



# Public Meeting Notes

Comments from a March 17, 2021 Public Meeting for a potential skate park follow. This meeting took place on Google Meets between 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm. The statements below are a summary of notes taken by staff based on verbal comments heard.

1. Thanks for eliminating Lovelace Park for a permanent selection.
2. James Park is the ideal location. Skate park has opportunities for accidents. May need ambulances to access site.
3. Don't take out permeable areas wherever possible.
4. Why not install a permanent skate park now at James?
5. What is oversight at skate park?
6. Features for older skaters – mini ramp (miniature half pipe). 5 to 6 feet tall with wider sides. For others fun-boxes, skate rails, for younger people. Think about multiple generations that use the equipment. James is a great location.
7. Great opportunity for skaters. Seen increase in park usage. Don't take away green space. People need greenspace to decompress. Beck, Butler and Twiggs is not a good selection – we need more greenspace. If City wants to purchase property they should buy already paved areas. James is the best location. Mason Park can be developed but any plans should integrate a larger vision there.
8. Runs a skate club. Most important feature is a super smooth surface. Is James Park smooth enough? Use precast features now and then move them to a permanent site. Need a lot of runway between obstacles due to speed. Need a lot of space – what we have shown may be too tight.
9. Do it right. It seems like we are rushing through a temporary solution. The James site is likely too small. If we do a temporary site on poor pavement it will create more problems than it is worth. Lincolnwood Park is a good example. Install a permanent (phase 1) site now and then expand it. Deerfield has a new park and is a good example of a great installation.
10. Lincolnwood – very small – only works for a few people. Consider a skate plaza design not a skate park – street design. Kettering Ohio – example of street design skate plaza. Google “skate plaza”.

11. Just go for a permanent park – don't build a temporary site. Would rather wait and install a good permanent installation. Really need a tennis court level of surfacing. Use sustainable concrete and solar panels for shaded seating. He likes bowls for skating.
12. Would like to be a tour guide for us. Lincolnwood is small but no area is wasted. Niles is large but everything is really too spread out. \$50K is too much for a mini ramp and a box. Don't think this will get kids out of Fountain Square. Robert Crown – why wasn't this listed as a potential site? Crown site was dismantled 19 years ago.
13. Surface at lot in James is too rough. Money will be wasted at James in a temporary site. Teens created a popup skate park at Ridgeville PD – foursquare location. We should reengage with Ridgeville PD on this location.
14. James as a permanent space would be great.
15. New Deerfield site is ideal model.
16. Evanstonians need to travel out of town to skate. Consider a hybrid street and transition design (this is what Deerfield has). This should have been included in the Robert Crown project. Don't bother with a temporary site – this is a waste of money. Construct a permanent site – in phases if needed.
17. Lives close to Lovelace – glad it has been taken off the table. This should be done sooner than later. This should be centrally located.
18. BMX – you can't grind anything lower than 1' high. Staircases, banks, rails. James is a great spot. Miss the Crown site. Don't forget about BMX and inline.
19. Also feels that building a temporary site is a waste. We should just invest in a permanent park. Logan Square is a good example in Chicago of a poor temporary installation.
20. Like the idea of having a temporary facility is available. Need to think about access – not everyone has a car. However, the surface must be very smooth. What about using the old recycling center? It could have both an outside and inside facility.
21. Why don't we have a skate park in Evanston. Will send information about Lincolnwood's installation. We should do something permanent. How about several smaller installations around the City. Discuss ideas with American Ramp Company.
22. What about some indoor space? What about creating an indoor/outdoor space?

23. Has a skateboard company. Building something like Lincolnwood could be expanded. How about something like the sculpture park that you interact with through the park's path system. What about lighting? These would be helpful to extend the use of the space.
24. Equity issues with regard to locations. Existing small skate park near canal – rarely used and out of the way. Could that location be upgraded?
25. Save our money for a permanent park.
26. Kids get kicked out of downtown Evanston. There is nowhere else to go. Thinks the temporary site is a good idea to get something out there for use. Just spend \$20k to \$30k to give the kids an option. For the permanent site – a plaza would be a great idea – less expensive and resembles things in downtown Evanston – will help keep skaters out of downtown. We should have a temporary skate park at King Field and at Lighthouse Park District.
27. Make a permanent park not a temporary park. Work directly with the kids to build their own skate park. Install skate spots all over town – simple individual components set in parks.
28. Need to consider skill levels and offer options for multiple skills.
29. Talk to Ridgeville and update them at next meeting.