

FOCUS WRIGLEY FIELD

Cubs' vision for Wrigley revealed

Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts plans to release new renderings of proposed renovations to Wrigley Field on Wednesday. There would be more than 42,000 square feet of new advertising inside and outside the ballpark.



Left field advertising: The Cubs' plans also include an LED board similar to the one put in right field last year but about 6 feet longer. Another sign would appear near the foul pole.

Advertising sign: Here and in all other instances where the words "Wrigley Field" appear in the Cubs' renderings, an advertisement would take its place.

Video board: The three-panel video board and the advertising on top total 6,000 square feet, nearly three times the size of the center field scoreboard.

Center field advertising: Changes in center field would include a new LED ribbon board above the batter's eye backdrop, featuring advertisements and game-day information.

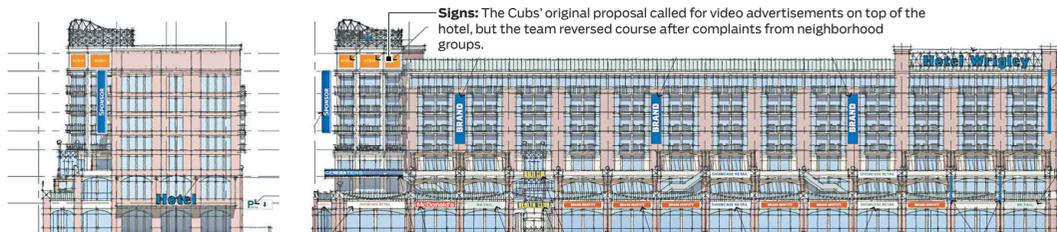
Right field advertising: A 1,000-square-foot sign in the style of the Toyota sign currently in left field that would be replaced by the video board. Another sign would appear near the foul pole.

Hotel development

A 175-room hotel, health club, dining and retail development would be built at the northwest corner of Clark and Addison streets. The 91-foot-tall structure would have seven floors with advertisements appearing on the orange panels near the top of the building and on the blue banners on the front and sides of the building.

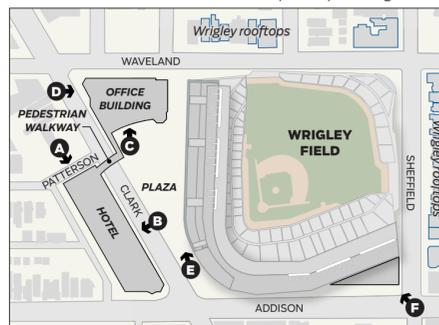
A North elevation (from Patterson Avenue)

B East elevation (from Clark Street)



Signs: The Cubs' original proposal called for video advertisements on top of the hotel, but the team reversed course after complaints from neighborhood groups.

MAP OF PROPOSED CHANGES With viewpoints of renderings

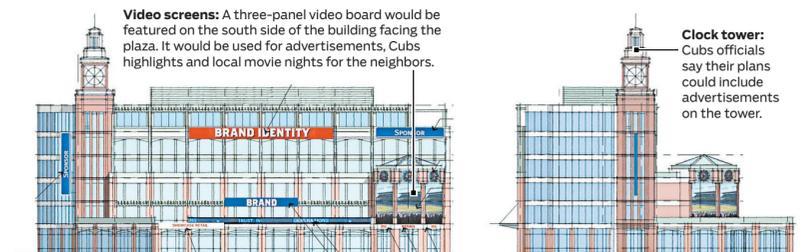


Office and retail building

The team's six-story office and retail building would include a clock tower and advertisements on the building's sides. It is connected to the hotel by a pedestrian bridge.

C South elevation (from planned plaza)

D West elevation (from Clark Street)



Video screens: A three-panel video board would be featured on the south side of the building facing the plaza. It would be used for advertisements, Cubs highlights and local movie nights for the neighbors.

Clock tower: Cubs officials say their plans could include advertisements on the tower.

Signs point to more ads

Continued from Page 1

91-foot-tall hotel, as well as the clock tower on the office building. A three-panel video screen would be placed on the office building, inside the plaza, where seven obelisks would carry more static ads. Banners featuring team sponsors would hang from the hotel, facing Clark.

Change also would come to the southeast corner of the stadium, where the site of the Captain Morgan Club would be replaced with a two-story structure topped by signs and a deck.

Add in the updated concourses, expanded bathrooms, improved player areas and outdoor terraces, and the broader idea is to give the stadium modern amenities, create a town square for Wrigleyville and generate more revenue, both to cover the cost of the renovation and provide revenue for team development, Kenney said.

"We have to generate new revenue," he said. "We have to catch up to our large-market competitors on ball-

park revenues, so this project has to work from a financial perspective as well."

Asked about a recent Forbes report characterizing the Cubs as the most profitable team in baseball, Kenney questioned the magazine's analysis and insisted more revenue was needed, particularly if the renovation was going to move ahead without public financing — a rarity in Major League Baseball.

The \$300 million renovation and \$200 million neighborhood redevelopment plans are part of a larger package put forward by Ricketts and endorsed in concept as part of a framework hammered out during negotiations among Ricketts, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Ald. Tom Tunney, 44th.

The team and city officials have agreed to allow at least 40 night games, more late-afternoon games on Fridays, and weekend closings of Sheffield Avenue for street fairs on game days. And all

"This is not trying to make Wrigley new. It's actually trying to make Wrigley old."

— Cubs President Crane Kenney

Commission, the Landmarks Commission and, finally, the City Council.

That process is expected to be launched this week, when the Cubs submit detailed plans to the city. They hope to get approvals for the entire plan by the end of the season so they can start work on the multiyear renovation. Emanuel's spokeswoman,

have agreed in principle to allow the left field video board, right field signage, additional signs inside the park, the plaza and the hotel.

But the final size of the signs inside and outside the park is not set in stone, with Emanuel and Tunney frequently noting they must be vetted by neighbors, the Plan sign in right field, and a hotel across the street," Hamilton said. "The specific design, look, feel and size of these signs will be worked out in the formal planned development process with input from the Lakeview community."

Tunney, who represents Lakeview, said he wasn't going to pass judgment on the specifics of the plan until he had a chance to review the details and residents can weigh in.

"We will review the planned development through a rigorous community process, and we look forward to seeing the details,

because the details do matter," he said.

Also cautious was Will DeMille, president of the Lake View Citizens' Council, who noted that he had yet to see renderings of the video board and right field sign and wanted to hear directly from the Cubs and Tunney before commenting. The Cubs have shared renderings of the proposed hotel, office building, plaza and Captain Morgan area outside the stadium with the neighborhood group, he said.

"The one rendering that has been missing, the one we hadn't seen, was one with the impact of the Jumbotron and signage within the stadium that would impact the views looking out of the stadium and the views of the rooftops looking in," DeMille said.

The owners of 16 rooftop clubs that enjoy bird's-eye views of the stadium and have a revenue-sharing contract with the team have threatened to sue the Cubs if their views are blocked. They contend any blockage of their views would violate the con-

tract, as well as the city landmark ordinance that protects "the uninterrupted sweep of the bleachers."

There was a failed attempt at compromise put forth by the rooftop clubs, under which advertising would have been mounted on the buildings with all revenue going to the Cubs. But the rooftop owners also wanted to extend their contract beyond its expiration at the end of 2023, a change the Cubs weren't willing to accept.

Kenney said the two signs at the rear walls of Wrigley are likely to affect rooftop views. He noted that part of the plan is to move back the rear walls of the stadium to diminish that impact.

"Our desire is to try to protect the views of our partners, who are paying us," Kenney said. "And we're trying to locate both signs in places that don't strategically impact them."

The rooftop owners Tuesday also said they were waiting to review the detailed plans.

"When the renderings are

shared with neighborhood groups, attorneys for the rooftop owners will carefully review the Cubs proposal and compare it to their federally mediated contract which contains a provision providing that the Cubs will not erect barriers to obstruct the views of the rooftops," said a

statement issued by rooftop owners spokesman Ryan McLaughlin.

As to the area outside the stadium, DeMille said the citizens council he leads is concerned about the proposed 91-foot height of the hotel and the impact that building, its advertisements

and added traffic would have on the smaller homes to the west on Addison.

"The hotel is keeping in line with the profile of Wrigley Field ... but it is immediately adjacent to residential properties," DeMille said. "We have to look at more of the details beyond

that would blanket the area. "There are overall concerns about the amount of signage, types of signage, the hours lighted signage will be up to ensure we're not creating a Times Square-type effect all year round with the hotel and triangle property," DeMille said. "Those are the

kind of details we don't have yet. What we have now are only the preliminary drawings."

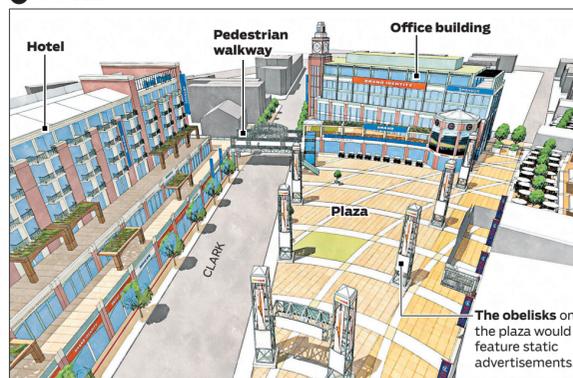
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Plaza adjacent to Wrigley

On the left is the proposed hotel, health club, dining and retail development. On the right is the plaza and office building for the team. An elevated walkway over Clark Street would connect the two sites.

E Aerial view



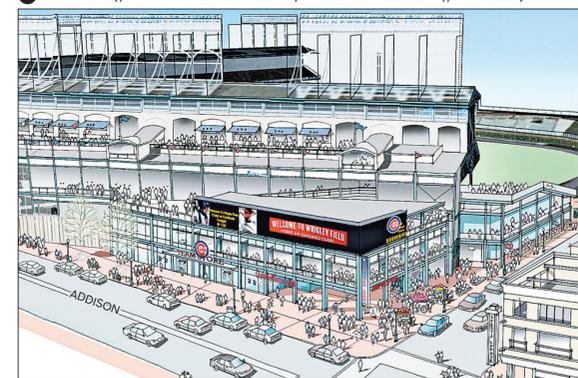
SOURCES: Chicago Cubs, Tribune reporting

RENDERINGS COURTESY OF THE CHICAGO CUBS

New Captain Morgan Club and team store

The new structure housing a 14,000-square-foot Captain Morgan Club would feature an additional level and a deck on top. The building would also include a team store. Signage on top of the structure also would include advertisements.

F Aerial view (from above the intersection of Addison Street and Sheffield Avenue)



CHAD YOEDER/TRIBUNE

Aurora rescuers honored for pulling girl from car

Steve Prosser feared the worst when he arrived at an Aurora hospital after his 14-year-old daughter was pulled from a submerged car.

But Annie Prosser survived the crash that left another person dead thanks to the police, firefighters and paramedics who braved the frigid waters of a retention pond to rescue her, officials said Tuesday.

"If it wasn't for these gentlemen, I would be without my daughter," said Prosser, of Batavia. "It's something I think about every morning when I get up, how truly thankful I am." Aurora officials saluted those involved in the rescue

during a ceremony Tuesday. Annie Prosser was one of four people who were in the car that went off an Interstate 88 exit ramp and landed upside down in the water March 9. Her mother and another 14-year-old girl escaped the vehicle.

The driver, Emory Diaz Sepulveda, 20, of Aurora, was pronounced dead at the scene, authorities said. Divers searched the pond for hours before recovering her body.

State police were investigating the crash. Annie Prosser, an eighth-grader, attended the ceremony with her family, exchanging hugs with the police and firefighters.



Annie Prosser, 14, smiles as the Aurora police officers, firefighters and paramedics who pulled her from a submerged car in March were honored during a ceremony Tuesday.

Bridges, blues, mausoleums make Illinois most endangered list

By ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Tribune reporter

Historic sites need money to survive. Some also need a little love. That's why some preservationists are optimistic that Muddy Waters' former home can be saved — at least it has people who want to preserve it.

Other historic sites might not be so lucky. Landmarks Illinois on Tuesday issued its annual list of the state's 10 most endangered historic sites, some of which are already targeted for demolition. While blues and history lovers are working to save Waters' South Side home, other sites are orphans in need of adoption.

Topping this year's list are

Chicago's bascule bridges — drawbridges that lift one or two spans to let boats pass below, and which are a signature symbol of the city. A select few are being saved, such as the recently restored Michigan Avenue bridge and the Wells Street bridge currently under reconstruction.

But many more are deteriorating and need millions of dollars for maintenance or replacement, preservationists warned. Some, like the Chicago Avenue and Division Street bridges over the Chicago River, are too narrow and form dangerous choke points for traffic, and are likely to be replaced.

At least one, the Ashland Avenue bridge, has the support of the Chicago Art Deco

Society, which is seeking its renovation. The city is undertaking a survey of the bridges to recommend what to do with them.

Waters' house, at 4339 S. Lake Park Ave. in the North Kenwood neighborhood, where the likes of Howlin' Wolf and Otis Spann once belted out the blues in the basement, now sits boarded up. The residence was the target of a foreclosure filing last summer, and in January the city issued a warning letter to the owner after an inspection found the property to be "dangerous."

The letter could lead to a court order for demolition, but city officials said they were working with the owner to try to address main-

tenance issues. Tim Samuelson, cultural historian for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, is optimistic that those efforts can save the house.

"There are a number of people willing to step in," he said. "The house means a lot to many different people."

The Mineola Hotel in Fox Lake plays on a different aspect of Chicago's heritage — gangsters. Historians say the hotel was once a resort destination for mobsters and others seeking a getaway from the city. But the hotel closed 50 years ago, leaving a bar, lounge and marina, and the city got a court order to close the building last year.

Kathryn Thoman, executive director of the Mineola

Preservation Project, hopes that its inclusion on the list could drum up interest to rehab the building.

"You can walk through those doors and you walk back in time," she said. "You can sit down and have a drink where Al Capone did. It's a very special building."

After the building was condemned last year, owner Pete Jakstas tried to sell the property on eBay for \$2 million, but he didn't get any bids, Thoman said. She estimated it would cost \$340,000 to get the bar alone up and running, and millions of dollars to fix the hotel.

In West Chicago, city officials seek to demolish the Joel Wiant House, built in 1869 at the height of the city's

importance as a railroad junction, and home to many prominent families, according to the landmarks group.

The city's plan calls for knocking down the Second Empire-style house as part of a 14-acre downtown redevelopment, to make way for a new City Hall and police station, among other things. Local advocates are mounting a petition drive to save the house, vacant since 2008, and seeking a possible buyer.

Elsewhere in the Chicago area, the 1857 Gage House in Winnetka, which was built by one of the community's earliest settlers and was a makeshift hospital during the 1860 Lady Elgin steamer sinking, also made the list of imperiled sites.

Other structures in the ranking were community mausoleums statewide, including in far south suburban Beecher and Roodhouse in central Illinois. Dozens were built in the early 1900s as part of a movement to provide affordable above-ground entombment. The buildings were often given rich stone veneers and stained-glass windows.

But many fell into disrepair without adequate income to maintain them or people to take care of them, leaving some with no effective ownership.

Staff reporter Dan Waters contributed.
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