

Genesee Valley Park West Master Plan

City of Rochester, Project #20042, NYSDOS #C006965

Neighborhood Representatives Meeting - Minutes

Date: April 21, 2014, 12:00-2:00 PM

Location: SW Neighborhood Service Center, 923 Genesee St, Rochester NY 14611

A. ATTENDANCE

Name	Representing	Contact / Email
Gloria Edmonds	PLEX	gloriaedmonds@yahoo.com
Joanne DeMarle	19 th Ward Neighborhood	jddemarle@frontiernet.net
Sheila Bazil	19 th Ward Neighborhood	sheila_bazil@yahoo.com
John DeMott	Sector 4 CDC / 19 th Ward Neigh.	jnj_demott@juno.com
Dorian Hall	PLEX	dorian@UnseenEntertainment.com
John Curran	PLEX	jecurran@rochester.rr.com
Jeff Mroczek	City of Rochester, DES	mroczekj@cityofrochester.gov
John Picone	City of Rochester, DRYs	piconej@cityofrochester.gov
Zakery Steele	Bayer Landscape Architecture	zds@bayerla.com

B. MEETING CONTENTS

- Notes from neighborhood representatives:** Comments from neighborhood representatives in attendance were provided in a handout ([attached](#)).
- Parking for recreational facilities:** Parking seemed excessive. Design team agreed and noted that the parking represented the minimum required by the zoning code for the particular uses. In the case of recreational facilities such as the ice rink and pool, this is determined by the carrying capacity of the feature (eg, the pool or rink). The design team and neighborhood representatives agreed that parking should be reduced to minimum general use levels, and not be designed for the select few maximum use periods per year.
- Visual style of the new buildings:** The architecture for new park facilities should blend into the landscape. The park landscape should take precedence. Structures should have natural light, windows to the river and park views, potential green roofs, and other features that make them more compatible with the park. Example precedents will be provided for the wellness center/pool, the boathouse architecture concepts will reflect these desires.
- Safety:** The design team thought one of the benefits of Alt #1 was that with the buildings/pool located north of Elmwood, that residents could filter into and through the park to get to the facilities without crossing Elmwood. The design team perceived that crossing Elmwood as a safety concern due to high traffic volumes and speeds, the width of the road, the number of neighborhood children that use the facilities, and the relative slow crossing timing. The neighborhood representative in attendance hold the opposite concern: using the existing sidewalks along Elmwood & Genesee is the safest route, especially for kids, because they are always visible to the passing traffic. While the crossing signal timing is slow they do eventually change and are safe to use. Travelling through the park is perceived as unsafe specifically because of the lack of visibility.
 - Study should recommend that the crossing cycle timing at park entry & at Elmwood/Genesee intersection be reviewed by MCDOT to see if improvements can be made.
 - Neighborhood preference would be for community center & pool be located to be as visible and accessible from Elmwood as possible for the above safety reasons.
 - Design team still concerned about safety of intersection for pedestrians, as drivers are distracted by the overly confusing park entry and thus less opportunity to notice pedestrians.
- Buses:** Bus drop off adjacent to community center & pool is needed.
- Outdoor Pool:** The pool is heavily used by the neighborhood, specifically its children. An outdoor pool facility, combined with a spray park is preferred over an indoor/enclosed facility.
- Ice Rink:** The existing ice rink is not a facility that is used by the adjacent community. While not opposed to ice skating in general, the neighborhood is opposed to an enclosed rink and its impacts: building mass including associated parking, lighting, utilities, etc... will impact

adjacent neighborhood views to/from park and neighborhood; consumes valuable park land that could be captured for other uses; does not serve the neighborhood, primarily non-neighborhood /non-city residents & teams; impacts historic integrity of park; could be located anywhere if it serves a regional audience as opposed to in an historic park.

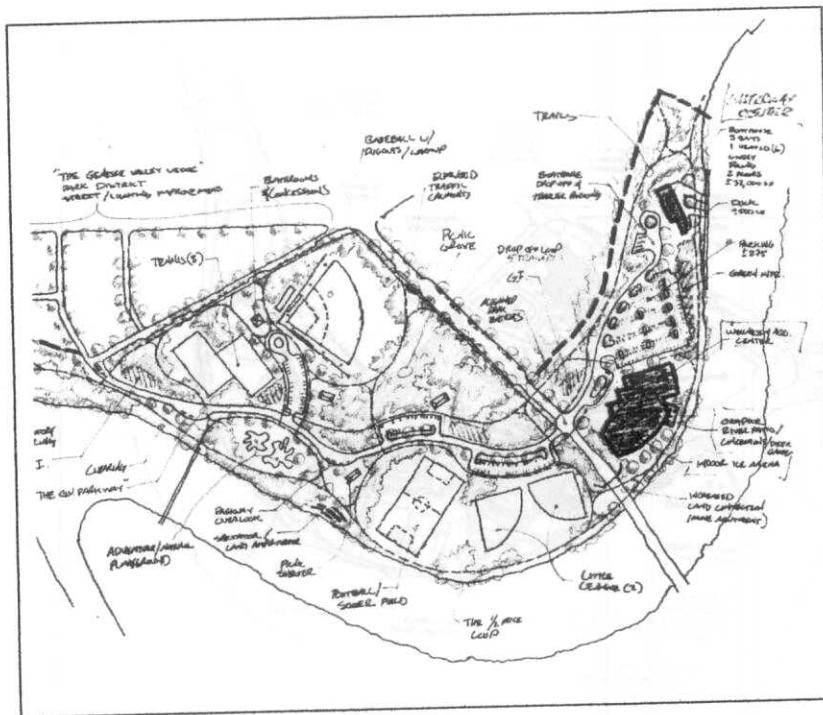
8. **Outdoor Rink:** Would not be opposed to a smaller scale outdoor (Manhattan Square Park) or covered seasonal rink with sides open (Prospect Park) to the elements that could be open regularly to the public and used in other seasons for water play/roller blading/roller skating/skate park....
9. **Field house:** A structure of similar capacity, with upgraded aesthetics and amenities needs to be included. Location is not critical as long as there is adjacent parking. Should also be adjacent to a play area for children.
10. **Picnic shelters:** Should include a few both north and south of Elmwood.
11. **Pool / Wellness Center Location:** Were fine with the location of the pool/wellness/community center in either location as long as visibility is maximized and enclosed ice rink is not included.
12. **Views of Park from Elmwood/Genesee Corner:** View into park and across the large open field from the Elmwood frontage is a beautiful view that is emblematic of the park and should be preserved as much as possible. Location of any facilities along the Genesee St Ext. edge would need careful thought to minimize its impact on this view and the adjacent neighborhood.
13. **Impacts of ballfield:** The large developed ball field at the Elmwood/Genesee intersection in Alt #1 would spoil the above noted view and present an impact to the adjacent neighborhood.
14. **Lighting:** Lighting (buildings, ball fields, courts) needs to be carefully controlled to prevent spillover into adjacent neighborhoods.
15. **Old Plymouth Avenue:** It was desired that the 1-way southbound (old Plymouth Avenue) proposal of Brooks Landing Phase II be preserved in master plan concepts.

END of MINUTES - Please notify Bayer Landscape Architecture of any errors or omissions in these meeting minutes.

Zakery D. Steele, ASLA
Project Manager
Bayer Landscape Architecture, PLLC
585-582-2000
zds@bayerla.com

Genesee Valley Park West Master Plan
Preliminary thoughts on Schematic Alt #1 & #2
April 24, 2014

SCHEMATIC ALTERNATE #1



POSITIVES:

1. Boat House location in part of the park least likely to be used by residents for recreation, and closest to the existing commercial development.
2. Less-intense Sports fields are accessible to residents, and visually acceptable along waterfront.

NEGATIVES:

1. Wellness / Aquatic center location is close to desirable residential area.
2. Parking area (275) for Fitness Center seems excessive, unattractive
3. PLEX residents wish to preserve vehicle access from the north.
4. Lighted ball field at Elmwood & Genesee is too intensive a use, and destroys the current attractive view of the park from adjacent residents and passers-by.

GENERAL:

1. Outdoor Pool is strongly desired by neighborhood youth.
Can we separate the outdoor pool from the indoor facilities?
2. Concern that Indoor facilities (Ice, etc) are not used by nearby residents, are intrusive and consume valuable park land for their footprint & parking.
Does this facility really belong in GVP?
3. need to replace Field House

2

[illegible]

1. Less-intense Sports fields are accessible to PLEX and Genesee-Jefferson residents
- 2.

1. Pool location appears too distant from PLEX and Genesee-Jefferson residents. Pool would require RGRTA bus access.
2. Indoor fitness center location is too close to desirable residential area.
3. Indoor fitness center location is visually unattractive, and destroys the current attractive view of the park from adjacent residents and passers-by on Elmwood.
4. Parking area seems excessive.
5. PLEX residents wish to preserve vehicle access from the north

1. Would like picnic shelters north of Elmwood.
2. need to replace Field House