

Clarendon Park Advisory Council
Pat Levar from CPD & Alderman Cappleman, 46th Ward
Community Center Renovation
April 26, 2018, 5:30pm

Attendance:

Meeting Minutes

- Status Update from Chicago Park District on the Clarendon Park Community Center Renovations

General Background Given by Pat Levar

- The Chicago Park District worked with the city and alderman to get \$6.1 million in hand for the renovation for a project that was most recently assessed at \$11 million.
 - The amount in hand right now would not make a big impact.
- However, \$18 million could be used to build a new park building... Pat Levar sees this option as making more fiscal sense to have a new building rather than renovation.
- He offered to provide the council on a tour of newer buildings to show them what it looks like

Questions from the audience:

- What would the cost be to take this size of a building down? – no clear answer
- Are there people in the park district that would take a look at historical preservation? Answer: no, not typically. It was suggested that the park district look at Williams architecture firm as they do work in historical preservation and/or can help include historical aspects of the building and the site in whatever way we go.
- Has anyone looked at doing something creative with the building and site? Competition site? No one has looked into doing anything creative but they would be open to it.
 - Hope Crew – trains young people in preservation – maybe that's something that we could bring into the project.
- Stephen shared that he wants a new building, something that would expand over 50 years. – is there a timeframe for how long they build for? Yes – 50+ years. There's an updated master plan.

Pat Levar asks, if we are explore having a new building. Does it have to be where the building current sits?

- Scott – if we were to go with a new facility it would make sense for it to go somewhere else so that programs could continue in the current location.

On the issue of fundraising:

- Pat explained that they are looking for money from the city, the state, and private donors (foundation money).
 - Chicago Park district - capital program is \$80,000,000 – Park only has \$30,000,000 the rest comes from other players (city, state, sports teams, US Soccer) - \$50,000,000 comes from outside sources.
- Pat Levar explained that the Cubs are looking to build baseball fields with artificial turf and a structure that can be put up in the winter and taken down in the summer (like a dome of some sort).
 - It was later clarified that if the Park District went after any project funding outside of the community center renovation they would require funder to pay toward the building as well.
 - It was also made clear that the Cubs are just a general suggestion, no talks have happened recently.

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- If we're fundraising, how much do those strings give up community voice/control? Pat Levar, "it's our building, we operate it." We will prioritize the communities needs first.

On Community Involvement

- Kiela – Are we responsible for bringing together the community to get their opinions? What will that process look like? If the community decides to build a new building (in the same place), where will things go in the meantime?
 - Levar: If we decide that this is the building that we want to retrofit, could programs be displaced? Yes, but the district will work on a backup plan.
 - Levar: we are looking for community involvement in the process and are open to whatever works best for you, here (park, alderman, block clubs, etc.)
- The park district will coordinate a but trip to show CPAC members other park buildings that have recently been built.

Timeline

What's the timeline? – we could go down two paths - renovate or rebuild - and the timeline will depend on that.

However, we do know a couple things:

- Once you get the first big check it takes about a year to fundraise for the rest
- While they are fundraising, the district would work on the design so that it would be ready to go as soon as the money is there.
- If we built at a different site it would be 18-22 months of new build
- In all – we're looking at 2 years until the project is complete from the moment a decision is made on whether to demolish and rebuild or renovate.

We need to find out what the community wants then we can go from there.

Next Steps

- The Park District will take us to other parks to review the new buildings
 - Bus load holds 44
 - May 19th for tour
- CPAC can plan an event to get community feedback... However, we need some visuals or something to help people conceptualize.
 - CPD offered to help
- Julie is our direct point of contact – Heather is the #2 contact
- Goal of having a decision on what to do with the building by the summers end.