

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

October 14, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at the Administrative Office, 375 West First Street, Elmhurst, IL. Prior notice of the meeting was posted. The meeting was called to order by Board President Ubriaco at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Ennis, Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, and Ubriaco

Absent: Commissioner Spaeth

Staff Present: James W. Rogers, Executive Director
Angela Ferrentino, Director of Parks & Facilities
Christi Jacobson, Director of Finance & Human Resources
David Kenny, Director of Information Technology
Cindy Szkolka, Director of Recreation
Ginger Wade, Director of Marketing & Communications
Greg Utaski, Enterprise Services Division Manager – Facilities and Grounds
Laura Guttman, Special Projects Coordinator
Christopher Strom, Administrative Assistant

Visitors:

Tom Allie	Julie Konopacz
Bob Berger	Pete Koutopoulos
Bob Bressan	Nick Magas
Vanessa Clohessy	Gianfranco Ocampo
Nick DeLeonardis	Patti Pagni
C.J. Elonich	Kathleen Sullivan
Therese Gracey	

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

Agenda item #6c Stormwater Subcommittee was combined with #9a(1) Stormwater Management Discussion.

REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE FROM VISITORS –

Julie Konopacz

Voiced concerns regarding the proposed addition of a basketball court in Butterfield Park and detention area in the park. Stated that the detention area will attract mosquitos, evict small animals currently taking residence in the proposed area, reduce the amount of space available for patron use, and not be able to take in water due to the lack of absorbent qualities of the soil. Asked what the benefits are to adding a detention area to the park.

Chris Elonich

Stated that the proposed detention area is mostly clay with very little top soil. Suggested the Park District excavate a good portion of the land if it is to be utilized as detention. The park needs rototilling in order to be able to absorb water – no drain tiles are needed. Approved of the playground, but viewed it as hypocrisy on the part of the Park District as it welcomes everyone, but continues to have fencing around the ball field allowing no admittance. Asked what the end game was with Elmhurst College.

Tom Allie

Agreed with the two previous speakers. Opposing the addition of a basketball court in Butterfield Park. Recommended money for the basketball court be invested in the proposed playground.

Nick DeLeonardis

Asked what methodology was used in deciding to place a basketball court in Butterfield Park especially since it is not an interest to the community. Surveyed 80 residents resulting in 97% of those surveyed against the basketball court. Stated that three neighboring communities removed basketball courts from their parks.

Nick Magas

Provided staff with a signed petition against replacing the tennis court with a basketball court in Butterfield Park. Conducted internet research on areas that removed basketball courts for various reasons. Suggested replacing a tennis court with a volleyball court instead.

Kathleen Sullivan

Favored detention areas to keep stormwater out of homes and businesses.

Patti Pagni

Asked if anyone driving by Butterfield Park can use the basketball court or if a permit will be required. Currently, in a visit to the park, many faces are recognizable, but not so when non-taxpayers are in the park. In regards to the detention area, it does not sound normal to have stagnate water attracting mosquitos. There could be a better use of taxpayer money.

Therese Gracey

Was unaware of previous meetings regarding expansion plans for Butterfield Park. On visits to the park, has had to leave due to foul language from people playing basketball. Stated that the situation will become worse if there is a full basketball court. Asked if a public forum was planned allowing responses to residents' questions in lieu of the "closed veil of secrecy" practiced by the Park Board.

Executive Director Rogers clarified with Ms. Gracey that two public meetings were held to garner public feedback in 2014 and 2015. Notices of the meetings were mailed to 400 residents surrounding Butterfield Park as well as large signs posted in the park.

Ms. Gracey asked what additional security measures would be put in place as a result of the proposed basketball court.

Rogers responded that the Park District will manage the basketball courts as it manages all basketball courts in other parks.

Bob Berger

Stated a lighted basketball court in Butterfield Park was lunacy. Questioned whether the Park District consulted with the Elmhurst Police Department before deciding to place a lighted basketball court in the park. Basketball involves a dozen people while tennis has two. A bouncing tennis ball is quieter compared to a basketball. Predicts police cars will be dispatched to Butterfield Park in the summer every other weekend.

Board President Ubriaco encouraged visitors to contact her, other commissioners, or staff with any further questions/comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gateway – Szkolka

- Superintendent Cortez and Szkolka attended a parent support group to provide information of programs/services available to special needs adults.
The group voiced appreciation for what Gateway and the Park District offers particularly transportation. Staff is addressing concerns regarding registration procedures.
- The Ray Graham Association has agreed to be the leasing agent for Gateway’s replacement vehicles. The current contract will be changed to reflect the financing for the vehicles.

People for Elmhurst Parks - Wade

- Pat O’Neill, the District Events Coordinator, was elected to the PEP Board. She will serve as the Secretary taking minutes.
- Colette Kubiesa will chair the Playground for Everyone fundraiser, which will be in February; more details will follow. Discussed and brainstormed the fundraiser further at the meeting.
- Nearly \$1,400 was raised from the Touch-A-Truck event. Those funds will go to the playground.
- Commissioner Ennis added that the next PEP meeting will be October 22, 2015.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PEP – October 22, 2015

Sugar Creek Golf Course – October 27, 2015

Stormwater Subcommittee – October 29, 2015

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Lizzadro – November 5, 2015

Gateway – November 12, 2015

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Kies made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda of October 14, 2015. Commissioner Pelosi seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Ennis, Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

It should be noted that the following items were approved on the Consent Agenda: September 23, 2015 regular meeting minutes, September 23, 2015 closed meeting minutes, Voucher Lists: October 9, 2015 - \$53,702.03, October 2, 2015 - \$183,492.59, and September 25, 2015 - \$113,790.95, and Disposal Ordinance O-11-15.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (OLD) –

Stormwater Management

Executive Director Rogers summarized the September 23, 2015 meeting with the City. Discussions continued over the same issues including the City's demand for all five sites to be in the IGA, the extension of the maintenance facility lease, the IDNR process, funding of possible conversion properties and tree replacements. Due to the late arrival of a revised IGA from the City, the Board's subcommittee was unable to discuss prior to the meeting with the City. Rogers stated that there appears to be a stalemate as the City is adamant that the Park District commit to all five sites before extending the maintenance facility lease to the Park District. The next meeting will be October 29, 2015. Staff has provided the City with copies of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) grant program participation manual, which outlines the requirements of the grant and processing for conversion. Additional requested documents including boundary maps will be sent October 15, 2015, including completed post-inspection reports as required by IDNR. Restrictions in the requested area in Crestview Park have expired because it was purchased with HUD funds. The City is purchasing two homes bordering East End Park. Commissioner Graf stated that the subcommittee continues to work on ideas to resolve the stalemate. Without a proposal for replacement property, the Park District has gone as far as it could with requesting permission from IDNR for property conversion. In response to Commissioner Ennis asking if the Park District could request dual use of park property from IDNR, Rogers stated that while off-site stormwater detention is not allowed by IDNR, officials have indicated that they will consider any alternatives presented. Board President Ubriaco stated that in 2014 the Park District agreed, in part, to the use of Golden Meadows Park for stormwater detention in exchange for the City extending the maintenance garage lease concurrent with the firehouse at York Commons Park to help 58 homes. Rogers stated that the City has agreed to pay the appraised value for the property, but does not want to extend the garage unless the Park District agrees to all five sites as the Park District is continuing to vet Crestview and East End parks.

NEW BUSINESS –

Tax Levy Resolution R-04-15

Commissioner Pelosi made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Tax Levy Resolution R-04-15 with a \$226,500 increase in tax dollars in the aggregate extension and a \$30,000 increase in the SRA fund. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. Director of Finance and Human Resources Jacobson gave a slideshow presentation illustrating the calculations used to determine the appropriate 2015 Tax Levy, including the projected 2015 EAV of 7% based on the past three-year average in EAV, the limiting rate of 0.3113, the CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 0.8%, and results from the 2014 tax levy assumption. The annexation of the Pick Subdivision will provide additional tax dollars of approximately \$80,000. With the hovering threat of a local property tax freeze by the State of Illinois, a limiting tax levy will enable the District to continue to have appropriate reserves to insure future fiscal agility and maintain existing assets. A slight increase was proposed in the Museum Fund and a \$30,000 increase in the SRA Fund to cover staffing changes to address increased service needs. In response to Commissioner Graf asking if the Paving and Lighting budgeted funds cover the District's paving projects, Rogers stated that the District is limited to how much it can budget in that fund; therefore, the 2016 proposed paving projects will exhaust the Paving and Lighting fund, but funding will come from other funds including Cash and Investments. As there were no further comments or discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi and Ubriaco. Nays: Commissioner Ennis. Motion passed 5 to 1.

Board Development Process

As part of the Park Board's strategic plan to become a culture of continuous improvement, Board President Ubriaco proposed the Board consider working with the Illinois Association of Park Districts to go through a formal board evaluation. Additionally, in an attempt to provide the necessary tools and information to the Park Board, a library of manuals relative to board governance and the District has been made available in the boardroom for Park Commissioners' use. With the exception of items not authored by the Park District, all items can also be found on the District's website. Executive Director Rogers noted the estimated cost of the evaluation process to be between \$500 and \$700. The initial step of the evaluation will be a survey to each commissioner. Board consensus was to move forward with the self-evaluation process.

COMMISSIONER INFORMATION ITEMS –

Commissioner Graf

- The next prairie restoration workday is scheduled noon this Saturday (third Saturday of the month).

Commissioner Kies

- The Elmhurst Garden Club was pleased to invite staff to present on the Playground for Everyone of which the club plans to become a supporting partner contributing \$5,000 for the next two years.
- Please visit the diamond exhibit at the Lizzadro Museum.

Future Agenda –

No changes.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enterprise Services Division Manager – Facilities & Grounds - Utaski

- Courts Plus has extended a discounted \$5 daily use to Elmhurst YMCA members affected by the recent fire in the YMCA facility.

Director of Recreation - Szkolka

- League appreciation this week will be filled with raffles and giveaways.

Director of Information Technology – Kenny

- I.T. began upgrading network monitoring software and hardware.

Director of Finance and Human Resources - Jacobson

- Finalizing the 2016 budget document.
- Preparing for the conversion to a new registration system.

Director of Marketing & Communications – Wade

- The Fall Fest trick-or-treating at Safety Town had over 1,000 children with a total of 3,000 to 4,000 people in attendance.

Director of Parks and Facilities – Ferrentino

- Please join us for the East End Park playground ribbon cutting on October 24, 2015 at 10 a.m. The ribbon cutting will coincide with AYSO soccer games.
- Received a reimbursement of \$6,000 for earning “exceeding” ratings during lifeguard audits at both pools this summer. The reimbursement represents the cost of the audits.

Special Projects Coordinator - Guttman

- Staff has been working on the park user ordinance and plans to bring the ordinance to the Park Board for review.

Executive Director - Rogers

- There has been a change in Board meeting dates for December. The December 9 board meeting has been cancelled. Meeting dates will be December 2 and 16. The additional meeting provides the Park Board and public with more time to review the proposed budget.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to adjourn to Closed Session was made by Commissioner Graf pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5) for the discussion of “the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District” at 8:50 p.m. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Ennis, Graf, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 10:02 p.m. Board President Ubriaco stated that the Board met in Closed Session pursuant to 120/2(c)(5) for the discussion of “the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District.” No final action was taken at the meeting on matters that were discussed in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Spaeth moved to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. and Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board adjourned by voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Office boardroom, 375 West First Street, Elmhurst, IL. Prior notice will be posted.

Note: Roll call voting will start with Commissioner Graf at the October 28, 2015 Park Board meeting.

Carolyn Ubriaco, Board President

Nimfa S. Melesio, Recording Secretary

Date Reviewed: _____
Date Approved: _____