

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ELMHURST PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**August 14, 2013**

**7:00 p.m.**

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at The Abbey, 407 West St. Charles Road, Elmhurst, IL. Prior notice of the meeting was posted. The meeting was called to order by Board President Kubiesa at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Commissioners Howard, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Ubriaco, and Kubiesa.

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** James W. Rogers, Executive Director  
Angela Ferrentino, Director of Parks & Facilities  
Dave Kenny, Director of Information Technology  
Brian McDermott, Director of Enterprise Services  
Cathy Medema, Director of Finance & Human Resources  
Cindy Szkolka, Director of Recreation  
Ginger Wade, Director of Marketing & Communications  
Anne Scheppele, Division Manager- Facilities  
Laura Guttman, Special Projects Coordinator  
Daniel Payne, Division Manager - Parks  
Jerry Pask, Landscape Architect and Park Planner  
Greg Utaski, Division Manager – Facilities and Grounds

**Visitors:** Mayor Steve M. Morley, City of Elmhurst  
Jim Grabowski, City Manager, City of Elmhurst  
Mike Hughes, Director of Public Works, City of Elmhurst  
Christopher B. Burke, Burke Engineering, Ltd., Rosemont, IL  
Douglas Gotham, Burke Engineering, Ltd., Rosemont, IL  
Luke Sherry, Burke Engineering, Ltd., Rosemont, IL  
Graydon Megan, Reporter, Chicago Tribune  
Hristina Tisheva, Reporter, Bulgarian Television News  
Karen Chadra, Reporter, Elmhurst Patch  
C. J. Elonich, 857 S. Cedar Avenue, Elmhurst  
Rob Bennett, 685 Kearsage, Elmhurst  
Mike Bulford, 703 Washington, Elmhurst  
Mike Machon, 241 Washington, Elmhurst  
Mike Sasek, 748 Washington, Elmhurst  
Frank Lech, 306 N. Geneva, Elmhurst  
Joellyn Haske, 625 S. Saylor Ave., Elmhurst  
Michael Haske, 625 S. Saylor Ave., Elmhurst  
Darlene Marek, 206 Caroline, Elmhurst  
Joe Marek, 206 Caroline, Elmhurst  
Dean Petravlakis, 652 Swain Avenue, Elmhurst  
Kathleen Sullivan, 133 Pine, Elmhurst

**Visitors:**

Mike Honquest, 232 Niagara, Elmhurst  
Mike Hughes, 209 N. York, Elmhurst  
Rick Johnson, 166 Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Joann Johnson, 166 Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Judy Dabertin, 177 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Tim Kennedy, 184 East Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Eileen Kennedy, 184 East Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Chris Zimmerman, 185 Cayuga, Elmhurst  
John Bobik, 190 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Joan Bobik, 190 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Jim Byrne, 201 Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Suzanne Prost, 205 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Bob Stewart, 215 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Christ Stewart, 215 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Kevin Graf, 233 Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Jo Ann Buerger, 259 Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Bill Chu, 273 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Queena Chu, 273 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Mimi Black, 275 Cayuga, Elmhurst  
Mike Menichini, 527 Mitchell, Elmhurst  
Provi Guerriere, 861 Mitchell, Elmhurst  
John Chisholm, 555 S. Mitchell Ave., Elmhurst  
Shannon Watts, 688 S. Euclid Ave., Elmhurst  
Patrick McDowell, 129 Richard, Elmhurst  
Michael Bram, 700 N. Van Auken, Elmhurst  
Peter Conroy, 448 Elm Park, Elmhurst  
Jean Conroy, 448 Elm Park, Elmhurst  
Mike Baker, 432 Elm Park, Elmhurst  
Julie Eskenazi, 118 Pine, Elmhurst  
Paul Eskenazi, 118 Pine, Elmhurst  
Carlton Rink, 114 Pine, Elmhurst  
Matt Sherman, Elmhurst

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA**

None

**REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE FROM VISITORS**

Board President Kubiesa requested all public comments related to stormwater management issues be made after Agenda item 9a (1) City of Elmhurst Proposed Stormwater Management Plan Presentation.

Board President Kubiesa read electronic mail received from James Filippini, 188 May Street, Elmhurst, IL who wrote:

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**From:** James Filippini [<mailto:filippini-wetz@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2013 10:46 AM  
**To:** Carolyn Ubriaco; Bob Howard; Mary Kies; Patricia Morissette-Moll; Anthony Pelosi; Vince Spaeth; Colette Kubiesa; Rogers, Jim  
**Cc:** [scott.levin@elmhurst.org](mailto:scott.levin@elmhurst.org); [chris.healy@elmhurst.org](mailto:chris.healy@elmhurst.org)  
**Subject:** Use of Parks for Stormwater Retention

I am writing to express concern over the City of Elmhurst's proposal to locate stormwater retention facilities in our parks. We all recognize that action is needed to address the stormwater problems that face Elmhurst and I would hope the Park District cooperates with the City in finding a solution to this problem. However, there are safety and health concerns that need to be addressed in the City's current proposal. In a recent article in the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Stormwater Report, safety concerns at stormwater facilities were raised as a significant issue that engineers and utility managers need to address. (WEF is an international nonprofit representing water quality professionals) Let me share with you a paragraph from the article that sums it up rather succinctly: *"People are drawn to water, whether it is a natural lake, reservoir, river, or stormwater pond. Consider the safety implications of locating stormwater facilities near highly trafficked areas, such as residential neighborhoods, schools, trails or playgrounds. The risk to children of all ages should be of particular concern to designers. Children in particular may think of stormwater features, such as pipes, ponds and channels as fun places to play or swim. However, high-velocity and rapidly rising waters can make stormwater facilities extremely dangerous."* This is so much an issue that the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and other water and engineering associations are currently developing a guidance document on "The Protection of public Safety at Urban Stormwater Facilities" that is expected to be out by the end of the year.

In addition to safety there is also public health issues associated with these facilities. Stormwater is polluted with debris, chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides, pet waste, oil, grease and other pathogens. Elmhurst's sewer systems have yet to function as separate systems. Our stormwater is heavily polluted with sewage from the sanitary system. When surcharging of the sanitary system occurs it ends up in the storm system and Salt Creek. The reservoirs as proposed will allow much of this pollution to settle out and remain at the site.

This is not the only alternative to solve this problem but one of many that may be needed. There are many more options that have not been looked at such as street storage that was proposed back in 1996 by Harza engineering and also green or sustainable technologies and practices. There is a myth that is circulating in this town that green or sustainable technologies won't work. However, there are examples in Elmhurst and in the area that show it does work, i.e. Hawthorn School teachers' parking lot, Elmhurst Colleges new dorm facility, Morton Arboretum and many more. I would urge you to read today's Tribune article on the need for green projects to fix flooding. Broader think is needed to solve this problem, this is no time for "shallow thinking".

Elmhurst Park District Board Meeting  
August 14, 2013

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However, with that said, the Park District does need to provide resources to the City and manage its own properties such that flooding can be reduced in Elmhurst. The Park District is in a unique position, given the amount of green space available, to manage all if not most of the stormwater that is generated from District parking lots and buildings and also provide opportunities to the City to manage stormwater in its system.

James Filippini  
188 May St.  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
630-834-8852 (home)  
630-846-8852 (cell)

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After reading the following correspondence received from Mayor Steve M. Morley, Board President Kubiesa appointed Park Board Commissioners Howard and Spaeth to serve on an intergovernmental communications committee to facilitate communication regarding stormwater solutions between the City of Elmhurst, School District 205, and the Park District; both Commissioner Spaeth and Commissioner Howard accepted the appointment.



**CITY OF ELMHURST**  
209 NORTH YORK STREET  
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(630) 530-3000  
[www.elmhurst.org](http://www.elmhurst.org)

STEVEN M. MORLEY  
MAYOR  
PATTY SPENCER  
CITY CLERK  
ELAINE LIBOVICZ  
CITY TREASURER  
JAMES A. GRABOWSKI  
CITY MANAGER

July 23, 2013

Mr. Jim Collins, President  
Elmhurst School District 205  
162 S. York Street  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Ms. Collette M. Kubiesa, President  
Elmhurst Park District  
375 W. First Street  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Dear Mr. Collins and Ms. Kubiesa:

Elmhurst continues to be a premier city in the Chicagoland area, and a significant reason is the sense of community our three agencies foster. Intergovernmental cooperation has been a long standing tradition in Elmhurst.

The City is at a crossroads in terms of storm water control. As you are aware, we continue to face challenges regarding flood mitigation.

A study was completed to find solutions to our problem. A significant part of the plan is to partner with School District 205 and the Park District to reconfigure certain parcels owned by each of your agencies to allow for storm water control and recreation areas for our constituents.

I believe clear concise communication is key as we move forward in this process together. As we continue to work toward a solution, on behalf of the City of Elmhurst and its residents, I propose forming an intergovernmental communications committee consisting of two elected officials from each organization and staff. The purpose of this committee would be to facilitate communication between our three groups as well as provide regular updates to the residents of Elmhurst regarding flood control and mitigation.

I look forward to hearing who your appointments are so we can coordinate the first meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Morley", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name "Steven M. Morley" and the title "Mayor" are printed.

Steven M. Morley  
Mayor

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Gateway – Szkolka**

- The fall brochure is out and has been mailed to participants and made available at District facilities for registration.
- There will not be an August meeting, but the Annual meeting is scheduled for October.

#### **PEP - Wade**

- The golf outing proceeds totaled \$9,250 with a profit of \$7,344. The increased profit margin is a result of sponsorships attained for the event.
- A schedule is being prepared to host the Park Palooza beverage tent and we are seeking more volunteers to help.

#### **Sugar Creek Golf Outing - Rogers**

- The golf course experienced a bounce back in July compared to previous months. The poor weather has affected golfing negatively this year.
- Superintendent Kevin Goss continues to work on bunker restoration and is taking the opportunity to redesign certain bunkers to help prevent flooding.

### **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

Elmhurst Art Museum – August 21, 2013

Gateway – September 12, 2013

Sugar Creek Golf Course – August 27, 2013

Park/City/School – September 9, 2013

Gateway – September 12, 2013

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Spaeth made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda of August 14, 2013 and Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. The Board was polled: Ayes: Commissioners Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Ubriaco, Howard, Kies, and Kubiesa. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

It should be noted that the following items were approved on the Consent Agenda: Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2013, Closed Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2013, Check Registers 08/02/13 - \$204,240.30, 7/26/13 - \$145,441.75, 7/19/13 - \$253,974.93, 7/12/13 - \$183,243.48, 7/05/13 - \$160,025.28, Wilder Park Conservatory Project Painting Bid, and Disposal Ordinance O-07-13.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Old) –**

#### **City of Elmhurst Proposed Stormwater Management Plan Presentation**

Mayor Morley thanked the Board for their time, accommodating such a large group of people, and for inviting City of Elmhurst representatives and Burke Engineering to present the Stormwater Management Plan Proposal. Mayor Morley stated that the plan has yet to be approved as the cooperation of the School and Park District is required to develop an Intergovernmental Agreement to move forward. City Manager Jim Grabowski added that the proposed plans are the most cost-effective measures identified by Burke Engineering. Christopher Burke and staff of Burke Engineering presented background on the study they completed for the City that included hydrologic and hydraulic modeling to determine flooding

solutions for ten study areas, as well as calculating flood storage and stormwater runoff volumes. They then described the effects of the April 18, 2013 storm event in Elmhurst and discussed how the proposed plans for using five District parks for short-term stormwater detention could help address the issue by creating storage to reduce the level of flooding. Board President Kubiesa stated that the Park Board is concerned about protecting District parks and questioned whether the proposed plan would hamper the District's ability to make future changes, upgrades and expansions of parks. The Board then questioned Burke Engineering regarding initial and maintenance costs, other possible options such as underground stormwater detention, purchasing homes that are flood prone and looking at other open space options in Elmhurst. Following the Board's questions, Board President Kubiesa opened the floor for public comment.

## **REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE FROM VISITORS**

C.J. Elonich, 857 Cedar Avenue – Although Mr. Elonich's home did flood during the April rainstorm, he does not want parks to be utilized as stormwater retention areas because he believes single rain events such as in April 2013 cannot be prevented. He asked the City of Elmhurst to consider using Kiwanis Park and as a practice in the future, retain vacant land for future needs.

Kevin Graf, 233 Cayuga – Pointed out that his home is at risk of flooding should the York Commons Park be used as a stormwater retention area. He estimates 30 to 60 homes on Cayuga Avenue will flood because of the downward slope of water flow. Mr. Graf asked the City to adopt construction ordinances/building codes to prevent further flooding.

Kathleen Sullivan, 133 Pine Street – Supported the use of Golden Meadows Park to prevent flooding in her neighborhood where many of her neighbors have opted to move from Elmhurst due to flooding. She estimated the total cost of implementing the proposed plans to be \$3.00 per month for taxing households.

Joellyn Haske, 625 S. Saylor Avenue – As residents, she and her husband came to the Park Board meeting in support of the proposed plans to keep Elmhurst a community where people want to live.

Mike Murphy, 723 S. Washington – Described his experience with flooding in his home and asked the Park Board to review the plans as presented and make a determination, or reengineer if necessary, in order to move forward in resolving stormwater flooding.

Jeff Byrne, 201 Cayuga – Expressed opposition to the use of parks as water detention areas. Believes compromising parks will create current and future issues i.e., drowning risks, water contamination, increased future maintenance costs, and permanent damage to green space.

Eileen Kennedy, 184 E. Cayuga – Feels the use of York Commons for a retention area would cause extreme flooding on Cayuga as water would travel downstream. She asked the Park Board and City to consider other areas – Van Voorst Park, strip near Safety Town, and the area behind Crescent near the VFW Hall as other options.

Tim Kennedy, 184 E. Cayuga – Asked what preventative measures would be taken to keep children safe from drowning in the retention ponds. He expressed his concern with water flowing downstream from York Commons to residential areas on Cayuga Avenue. Would like the Park Board to consider all options before making a decision.

Shannon Watts, 688 S. Euclid Avenue – Spoke in support of the proposed plans to help solve stormwater issues. Stated that the plans provide for park improvements, help retain property value, and deter homeowners from wanting to move from Elmhurst.

Carlton Rink, 114 Pine St. – Supports the proposed plans to use Golden Meadows Park for stormwater retention to aid in preventing high flood levels in homes near Pine Street. The four to six feet of water in his home in April caused considerable damage. Questioned whether it was any more dangerous to have three feet of water in the front yard than in the park. Believes that although the parks are beautiful, the use of the parks for stormwater retention would be beneficial without a financial burden to the Park District.

Bob Stewart, 215 E. Cayuga – Does not want to sacrifice Cayuga Avenue to resolve Crescent's flooding problem. Currently, Cayuga floods when water levels in York Commons reach a few inches. The proposed plans would only increase the level of flooding for Cayuga.

John Chisholm, 555 S. Mitchell Avenue – Speaking on behalf of residents on Mitchell Avenue, stated that currently flooding occurs during rain and snow on Mitchell Avenue. The use of Pioneer Park as a retention area will increase the amount of downstream flooding for Mitchell Avenue homes. The current plans may solve the problem of four homes, but cause flooding to eight homes, thus opposes the use of Pioneer Park for stormwater retention.

Dean Petrulakis, 652 Swain Avenue – Swain Avenue has experienced severe flooding. Is in support of the proposed plans but does not want to cause flooding in other areas. Would like to know more about drainage and safety issues. Asked for expeditious solutions.

John Bobik, 190 Cayuga – Does not believe the use of parks for stormwater retention areas is a solution to prevent homes from flooding. The use of increased underground sewer capacity would be a better solution.

Board President Kubiesa informed visitors that although the information contained in the Board's binders are a collection of documents downloaded from the City of Elmhurst's website, the Park District will provide a copy of the slideshow on its website [www.epd.org](http://www.epd.org).

#### **NEW BUSINESS -**

##### **2013 Courts Plus Boiler Improvement Project Bid**

Commissioner Ubriaco made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners reject all bids received for the Courts Plus Boiler Improvement Project and direct staff to work with W.T. Engineering to determine the next course of action. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Pelosi, Spaeth, Ubriaco, Howard, Kies, Morissette-Moll, and Kubiesa. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

**2013 Courts Plus HVAC Improvement Project Bid**

Commissioner Spaeth made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approves awarding the 2013 Courts Plus HVAC Improvement Project to West Town Refrigeration Corporation of Bensenville, IL in the amount of \$121,211 and authorizes the Executive Director to execute said contract. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Spaeth, Ubriaco, Howard, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, and Kubiesa. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

**2013 Courts Plus Interior Enhancement Project Bid**

Commissioner Morissette-Moll made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approves awarding the 2013 Courts Plus Interior Renovation Project to Sigalos & Associates of Itasca, IL in the amount of \$103,230 and authorizes the Executive Director to execute said contract. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Ubriaco, Howard, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth and Kubiesa. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER INFORMATION ITEMS –  
Announcements**

**Commissioner Kies**

- The Elmhurst Garden Club Walk & Faire was a success with \$20,700 in proceeds available for recreation scholarships.

**Commissioner Ubriaco**

- Thanked staff for setting up the Board meeting at The Abbey to accommodate the large crowd.

**Future Agenda**

None

**STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**Executive Director – Rogers**

- The Board will have a Special Board meeting on August 28, 2013.
- A ribbon cutting is planned for the new playground at Washington Park on September 11, 2013 at 6 p.m.  
Commissioner Ubriaco was pleased that the new playground will open on schedule before the ribbon cutting. Executive Director Rogers mentioned that union picketers were at the Washington Park worksite to picket one of the contractors and not the Park District.
- The Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony will be held at the Wilder Mansion on August 22 at 7 p.m. Board Commissioners are invited to honor the District's volunteers and to be recognized for their volunteer time and efforts for volunteering as Park Commissioners.
- Will be off on Friday, August 16.



**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Spaeth moved to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. and Commissioner Ubriaco seconded the motion. The Board adjourned by voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Office Board Room, 375 West First Street, Elmhurst, IL. Prior notice will be posted.

Note: Roll call voting will start with Commissioner Pelosi at the August 28, 2013 Park Board meeting.

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Colette Kubiesa, Board President

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Nimfa Melesio, Recording Secretary