



Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan Update

April 26, 2004 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Chair Doug Varn, Marty Bracco, David Stannard, Mary Kay O'Grady, Susan Kurtenbach, Jessica Bullock, Rickey Sain, Sr., John Mullins, Gail Moran, Kathy Stohr, Kurt Mackey, David Kindler, Mark Gartland, Gary Balling, Diane Stanke

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Chair Doug Varn.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion was made to approve minutes by Gail Moran. Second by Susan Kurtenbach. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.
- III. **Benchmarking** – Gary reminded everyone that the benchmark presentation was a preliminary presentation. He reminded everyone that on Monday, May 10, Ron Vine and Jeff King will be in town covering:
 - Indoor spaces information
 - Benchmark
 - Next Steps

Gary reviewed the Benchmark Power Point presented by Ron Vine on April 13. Doug reminded us that the results of the benchmark survey are only one of the tools we will use to develop the plan and that some of the information is relevant and some is not. He stressed that Oak Park is unique and we must consider all the information and then decide what's important.

Some questions regarding the preliminary results were asked. Doug asked for everyone to send comments to him and he will organize them and send them on to Ron Vine.

David Kindler stated that we need to present 4 or 5 of the most important points to the public from the benchmarking information. There is too much information to share all of it and the message will get lost. Kathy Stohr voiced her concern that she hopes we aren't selecting data in order to support a forgone conclusion that we need one giant mega center. John Mullins stated that we aren't making any decisions until all of the information is in. We aren't in a situation to make any recommendations yet. David Kindler feels that it is time for a dialogue to discuss our community's needs and our current facilities and services. Doug Varn stressed that the data collected is going to drive our decisions and that not until all the information is in will we be able to develop a plan.

- IV. **Governance** – Dave Stannard reported the Governance Subcommittee has held several meetings to discuss the 4 models presented by Ron Secrist. Currently the Subcommittee is looking at 2 models. The first model would have the Park District completely under Village control. The second model would be for a total division of services between the Park District and the Village. The subcommittee felt that these two models provided for ownership and accountability. Dave reviewed the nine criteria

used to evaluate the 4 models. He stated that the model with the Park District and Village completely separate would be a harder road to take but there would be better long term sustainability with this model. The model with the Village taking over the Park District would be a good financial move but would hamper the Park District's ability to operate and to attract good staff.

The group discussed that the PDCC needs to recommend the best model for Oak Park without taking into account finances and logistics. Mary Kay O'Grady pointed out that Oak Park is the only agency in the benchmark study to have a hybrid governance model in that we have a unique intergovernmental agreement with the Village. We are now waiting for Leisure Vision's recommendation. Dave reported that the phone call with Ron Secrist went well. Ron Secrist quizzed the Subcommittee members on how they arrived at certain conclusions.

V. Indoor Spaces – The Subcommittee is picking up speed as they begin to look at data. They are focusing on information identifying unmet needs of our residents.

VI. Final Remarks - The next PDCC meeting is May 10 at 7:30pm at the Oak Park Conservatory with an Indoor Spaces Subcommittee preceding this meeting at 6pm. Mark your calendars for a tentative Consensus Building Workshop on June 28 with Leisure Vision, Village of Oak Park, Park District of Oak Park and the PDCC. On Saturday, May 15, members of the PDCC are invited to a tour of the Levy Center in Evanston and the Niles Family Health and Fitness Center. We will be leaving Rehm Pool parking lot at 8:15am and returning around 12noon. Email Lisa Lightcap if you are interested at lisal@oakparkparks.com. Another tour may be set up to tour a park/school facility in Channahon. Kurt Mackey recommended a tour of an Oswego facility which is a cooperative effort between the high school and the park district.

David Kindler gave an overview of the presentation made by the Park District to the Village of Oak Park regarding Stevenson Park redevelopment. These sport areas could be available by mid-September.

Gail reported that David Kindler made a suggestion to have a bike tour of our parks – with it ending at Scoville with a concert. There was concern that logistics and traffic will have to be worked out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

Note: A special PDCC meeting will take place on Monday, May 17 at the Administrative Center, 218 Madison at 7pm for anyone who can make it. This meeting was actually planned at the May 10 meeting. It will be held to discuss the information presented by Ron Vine and Jeff King regarding indoor spaces. There will also be a regular PDCC meeting on Monday, May 24 at 7pm at Stevenson Center, 49 Lake Street.