

Clarendon Park Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes from 5/23/2018

During this meeting CPAC discussed the bus tour that took place on May 19th. A couple of members went with park district staff to three different park buildings to get an idea of new-build fieldhouses and a renovated building.

Next Steps:

- Send this information to the park district to use when coming up with options for both renovation and new-build options.
- Plan to host a community meeting to get input from Uptown neighbors on which alternative is preferred: renovation or new.
- Have final decision on how to move forward by September 30th

Ellis Park | 32,000 Square Ft. | 2016 build | \$17.6 million

LIKES

- Light and floor-to-ceiling windows
- Rooftop option that was secure
- Plants on the roof
- Open lobby that the community can take advantage of (play cards, hang out, etc.)
- Welcoming entrance with lots of glass
- The bright colors
- Two spacious community rooms
- Lobby desk was central (could see in all directions of the building)
- Historical photos (you could feel what the community valued)

- Double gym with a curtain
- Air conditioning throughout
- Creative outdoor seating in front of the building
- Pool was accessible for all people

DISLIKES

- Inaccessible plants on the roof (you couldn't even walk by them)
- Small kitchen
- The elevator was broken (should there be two?)
- Not enough storage
- Little planting around the building

Ping Tom | 28,000 Square Ft. | 2013 build | \$14.6 million

LIKES

- Bleachers
- Double gym and curtain
- Air conditioning

- Rooftop option that was secure
- Connectivity with outdoors
- Design reflected community
- Creative outdoor seating
- Pool was accessible for all people

DISLIKES

- Small kitchen
- Not enough storage

- It was very dark
- Rims didn't come down in the gym for biddy ball
- Inaccessible plants on the roof

Women's Park | Unknown Square Ft. | Renovation 2009–2013 | \$5+ million (arts partner funded 3rd floor)

LIKES

- Historical photos
- Creative utilization of space (lots of rooms!)
- Dance studio
- Partnership with restaurant
- Flexible space (garage door for community room that lead into the pay area)
- Science lab design

- Rebuilt from scratch
- Bright colors and details
- Historical feeling in gardens and performance space
- Kid friendly
- Contemporary design in old space

DISLIKES

- No running water in kitchen
- No gym
- Less space for teens

Clarendon Park | 30,000 Square Ft? (unknown) | currently have \$6.1 million

NEED

- Address all of the flooding
- Creative, adaptive reuse of space
- Sensitive to important historical architecture of Uptown
- A building that lasts for 50+ years
- Functional
- Large windows and lots of natural light
- ADA compliance
- At least 2 community rooms
- Space for arts and culture (arts partner, trains, etc.)
- Train Room, large enough to fit train (accessible)
- Storage
- Gym revamp

- Community control/ involvement in building design, fundraising, etc.
- Green Sustainable Model (more than LEED certified)

WANT

- 2 elevators
- Private entrance to train room
- Glass around (or view into) train room
- Changing current uses for functionality (ex: move entrance to Clarendon Ave or build out storage wing on south side)
- Bleachers like Ping Tom
- Roof Deck with accessibility to plants
- Use of greenway for flooding issues

DON'T WANT

- Pool
- Flooding
- Loss of public park space and access in exchange for funding

Questions

- How do we address flooding with the water table?
- What is Clarendon's community center current square footage?
- What is the life expectancy for all options?
- What is the role of the Parks Foundation?
- Will roof be addressed soon?
- Is TIF tied to renovation of the building? Or can it be used for demolition/new-build?
- Could a renovation be used to create job training opportunities, for example, through a program like the National Trust's Hope Crew (<https://savingplaces.org/hope-crew>)?