

Reindahl Park Master Plan Update Stakeholder Meetings

Meeting with Friends of Reindahl Environs (FORE) – September 19, 2022 (ed. J Becker for FORE 26 SEP 2022)

Attendees: Ann Freiwald (Parks), Adam Kaniewski (Parks), Jon Becker (FORE)

Meeting Summary

- FORE presently includes Jon B. and Deloris R. A 2019 co-founder had moved away. Expansion of group was paused when Supv. Knepp failed to respond to late 2019-early 2020 requests for master plan meeting. Then the pandemic arrived.
- Imagination Center
 - Some feel the city agencies (Parks, Library) and MMSD do whatever they want, no matter what the community inputs. Jon reminded staff that >270 people signed a petition asking for protection of Reindahl Woods, by relocating sewer reliever pipe route slightly to the north, which was possible at same/less cost and on the same construction schedule (per Strand Associates, MMSD's contractor for the project).
 - Master plan revision is deficient. Jon pointed out that Lake Monona Waterfront project's budget is large enough to garner interest of nationally renowned planning firms; much time is being provided for research and community input. Ditto for Lake View Hill County Park cultural/master plan (2008-10), a local exemplar. Yet both the Monona Waterfront and Lakeview Hill park are much smaller than Reindahl Park.
 - Library will add 16,000-22,000 SF impervious surface to park.
 - Alternative location ideas:
 - Adjacent to Park: Build on Popeye's parcel and vacate Parkside Dr.
 - Adjacent to Park: Wendy's/mall site; cantilever into park for outdoor education
 - Near park: Office Depot site 3600-3700 Portage Rd; East Towne Mall area (where library was offered free site in 2015)
 - Only if absolutely necessary to build inside park: Construct library over existing parking lot (moving small trees), connect to renovated shelter with skywalk.
 - Consider meeting Living Building (LB) standard for facility. There are currently ~5 LB developments in WI, none in Dane County. Collaborate with Madison College to familiarize developer/construction/trades sector with LB standard. [Centro Hispano is considering LB standard.]
- Master Plan Survey
 - Community park = community survey? Would like to know scope of survey mailings, who was notified of start of survey and when; that information should be posted to the project page.
 - Indicated trees don't have a voice when it comes to surveys. It is the responsibility of parks and its BOC to be advocates for trees and the park's ecosystem values.
 - Parks indicated there is potential for a second survey to be done regarding the draft master plan. [Jon later pointed out that first survey's questions were biased, and that survey questions should always be created with input from stakeholders.]
- Future Input
 - Jon has asked Alder Abbas to bring together leaders of existing and potential future user entities to share information with each other face-to-face about their concerns and needs. Alder can facilitate meeting if necessary. Parks and other city staff can observe.
- Greater Sandburg Neighborhood Association
 - GSNA has not been active since 2018.
 - Jon is interim GSNA liaison to the city, exploring recombobulation of GSNA
 - Jon relayed that Sue Pastor, a former GSNA leader, had indicated that a letter sent by her to Parks BOC on July 12th regarding the Imagination Center is sufficient for GSNA input to master plan revision. Jon delivered draft version of Sue's letter, which will be placed in the file.
- FORE General Comments and Concerns
 - 50% of the park devoted to nature.
 - Open to Ultimate Frisbee or other new turfgrass sports, while reducing turfgrass overall.
 - End pesticide/fertilizer applications.
 - Topography and online soil maps indicate that hydric soils may be found at two locations in park: NW corner (where sewer pipe was trenched, south of Bartillon) and just northwest of Reindahl Woods

- (northeast of community gardens). Potential sites for creation of wetlands/ponds similar to those along Wheeler Rd near School Rd (Cherokee Marsh), attracting/supporting wildlife. Any new ponds/wetlands may need clay liners for wellhead protection, including protection from pesticides being washed into ponds by farmer leasing county land north of park and from northern tier of soccer fields currently administered by SC Wave).
- Concerns about spread of PFAS contamination by future soil disturbance inside park. Soil testing must be done now, with US EPA's forthcoming PFAS 0% standard in mind.
 - Need imaginative use of barn building. Mini-Garver? Lease to coffeehouse/bakery vendor, as Milwaukee and Chicago have done with old pumphouses?
 - Re-naturalize from Bartillon Dr. along Portage Rd down to Wendy's.
 - Include trail through area (chip trail or other non-paved surface)
 - Renaturalize soccer field on Portage Rd.
 - Proposed site for Library+Pavilion (Imagination Center) or using existing parking lot precludes re-establishment of a natural corridor along east side of park. The Popeye's/Park Side, Wendy's/strip mall, and Office Depot site options do not preclude this natural corridor.
 - Would like parks to lead on litter polluting the park by recruiting partners that adopt sections of the perimeter (e.g., WisDMV, bread factory, Wendy's, etc.) and by sending postcards to neighbors about clean-ups.
 - Parks should reach out to Ho-Chunk nation for master plan revision. Jon identified the Teejop Community Historical Project (based at UW-Madison) and provided name of contact Omar P. [Jon later provided name of Ho-Chunk nation's Cultural Preservation Officer, Bill Q.]
 - Remove paved path built over sewer pipe trench, replacing with Teejop style path for educational purposes (2 ft wide max.; oak leaf cover, to avoid invasive earthworms that are often attracted by wood chips)
 - Restore woods west of Wendy's as an example of indigenous "food forest"?
 - Athletic Fields
 - Would like the soccer groups to stop/reduce use of pesticides on all soccer fields. Northern tier of soccer fields at Reindahl Park is currently administered by city's vendor SC Wave, which contracts with TruGreen for feed/weed applications four times per year. (Jon mentioned that he and Delores discussed this with SC Wave director, then emailed links to organic management information). City IPM policy allows ending contracts with vendors that use pesticides.
 - Reconfiguring soccer and cricket fields and look at making parking more efficient.
 - To create more room for unpaved path around park, especially on north end (near Bartillon), consider re-orienting N/S soccer fields to E/W, reduce as necessary
 - Could addition of dark-sky certified lighting allow more soccer games to be played on fewer fields? Or should any increase in soccer be accommodated elsewhere?
 - Paths
 - FORE does not think the path paved through Reindahl Woods after the sewer trenching is needed for access by MMSD. The two sewer access openings (metal covers) are located on the new paved path along the west side of the park, and probably are for robotic inspection/service equipment.
 - Would like a curvilinear path around the park, but not all paved; double as cross-country ski trail in winter?
 - Avoid/reduce impervious surfaces that generate GHGs (asphalt, concrete).
 - Connections to the Park
 - Would like parks to establish ecological connections (aerial/tunnel) with adjacent areas, including the county's 90acre aviation safety zone north of Bartillon (currently being leased to a farmer who applies pesticides).
 - Safe passage across HWYs 51 and 151 to park must be provided for residents of East Side Community Center, Truax NA, Hawthorne NA, and East Towne Mall redevelopment area and neighborhoods.
 - Residents of proposed homeless facility on Bartillon Rd need to be able to get safely to existing paved path to park at east end of Orin Rd.

Reindahl Park Master Plan Update Stakeholder Meetings

Meeting with Cricket Users – September 19, 2022

Attendees: Ann Freiwald (Parks), Adam Kaniewski (Parks), Aslam Rakhangi (Cricket)

Meeting Summary

- Current Field Condition Comments
 - The pitch is great and is the only 360 degree field in Madison.
 - Practice area is great for users while not needed to play a game
 - Bumpy terrain creates bad hops which leads to injury
- Pitch Users
 - Teams come from Milwaukee and Chicago to play here
 - Pitch is used consistently by different groups in the area
 - Have started a kids group playing on Monday's and have hosted a U14 tournament.
- Parking and Access
 - Estimates about 25 cars per game.
 - Have never had issues with parking.
 - Do not mind walking through swale to pitch area.
- Future Improvements
 - Would love lights to lengthen playing time.
 - A secure facility to store larger equipment.
 - Much of the equipment used is shared, so they store it in a bin by the pitch. However, it is not very secure and things get stolen.
 - Shaded seating for players and 25-30 spectators would be appreciated.
 - A toilet facility close to the field.
 - Some players go in the bushes since shelter is so far away.
 - White rope through eye hole loops is the preferred boundary set up.
 - Ok with field being used for other sports as long as pitch is not within the boundary of those fields.
- Cricket throughout the system
 - Most of the playing population is on the west side, however this is the only 360 degree field in Madison.

Reindahl Park Master Plan Update Stakeholder Meetings

Meeting with SC Wave – September 20, 2022

Attendees: Ann Freiwald (Parks), Adam Kaniewski (Parks), Robert Kehoe (SC Wave)

Meeting Summary

- History of Club at Reindahl Park
 - Started as Madison FC, a primarily east side club. Now have more west side players.
 - Then merged with SC Wave which has other clubs in WI.
 - Robert has been the leader of the Madison club for about a year.
- Fields
 - Previous leaders put a lot of work into fields and fields are now at a very high quality.
 - SC Wave does all maintenance of fields
 - Robert noted he had talked with Jon Becker and is open to changing pesticide practices. They are currently just continuing previous practices.
 - Have enough space to move around and rest fields.
 - Not exclusive use. They understand they cannot stop other users from using fields. Previous leaders may have been very protective of fields, leading to some animosity.
 - Sometimes has to use Madison College fields, which cost \$240/hour with lights.
- Potential Improvements
 - Would be nice to have a building with bathrooms, storage, shade/shelter, concessions.
 - Storage for mowers, flags, tools, etc.
 - Would love lighted fields to have more training hours available
 - Would like to have some seasonal signage on the fence along Portage Rd.
- Parking
 - Parking lots full when Cap East is also active.
 - Cars line the driveway and Portage Rd at times.
- User Agreement
 - Current agreement is expired. Had been working with Lisa L. on new agreement.
 - Currently operating under previous agreement
 - Occasionally use Warner Park field when hosting high-level teams. May want that included in use agreement.

Reindahl Park Master Plan Update Stakeholder Meetings

Meeting with SC Wave – September 20, 2022

Attendees: Ann Freiwald (Parks), Adam Kaniewski (Parks), Nou Thao (Rooted WI - Dane County Gardens Network Manager), Barb (Gardener), Casey (Gardener), Monceri (Gardener)

Meeting Summary

- Plots
 - 20' x 20' Plots
 - About half of the plots are no-till to allow for perennial plantings
 - Mark Wetter creates map of all plots and assignments
 - All plots are assigned and majority are used. Some plots end up assigned, but then abandoned.
 - Would like to see areas for plots expanded.
 - Would like to see accessible raised plots available. There are some in other gardens in Dane County.
- Storage
 - Existing shed gets broken into and things stolen.
 - Group has worked to make shed more secure.
 - Back window of shed is broken.
 - Two picnic tables by shed are in bad condition.
- Compost
 - Attempted to use a plot for group compost. However, this did not work out as planned.
 - Currently do not compost. Have to bring in their own if they want some.
 - Currently, yard waste gets piled up at the end of the parking lot and Parks picks it up.
- Parking and location
 - Like to park as close as possible to plots due to often needing to haul materials to plot.
 - Current parking lot is oversized and never full.
 - Tucked away location tends to make users intimidated when someone else comes into the area.
 - Like idea to potentially move parking lot to south side of gardens.
- Misc.
 - Garden sign is run down

Reindahl Park Master Plan Update Stakeholder Meetings

Meeting with Capital East Soccer Club – September 21, 2022

Attendees: Ann Freiwald (Parks), Adam Kaniewski (Parks), Eric Bertun (Cap east), Matthew Fleming (Cap east)

Meeting Summary

- Club Background
 - MAYSA (Madison Area Youth Soccer Association) is governing body of the club
 - The club is defined as a “community” club, mainly serving the Madison East and LaFollete attendance areas. However, they do occasionally have players from Cottage Grove and Sun Prairie.
 - Goal of the club is to provide a competitive environment while being affordable
- Fields
 - Fields work well for the level of play they receive
 - Parks mows and maintains field. Cap East stripes them.
 - Have to maximize use of fields to accommodate everyone
 - Sometimes use Kennedy and Olbrich if they need more space. However, they prefer to use Reindahl as a main base to build sense of community within the club.
- Potential Improvements
 - Bathroom building with storage closer to fields.
 - Trees or structure for shade. Currently there is no place to get out of the sun.
 - Club would appreciate is Parks painted the fields. Parks is exploring a robot field striper.
- Parking
 - Sufficient for current needs.
 - Do not use gravel lot by community gardens.
- Misc.
 - Volleyball group sets up net and uses area just north of Field by Portage Rd. Cap East indicated they have talked with them about staying out of the striped field area, as the grass beneath the net gets very worn from play.

Reindahl Park Master Plan Update Stakeholder Meetings

Meeting with Volleyball Players – September 20, 2022

Attendees: Ann Freiwald (Parks), Volleyball Players

From the results of the initial survey and discussions with other stakeholders, parks staff was aware of a group regularly playing volleyball at the park using portable nets. While at the park, staff observed the group was present and had an informal discussion with them.

Meeting Summary

- Location and conditions
 - The group sets up a portable volleyball net behind the soccer goal on the field east of the tennis courts.
 - When asked if they would prefer a permanent grass or sand volleyball court, they said they are happy with their current set up and do not want/need any changes to it.
 - The group indicated a desire for restrooms to be located closer to their location.