

Meeting Notes  
Penn Park Shelter Replacement  
Neighborhood Meeting  
January 7, 2016

Attendance: 18 (including Ald Carter, 3 neighborhood police officers, 2 interpreters)

General consensus at the meeting was that with all the revitalization and growth in this unique and diverse South side neighborhood, we should not discourage having large events and festivals by offering a smaller shelter than what is currently there.

They look forward to additional meetings to continue the discussion, and the opportunity to fundraise if necessary to get what the neighborhood wants and needs. They will continue to meet with the Alder and will approach the Mayor, Common Council to get a custom designed shelter. They understood this could delay the project.

They would bypass other park improvements to concentrate on the shelter if necessary.

- Stressed that Penn Park is not just a “neighborhood” park – it is their “community” park (not determined solely by acreage) Need to consider the festivals and large events that they have there: Juneteenth, church services and picnics, large family reunions, South Side Raiders practice and game field
- Generally liked the design of the prototype, just would like it to be bigger, especially covered space (expand restroom size, add concession and storage, expand covered picnic area) They were disappointed that the new shelter was half the size of the old shelter
- Requested 3 toilets in women’s; 2 toilets and 1 urinal in men’s
- Concessions
- Storage
- Meeting room (interior like Elver)
- Solar?
- Storm shelter?
- Pleased to hear it will now be “reservable”
- Can the concrete pad around the building be larger to accommodate grills, and additional picnic tables?

- Beef up electrical outlets/breakers/panels to handle MANY crock pots, etc. for large gatherings
- Scrap grass track, replace with asphalt oval walking track – request from Panthers – size and shape is pertinent to their program (they now travel to Middleton or Sun Prairie to find a useable track for their program) Note: they were not listed as a participant in the last study
- Pleased to hear that one option is to resurface the field and change the orientation to square it up with the property lines (to allow for future lighting, bleachers, track, etc)
- Neighbors specifically asked the police officers to comment on what they want: The officers stressed that they generally want what the neighborhood wants – a well-lit, safe shelter with good visibility/sight lines (currently NOT what they have with short walls and many areas to hide) Lighting at the shelter and parking lot wanted.
- Police do keep the gate closed (they have the keys) except for large events and football
- Police would love to see the fences removed around the basketball courts (if the tennis court was removed)
- Alder Carter spoke a couple of times, reminding the neighborhood folks that there will be additional meetings to discuss – especially about fundraising. Talked about a capital campaign for storage and concessions (roughing in the space during construction)
- Additional question: how will Rev Jackson property be used? Parking?