Carroll Park Master Plan Update,
Presentation to the Park Board of Commissioners
March 6\textsuperscript{th}, 2014

Park District of Oak Park

Altamanu Inc.
Tonight

Condensed review of the presentation and discussions from Community Meeting January 21st at Carroll Center
We reviewed Master Plan process 2005
Site Meetings, Focus Groups and then Community Meetings
Main issues in 2005

- No N-S path
- Playground needed to be replaced
- Turnaround and playground occupied the center of the park
- Major sightline issues
- Lighting and safety
- Condition of fields
- Condition of Center
Playground in 2005 reaching the end of useful/safe life, sightline issues and lack of pathways
Before

Phase 1 Construction $370,000
Recommendations carried out

- Relocated turnaround, added green space
- Relocated and updated the playground
- Added a tree-lined path through the park to make a link for residents and to demarcate school playground from the ball fields
- Added seating
- Added lighting to improve safety
- Improved drainage under the playground

After

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Community also called for a new Recreation Center in the long-term

Rec center neighbors favor razing Carroll

By Holly M. Anderson

Community also called for a new Recreation Center in the long-term.

D 97 is still favor of a shared facility however, neither PDOP nor D 97 have available funds at present. The PDOP will continue to use and repair the existing Center.
The difference in plan before and after Phase 1 construction

1. Relocated the turnaround.
2. Relocated and updated the playground.
3. Tree-lined path makes a link for residents, demarcates school playground from the ball fields, seating added, green space gained and field widened.
Eventually the Center is to be replaced by a new Rec Center attached to the school and the Tot Lot moved to make a contiguous green space. But this outside current funding. Some want new center in other locations, one group wants the building restored.
Maximize the flexible green space for all users
PDOP (working with TPL Chicago) purchased 2 properties on Kenilworth
Concept: purchase the remaining houses on Kenilworth if/when available
Remove the road inside the park and create a new entry and enlarged fields
This would provide space for another ballfield or other facility
Meeting January 21st

The Park District was checking in with the community before the next phase of continuing improvements

The Park District used the additional community recommendations from 2005 as a starting point
Additional Recommendations from 2005

• Continue to add a circulation path around the park with distance markers for school and residents and improve the entry in NW corner
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• **Improve the field**, add irrigation system, grading, drainage, "field box" storage for bases, nets, etc.
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- Improve the field, add irrigation system, grading, drainage, "field box" storage for bases, nets, etc.

Recommendation
Attendees were in favor of improving the fields, continuing the periphery path and formalizing the NW entryway.

However, care must be taken not to reduce the outfield too much when the path is constructed.
Periphery path waiting to be completed and there is already a small entry on NW corner
Very similar to plan drawing from 2005: 1 Honey locust, 2 Ash trees and 2 Crabapples in poor condition would be removed. Aeration matting could be used to protect remaining large trees.
Potential remnant of Kenilworth from 1969 and foundations below grade
Results: Brick/fill material over sandy soil, may be foundations under field
The concept of creating an outside classroom/waiting area/discovery area in the new greenspace at the turnaround was discussed.

New green space: drainage and soil need to be improved.
Limb-up or remove some of the vegetation; Improve visual connection to the fields; Link the Center, Memorial and New green space. Eventually add lighting
Idea:
Outdoor Classroom, Waiting Area, Discovery Area
Could use natural boulders?

Heavy but relatively
Inexpensive

Allows for creative
free play

Very popular at
other D97 schools
Recommendations

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The Park District is to continue to consider sites more suitable for on-site storm water management.
The shrubs provide a backdrop for the playground, therefore open some views and keep some screening?
View from the entrance to the Center
Note two benches tucked into the planting
Outdoor classroom/Discovery Area linked to Memorial
Low vegetation removed, some trees removed, some trees limbed-up
Sites on Kenilworth

Properties purchased
Long Term Plan

This would provide space for another ballfield or whatever the community wants
Space today approx. 71 ft. x 137 ft
Batting Cages proposed by OPYBB and Kick Board proposed by community members
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And add a kick board for soccer but keep open sight lines.
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Recommendation:
The site to remain as open space with batting cages, back board and nets on the eastern side and a landscape buffer in front of the house.
Consensus from the meeting:
Batting Cage, Soccer Back Board (& Lacrosse Net?) with landscape buffer to residence

Concept: Batting cage at alley, landscape buffer to south, some seating to the west