September 14, 2018

Meeting date: 07/31/2018
Time: 6:00 pm
Participants: Near South Planning Board
site design group ltd. (site)
South Loop residents

General Comments:

DO’s:
• Share the notes from first public meeting with all the residents
• Reach out to other groups [i.e. Hello South Loop!] to spread the word.
• Increase the amount of decoration planting.
• Make sure there’s space for outdoor exercise groups. If they get pushed out, where would they go?
• Likes the entry way idea.
• Have no problem with defining a better boundary for the park. Even with fences. Referencing Cottontail Park and Daniel Webster park.
• Keep it a family space
• Keep it flat and open will be honoring the culture of the park.
• Can create a community garden or activities that community can participate in.
• Maybe just keep the park as an early 20th century park.

DON’Ts:
• Do not want to turn this corner of the Grant Park into Millennium Park #2. Do not wish to make it too nice so it attracts lots of tourists.
• Do not wish to have a boundary around the sculpture. Want to let the sculpture flow into the rest of the park.
• Do not add hard pavements, use wood. The area could use more greenery and plants.
• Referencing Northerly Island, with lots of soft material paths, creating a feeling of being immersed in nature.
• Do not wish to use tall hedges. It could potentially create a hideout spot for dangerous people.
• No fencing. Adding fencing and hedges may block out view to the sculptures.
CONCERNS/CONSIDERATIONS:

SEATING AND LIGHTING
- Need more seating.
- Whatever hardscape goes into the space, will have to take the skateboarders into serious consideration. They have already damaged a lot of existing seating.
- Need more lighting.
- Lighting use needs to be responsible and reduce light pollution.

TRAFFIC
- Traffic on Michigan & Roosevelt makes the corner of the park very unpleasant. Lots of noise and odor. Referencing Art Institute Garden. The usage of bushes in that space helps mitigate noise and odor from Michigan Avenue.
- South end of the park along Roosevelt need to be able to withstand heavy pedestrian usage. Consider tourists going to the Museum Campus, Soldier Field, not always sober.

ARCHWAY/ENTRANCE
- This section of the park has not always been flat. It was an entryway for The Great Migration. Consider adding a Romanesque archway at the south end, honoring the history, adds depth to the cultural meaning of the park, and will correspond well with the archway of the old Stock Exchange Building [now at the Art Institute].

WATER FEATURE
- Water features (as white noise) may help block out traffic noise.
- Water features may take up too much space. It has to be heavily policed in Millennium Park, may need the same here. May also attract lots of kids [liability issue etc.]
- Water may be impractical
- Millennium Park already has water feature, not unique.
- May consider bringing the Rosenberg Fountain here.

WAYFINDING
- Park lacks wayfinding. If we’re talking about making this end as an entrance point, we need to provide wayfinding for visitors, i.e. map.

LABYRINTH
- Create a walking path labyrinth using soft, green materials. A path of meditation.
- Some oppose to the labyrinth idea.
SCULPTURE
- Could consider putting the focus on the north side open area, so it would leave the sculpture be and also create more elements.
- Would the archway take away focus from the sculptures?

PARK BORDERS
- The park feels unfinished and lacks definition. It should create levels of reveals to the visitors, so that it provides an enriched experience.
- We have to consider the environmental impact that the park has. How can we better set the park apart from the unpleasant busy intersection?
- Maybe we should reverse think, instead of setting apart, should make it open and inviting.
- A nice and quiet park will make visitors and residents feel more inviting, since it provides a contrast to the bustling neighborhood.
- Right now the park is viewed as an extension of the streets (Roosevelt and Michigan). Delineating the park from the intersection is important.
- Could consider using topography as park boundary. It won’t obstruct view to the sculptures.

SEWAGE LIFT STATION
- Need to find a way to cover it up.
- We could make a comfort station.
- With comfort station, we need monitoring. How can we make sure homeless people are not staying in the comfort station?

STORMWATER CONTROL
- Southwest corner always a mess after heavy rain. Needs stormwater control, better drainage.

GREENERY
- Could use more color in this corner of the park.
- Sculptures are very serious, can we add in some green features to soften it up. Needs light colored contrast.