

Public Meeting April 25, 2015 at 2 p.m. 29 people in attendance including:
6 Museum Members, 2 Museum Staff, and 2 EPD Board Members.

The meeting opened with a presentation on the Museum and 4 new site option plans. During the presentation people interjected comments.

Option 1:

The corner is too busy now. Don't put a parking lot.

This would block the Conservatory green house.

Not enough parking as is for Mansion, Weddings, Conservatory, & Museum.

This would allow more parking for weddings.

What is the capacity of the current lot? JR: Unsure est. over 30 spaces in lot and additional around Mansion. (Approx. total 74 spaces)

Do not add more parking – remove parking – why don't we discuss reducing parking?

Don't build it too high.

How high is the building above grade? JR: the current building is est. 16' w/o HVAC.

(Correction: the building is 27'h total w/o HVAC, 22' above ground – according to blue prints.)

Why is the building in this location – stop building in our parks!

Who owns the land? Does the agreement expire?

JR: The EPD owns the land. The agreement does not expire.

Why not build on existing site? AJ: Not economical – will close Museum for period of time.

I have no problem with the building and would hate to see it move out of the park.

The Museum is a gem.

Wilder Park has a phenomenal Museum Campus. It improves our quality of life and property values.

I am a 33-year resident and enjoy the Museum but like open land. I have difficulty with the Museum Campus idea. This is our open land.

The Museum is beautiful but why are we always building! Residents have to constantly fight for green space! The EPD should follow their mission statement!

JR: We are sensitive to green space.

Option 3

Seems to serve best, fewest trees removed and no new parking. Solves entrance/address issue.

No cut to Cottage Hill, already a busy corner. People park wherever they please including in front of my driveway!

How many mature trees will be lost? JR: Trees are constantly being removed due to disease or loss in storms. The park has changed over time. It has been expanded.

It is not the same park it was 30 years ago or even 3 years ago.

Option 2 & 3:

These are the most palatable, and least loss of trees.

Option 4:

Detracts from the Library, blocks view.

Takes significantly more green space.

Other Comments:

Elmhurst Center of Performing Arts group would like this building preserved for an Arts Facility considered.

A couple of people asked:

Why not use the City owned green space on the Cottage Hill side of the Library?

JL: This space has been considered however it is a more congested area; it would require a parking deck in the middle of the lot to serve the library and Museum. Cottage Hill is one-way going south, adding to traffic & bus issues. Also there is no way to know when and if the Post Office will ever move. It is Federal land.

Some commented the Library wants that land for additional parking.

With other comments regarding why people should drive less and walk more. AJ stated we are always open to more suggestions and this is not the final plan.

How long would a new building take? AJ responded with the planning process and actual building approx. 3 years.

The next steps going forward are the Park Board reassessing revised options. Once a site is ok'd we can explore what the building would look like.

EPD said people would be kept informed via email. All thanked for attending.

The meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.