very difficult age to fit in – high demand. At Berwyn, the coaches move the goals while PDOP might not allow that. Might need to switch goals one time.
 - (70-80)x(45-55) yards

Baseball Fields

- Saw there were two proposed baseball fields, there are never enough. The issue is the size of the baseball fields.
- Would love to see another field on the South side
- Consider Maple North as an example – at same scale we play TBall level 9 and 10 which is less competitive than 11 and 12.
 - Foul line is 175' at this level
 - Would not need a fence on the South edge of the field
 - Junior Bronco
- Funded batting cages at Ridgeland – every slot was taken all year long. Would like to see batting cages on the South side of Oak Park.
- It's nice to have something to do while others are playing (batting cages). It would be awesome if located on the East side of Lombard near the field; over the reservoir would be okay as well.
- Moving the playground closer to the center or the two baseball backstops on the East side – not as much room.
- Tball foul line is 125'. 215' to (?)
- Would rather if the kids' balls were to go into Taylor than into Lombard

- There is no area to warm-up pitchers. We could use the batting cages at the same time as the games, but others sign up for their use.
- Two batting cages would work

Hill

- Make the storage areas under the sled hill into bathrooms.

Playgrounds

- Issue with trees in the playground; can see kids maybe mix the batting cages with the playground.
- Playground area seems to be larger than it needs to be; it could be smaller.

Barrie Center

- Are the bathroom facilities accessible after hours?
- They are open when the building is in use, but not during school hours.
- Expanding bathrooms at the center would be good; accessible from the outside.

Reservoir

- Basketball is underserved in Oak Park. All our outdoor basketball is south in the Village.
- Take the rims off as they do at Longfellow
- What are the limitations of what we can put on the reservoir?
- What about indoor activities over the reservoir?
- What about an outdoor meeting area, like a picnic pavilion?
 - Rent it for parties
 - Show films
 - Public grills
 - Splash pad nearby (more elaborate)
 - Sand volleyball
 - Take the fences down or lower the height
 - Create an open West side – make a pedestrian connection and increase parking along Harvey. It would be a unique space for Oak Park.
- Some way make it usable, rentable. The pavilion at Taylor is used all of the time.
- (as long as we get a batting cage on the East side)

Pathways

- Walking paths – could they be done in the same material as the turf?

Parking & Streets

- What about diagonal parking along East side of Lombard?