

Public Meeting April 20, 2015 at 7 p.m. 50 people in attendance, 17 Museum Members.

The meeting opened with a presentation on the Museum and 4 new site option plans. The meeting proceeded with public comments.

Option 1:

The parking lot would remove more trees on nicely developed corner.

Could provide extra parking when needed for weddings, Sunday Church services, etc. A local resident cited certain times when more parking is needed on Cottage Hill.

The parking lot is too close to the corner and will make Cottage Hill more congested.

Option 2:

Least big trees removed, least invasive to the park.

Would provide identity access and parking for the Museum.

Some comments on the use of the main lot i.e. how often it is used and how much parking is needed. Response: Friday, Saturday and Sunday are the most utilized times for the lot with Mansion rentals and Museum activities going on at the same time. This is when more parking is needed.

Most weekend visitors to the Museum park in the bus cut because they don't see the main lot and don't know where to access the lot. Google directs visitors to Cottage Hill.

Option 3:

Least big trees removed, least invasive to the park.

Access drive drew both positive and negative comments.

Some didn't like the "cut through" idea being brought back. It could be dangerous for children.

Some thought it would be ok if done properly: it would give the Museum identity/access from Cottage Hill and eliminate a parking lot taking up green space.

Eliminate drive and improve entrance on Prospect, possibly change the address of the Museum.

Response: Museum not visible from Prospect and will have the same identity problem.

Create a horseshoe drive around the parking lot on the Museum side to improve access and visibility from Cottage Hill and Prospect.

Consolidate parking and move the building into the parking lot. This would result in decreased parking for the Mansion and block the coach house.

Option 4:

Seemed to be the least desirable Option.

There may be a library expansion on this side. Response: the Library would have to address the expansion with the Park Board, as it is Park District land.

Too many trees would be removed in a nicely developed area of the park.

Would ruin the view of the Children's library.

The lot would be used by both library and college students.

There is already too much traffic between Alexander and Prospect.

Some comments on Option 4 included it might be ok if no parking lot just horse-shoe drop off on Prospect and expand the parking lot at the Art Museum. Create a pathway to the new Museum site on Prospect. This would leave southeast corner open for more green space development.

Additional Comments:

A rather large contingency of people (approx. 6 to 8) attended the meeting to announce and promote their idea for a Performing Arts space with theatre and practice space. They suggested renovating and utilizing the vacated Museum building or building a new structure. The Performing Arts space was addressed a few times during the meeting. Some comments were made in response to use the Christian Reform Church. Jim Rodgers said this was a separate issue and not the purpose of this meeting.

How would the Project be funded? Response: No park funds would be used. Financed through private means and the Lizzadro Family.

The Museum is an asset to the community and needs it's own identity.
The Museum brings visitors into Elmhurst.

Why can't the current building be renovated? Response: This would be costly, the building is not up to current codes, it is in a "moat" as well as structural problems would make it more difficult than rebuilding.

Could the building be relocated to the Northeast corner? Across from the library or where the Post Offices is? Response: The green space owned by the City to the northeast would create more congestion at the already congested library parking. The post office is on Federal land and not under the City's jurisdiction.

Would any of the options impact the Mansion or Conservatory? Response: None of the options would impact these 2 entities. Jim Rogers added it has not been decided what to do with the Coach House.

What is the process going forward? Jim Rogers stated that after the public meetings the Park Board would reconsider the options presented and take public comment into consideration.

The visitors were thanked for attending and the meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.