Randolph Park Master Plan Update

Presentation Wednesday April 04, 2018

Randolph Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
Tonight

• Site Transfer

• Cost of Renovations and Repairs from 2009 - 2010

• Brief Review of Park District’s Planning Process

• Brief Review of Master Plan 2009

• A Comparison : The Park before and after Renovations

• Some Suggestions for new Elements

• Your opinions and Ideas
Randolph Park – Site History

• R. R. / Tramline abandoned in 1902

• Site Acquired by Village of Oak Park in 1924

• Equipment installed 1991 for $200,000

• West Side Conveyed to Park District in 2006

• East Side transferred in 2009

• Master Plan 2009

• Park Renovation completed 2010
  Construction Cost $320,000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus Groups</td>
<td>Wednesday July 29th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Meeting #1</td>
<td>Wednesday August 5th</td>
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<td>Community Meeting #2</td>
<td>Wednesday August 26th</td>
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<td>Community Meeting #3</td>
<td>Wednesday September 16th</td>
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<td>3 Questionnaires plus Emails and Mail</td>
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Master Plan 2009 “A Park Divided” by the Alley
How should it function? How to Cross the Alley? (from 2009)
In the End “Don’t Encourage the Kids to Cross”
Comments Questionnaire & Community Meeting 2009

Yes, the alley should be closed and the green spaces connected  67.9%
No, the alley should NOT be closed and the green spaces connected 32.1%

• Delivery/utility trucks etc. block alley sometimes.
• Oak Park does not allow them to use Oak Park Ave.
• Can we barricade the alley for a week and see the result?
• I like the Speed Bumps and Speed Table (A FEW COMMENTS)
• Step back the fences and use speed table to give better line of sight.
• Add flashing yellow lights and setback the gate so there’s better line of sight
• Add a gate & give residents on the block get a key in addition to garbage men, etc.
• That is a lot of keys
• The gate could have a keypad or combo lock.
• The whole crossing could be a theme
• There’s a popular playground modeled after a street and crossing
• The alley could look like a private driveway and discourage other through traffic.

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The Park in 2017: Resulted in 2 Completely Different Uses

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Suggested Themes 2009

**Nature** : Illinois nature, eco-sensitive, health sensitive, natural themes

**No Theme** : Just lots of Activities

**Train Theme**

**Railroad crossing** : getting across alley to other side of park.
(Eliminated Safety Issues )

**Safety Town theme** – with stores, etc. having real Oak Park business names perhaps businesses could sponsor a small building or sign.

all agreed **We love the Frog!!!!**
Other Comments 2009

World cultures

Peace, love, intercultural kindness

Picnic tables, More seating, Shade

I don't suppose you could put bathroom facilities there? Correct!

Please avoid any commercial or cartoon themes

Handicap accessible so all kids can enjoy. Absolutely

Art wall?

Separate sand box? Majority thought too many problems with existing

More colors.
Wasp/Bee infestation of sand

Why couldn’t Mike get rid of them?
The sand will go, to be replaced by a mixture of surfaces
History of the Site was Important: Train Theme was Selected

Randolph Line east of Wisconsin/Home Ave.  Photo circa 1885.

1895 Sanborn map showing a station on the site

Railway map showing Randolph St. Line – it was abandoned in 1902.
History of the Site was Important: Train Theme was Selected

Railway map showing Randolph St. Line – it was abandoned in 1902.
Concept 2009: What Should it Look Like? Literal Track/Station?
Consensus was Train Themed Equipment
Many Iterations but Consensus on this Final Plan for Tot Lot

Ornamental fence 3 sides, wooden fence on residential side, New entry court w/seating, Drinking Fountain, Soft Surface, Teeter Totters & benches, Roll Hill/Mound retained & Lawn area kept open, Smaller train different than at Stevenson, Jungle Gym, Bucket & Belt Swings, Seating at fence, Planting along new fence, New trees (marked with cross)
The Crossing of the Alley: Concern with Safety 2009

Proposal 1

Proposals 2

Proposals 3
The Crossing from 2009

- Fences set back – provide open sight lines to see kids and prevent fences from being hit by plows and trucks
- Court on each side so kids can be seen
- Low curb along sides of raised table
- Narrowing of table will slow cars
- Narrowing of table will prevent parking
- Narrowing will prevent stopping
- Smaller area of raised table will be less expensive
(Fountain and Brick Speed Table proved too expensive)
Passive Area East Side – Character Images 2009

Allée of trees at the Art Institute courtyard.

Example of outdoor chess table

Allee of trees around small tables at Bryant Park in New York City
Final Plan

Reception/Entry Spaces, Linear, formal east-west axis

• Addresses alley with speed table; fences would slow pedestrian traffic

• Elements include a small fountain and plaza, an allee of trees, chess tables, a separate picnic area

(Fountain and Brick Speed Table proved too expensive)
Different Design Approaches
How the Park Looked in 2017
West Entry 2009 & 2017

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How the Park Looked in 2009

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The Mound is Almost Too Popular: Erosion from Use

Nice and Green at Opening but soon eroded

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From 2009

PICNIC AREA

Playground

NEIGHBORS TO SOUTH

SEATING
Playground

- Bucket Swings
- Frog
- Play Structure
- See Saw
- Sand
2009 & Opening 2010

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How the Park Looked in 2010

Randolph Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park
How the Park Looked in 2010
How the Park Looked in 2010
The Frog Was Saved

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Alley and Power Pole in 2009
How the Park Looked in 2009 Looking Towards Oak Park Ave

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East Park Space 2009 Looking Towards the Alley

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How the Park Looked in 2009 Looking Towards the Alley

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The Park in 2017 & 2009

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Discussion and Your Comments

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