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

#### November 19, 2014

7:05 p.m. immediately following the Budget Hearing

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at the Administrative Office, 375 W. First Street, Elmhurst, IL. Prior notice of the meeting was posted. The meeting was called to order by Board President Ubriaco at 7:05 p.m.

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

**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

Cindy Szkolka, Director of Recreation

Ginger Wade, Director of Marketing & Communications

Laura Guttman, Special Projects Coordinator

Julie Bruns, Division Manager - Human Resources & Risk Management

Barbara Stembridge, Division Manager - Finance

Erica Brady, Program Manager

Other(s) Present: Andrew Paine, Tressler, LLP

#### Visitors:

Mimi Black, 275 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst Carol Buhrfiend, 301 Chandler, Elmhurst Dan Buhrfiend, 285 E. Niagara, Elmhurst Jill Buhrfiend, 703 Washington, Elmhurst Tim Buhrfiend, 858 Hillside, Elmhurst Mike Buhrfiend, 703 Washington, Elmhurst Kathy Carmody, Ray Graham Association Mary Cawlthyat Lucia Cegielski, 194 Cayuga, Elmhurst William Chu, 273 Cayuga, Elmhurst Ryan Cortez, Gateway Special Recreation Susan Eget, 232 Cayuga, Elmhurst Erika Ehmann, Elmhurst League of Women Voters Tracy Fleischer, 736 S. Washington, Elmhurst Jennifer Gordon, 439 East Court, Elmhurst Kevin Graf, 233 Cayuga, Elmhurst Mari Grigaliunas, Elmhurst Suburban Life Newspaper

Heather Herbst, 699 S. Washington, Elmhurst Mary Honquest, 232 Niagara, Elmhurst Mike Honquest, 232 Niagara, Elmhurst Molly Hughes, 692 Washington, Elmhurst Mike Jasek, 748 Washington, Elmhurst Eileen Kennedy, 184 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst Tim Kennedy, 184 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst Milana Kosanovich, 181 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst Tish Lyons, 724 Washington, Elmhurst Brendan O'Brien, 700 Washington, Elmhurst Stephanie Palzkill, 281 E. Wilson, Elmhurst Jim Prather, 448 East Court, Elmhurst Suzanne Prost, 205 Cayuga, Elmhurst Arun Subramanian, 699 S. Washington, Elmhurst Patti A. Vorel, 273 E. Wilson, Elmhurst Brian Wool, 704 Washington, Elmhurst Chris Zimmerman, 185 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst

#### ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

#### REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE FROM VISITORS

Board President Ubriaco read the following correspondence addressed to the Board.

From: Tess O'Brien <tefob8@>

Date: November 18, 2014 at 4:48:33 PM CST

To: <<u>ckubiesa@epd.org</u>>, <<u>apelosi@epd.org</u>>, <<u>bhoward@epd.org</u>>, <<u>mkies@epd.org</u>>, <<u>pmorissette-</u>

moll@epd.org>, <vspaeth@epd.org>, <cubriaco@epd.org>

**Subject: Flood Remediation** 

To the Chairs of the Park Board,

My name is Tess O'Brien and I live at 700 Washington Street. I am sixteen years old and I attend York High School. It has come to my attention that the Board is considering a detention pond at York Commons to alleviate the flooding on my block. I understand you were considering two detention ponds in the area and have already shot down one while diminishing the capacity of the second one. I do not think that decision will keep my family and me safe from the flooding that has happened consistently since 2010. The street of Washington currently serves at the detention pond for all blocks East of it. Do you feel that is acceptable to the residents of Washington Street?

I would like to give you insight into the debilitating experience that I have had when my house and street flood. It was once only the backyard, then the street, my neighbors houses and then my own home. The water has come far enough up the front yard and up my front steps that I have seriously considered the possibility of water entering my home through my front door. When I know that a significant storm is heading to my area, I barely sleep and my father does not sleep at all. Following that night of restless sleeping, if any, I continue on to my school day only if the water has receded enough for me to pull out of my driveway. That is not fair. When I am in school and a storm passes, I constantly text my parents to make sure our house hasn't flooded and that they are safe. I worry that I will be unable to return home at the conclusion of school because my street has flooded, making it impossible for me to reach my home. I went to an out-of-state camp when a storm drove through Elmhurst and had a panic attack when my mom told me that the street had flooded and there was a strong possibility of my home flooding without my presence. Do you understand the fear that courses through me when I see red on the radar? Do you understand the pain of sorting through my own personal belongings, things I am forced to throw away after my basement floods? The panic I felt when I saw that the fire department was evacuating the small children on my block because they are prone to falling into basements completely submerged in water? That is not fair. Although I will not be able to attend Wednesday night to speak these words in person because I have a commitment for school, I ask that you think of your own experiences with flooding, your children, siblings, and parents going through it and think again. Thank you for the opportunity to express my experience. I urge you to act in the best interest of all residents. Please consider both detention ponds at their full capacity.

Thank you, Tess O'Brien

From: Donna Scumaci < donnascumaci > Date: November 18, 2014 at 4:11:10 PM CST

To: "cubriaco@epd.org" <cubriaco@epd.org>, "vspaeth@epd.org" <vspaeth@epd.org>

Subject: Park Board Meeting, Wednesday evening

Reply-To: Donna Scumaci < donnascumaci >

Unfortunately, either my husband or myself or able to attend the Park Board meeting this Wednesday. I live on Washington Street and have experienced floods since my son was 2 years old. He is now 6.

There have been many heartbreaking moments living through these floods. We have redone our basement twice and are still living without drywall in our basement. With the second flood in 2010, we had around 6 feet of water in our crawl space and were pumping water out of the living space (about 3 to 4 feet) into our yard to save the rest of our house. This was done with a utility pump for about 8 hours. We only have 4 steps from the basement to the kitchen and were very frightened of losing our kitchen. My two year old son and 6 year old daughter had to see everything from our basement and neighbor's basement on the front lawn including favorite toys.

However, that wasn't the worst part for the kids. They had to watch their friends' families in row boats because it wasn't safe to stay in their homes. We were the lucky ones on the block.

The next storm had water rushing from our crawl into our main living space that we were pumping into our crawl for about 5 hours. We just wanted to save the washer/dryer, furnace and hot water heater. That time we walked through the water and had my parents meet us and get the kids. They were lucky enough to not be in a canoe like their friends.

Every time it rains a lot, I take the plastic bins that our kids toys are in and carry them upstairs. Also anything else that is left of value. My ten year old is an expert on flood patrol. When my husband and son go to sleep, my daughter and I move everything into the living room. The deal is I prepare and he does all the manual labor if it gets bad. He needs to rest for what is coming. We've gotten tired of this so our living room is now a toy room.

The worse part is that every time it rains heavy my son is worried that we will go through a flood. I grew up in Elmhurst in the 70s and never had a flood until I was in college. My son is six years old and he has been through 4 floods. Two in the first two years of his life. This is unacceptable. Please take note we are on the top of the bowl that is called Washington street. We are the lucky ones. I would gladly take a flooded yard every bad storm as long as it doesn't effect peoples houses.

I've heard a lot people tell me, why don't you move. We can't afford to sell our house at a lost and still stay in this community.

Thank you, Washington Street Resident The Scumaci Family

From: Z <aziola>

Date: November 18, 2014 at 10:10:31 AM CST

To: "cubriaco@epd.org" <cubriaco@epd.org>, "vspaeth@epd.org" <vspaeth@epd.org>

**Subject: York Commons - storm water detention** 

Reply-To: Z < aziola >

## Attention Park Board:

I spoke at one of your recent meetings pleading for you to approve the use of York Commons for use of rain water detention. You guys approved using 1/2 of the space. I understand the city is not happy with that decision and wants you to reconsider using the entire area. I agree that you need to strongly consider what the engineering company recommended. We need serious flood relief help and you can help us. Please consider it. Thanks for your time.

Andrew Ziola

732 S Washington, Elmhurst

From: Jen Nolan < jennyn>

Date: November 17, 2014 at 9:45:25 PM CST

To: "cubriaco@epd.org" <cubriaco@epd.org>, "vspaeth@epd.org" <vspaeth@epd.org>, "nolan\_pa"

Subject: Please help protect our residents

All -

While our family has struggled to make some of the meetings regarding flooding due to hectic work schedules that involve frequent travel, that does not lessen our concern for the current plan for flood mitigation for the residents of Washington St.

The recent Park District decision to reduce the amount of water retention they would allow is bad governing at it's worst. As a non-native of IL who has lived in Elmhurst the past two years, we have been stunned at the lack of ability for the various players to hire the right experts and follow their advice. Residents fear-mongering should not keep the city from moving forward with their plans. The Park Districts decision will prove costly in the long run as it will not be sized appropriately and will simply kick the can down the road, leaving this problem to hang over our town.

As we looked into towns in IL to relocate to from outside of Philadelphia, Elmhurst's flooding problem was easy to uncover online and was the sole reason we were hesitant to move here. We have since fallen in love with the town in so many ways, but fear that the long term safety and home values for those on Washington St. is at extreme risk and could create a pall over what should be a top tier community in the western suburbs.

Thanks for your attention, Matt and Jen Nolan 621 Bryan St

From: Kelly Whalen <kellywhalen80>

Date: November 17, 2014 at 8:47:58 PM CST

To: "cubriaco@epd.org" <cubriaco@epd.org>, "vspaeth@epd.org" <vspaeth@epd.org> Subject: Wednesday 11/19 Park District Meeting re: Storm Water Retention Project

Attention: Park Board

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Park District meeting this Wednesday night discussing the storm water retention project but I would still like my voice to be heard. I ask that my letter be read at the meeting.

My husband and I moved to Elmhurst in the fall of 2011. With no family in the state, we chose the city of Elmhurst largely due to the excellent schools and sense of community. Sadly, like so many others, we flooded on April 18, 2013. And while our flood consisted of inches and not feet of water, the impact was still great. We have spent hours upon hours of time as well as tens of thousands of dollars to both repair and prevent future floods. Beyond that, not a single drop of rain can fall without me having some sense of fear of flooding since that event. On those days predicting significant rain, I do not sleep. The constant worry is crippling despite all of the time, effort and money spent to prevent any further floods.

While I understand this specific project will not impact me directly, I do believe it is in the best interest of every Elmhurst resident to move forward with the storm water retention project for the full 26 acre feet. I have friends on Washington Street and have seen firsthand the extensive damage of the flooding and know its crippling aftermath. I fully support any flooding mitigation projects.

Furthermore, I worry this community I found so appealing that I choice to raise my family is now building a reputation as someplace to avoid. Local news coverage of numerous floods in the past 4 years have started to deter other young families—some I know personally—from considering Elmhurst. I worry this will have a ripple effect of negativity affecting our property values, schools and civic pride. Explaining to someone that "it all depends on which part of Elmhurst you live in" when facing questions of flooding sends a message that Elmhurst supports residents in some kind of tiered manner, where some areas are taken care of, while others are left to fend for themselves.

These projects are good for the community's well-being as well as property values and tax base, which ultimately supports the Park District. It is unconscionable that people are worried about the possibility of their backyards being wet in an emergency, instead of their neighbors' basement.

Thank you Kelly Carpenter 304 S Kenilworth Ave

From: Rebecca Lipton <beckylipton>

Date: November 17, 2014 at 7:50:28 PM CST

To: <<u>cubriaco@epd.org</u>>

Subject: On plans for diverting stormwater runoff to the parks - Please read at 11/19 meeting

Dear Ms. Ubriaco,

We want to congratulate you and the courageous members of the Park District Board for resisting Mayor Morley and most of the powers that be who have been pushing that bandaid solution to the recent increases in storm water flooding by creating 'detention ponds' in the city parks. This approach will permanently change the surface area of the parks and remediate flooding for a relatively few homes, as you have correctly noted. The detention ponds will certainly create hazards for families living nearby and restrict the amount of parkland available for sports, etc. Now our UNELECTED alderman, Mike Honquist, is attempting to portray the opposition as the work of "a few" selfish but vocal Cayuga Ave residents. The heartbreaking fact is that there are other, more permanent solutions which would improve City infrastructure to accommodate all the recent construction in Elmhurst and at the same time avoid reducing our valuable open public parkland.

As you must be aware, the majority of the new homes being built in Elmhurst are inappropriately large for their lots, and so are having a substantial impact on the amount of open land available for absorbing stormwater. Because there is apparently no feasible way to slow the pace of this construction, we must request that the City provide the scope of work and cost of increasing the capacity of the McKinley pump house and increasing the size of the storm sewer pipes. The 2010 Burke report makes clear that this is the only approach that will produce a long-term, realistic solution to this problem.

If threatening the Park District is is the way the City "asks" for use of park land, what's next? Instead of belittling the sincere opinions of numerous Elmhurst residents, Mayor Morley, Alderman Honquist and the City should commit to building the kind of infrastructure that can support our city into the coming decades.

We applaud you and other concerned Elmhurst officials who are willing to stand up for real solutions instead of window dressing.

Yours, Ron and Becky Lipton

From: Ryan Carpenter < carpenrm>

Date: November 18, 2014 at 11:36:35 PM CST

To: "vspaeth@epd.org" <vspaeth@epd.org>, "cubriaco@epd.org" <cubriaco@epd.org>

**Subject: Elmhurst Park Board Stormwater Retention** 

Park District Board,

I am otherwise obligated Wednesday night, but request this email be read at the meeting regarding the potential stormwater retention project:

While I live north of the affected Washington Street area, like most residents of Elmhurst I've heard friend's stories first hand, seen the pictures of piled, damaged furniture, boxes of belongings, rolls of carpet and heaps of furnaces, water heaters and drywall along the curb. While it may seem like this is only a small portion of Elmhurst consistently affected with "storm of the century" flooding each summer, something to keep in mind—while many of us choose to ignore the harsh reality these residents have dealt with—in most cases this flooding manages to render 1/3 of the dwelling continually useless.

If there is a plan to *over solve* for this problem, and it doesn't adversely effect adjacent properties, why wouldn't we as a community follow through on it? If we know how to fix this for our neighbors—and fix our reputation as a liveable city—why wouldn't we?

Who would continually invest in replacing mechanicals *and* rebuild living space for their family knowing that there is a very good chance that after being picked up at the front door by boat, yet again, the next task will be to haul everything out and pile it up at the end of the driveway?

The Washington Street area of Elmhurst has a consistent problem that falls on local municipal entities to solve. Stopping well short of the recommended solution is shortsighted at best, and financially irresponsible at worst. After all, what is the point in investing in a solution that doesn't actually solve the problem? Rvan Carpenter

304 South Kenilworth Avenue, Elmhurst

From: HARTMANN/LOFFREDO < loffreod@ > Date: November 19. 2014 at 5:01:11 AM CST

To: "apelosi@epd.org" <apelosi@epd.org>, "bhoward@epd.org" <bhoward@epd.org>, "mkies@epd.org" <mkies@epd.org>, "pmorissette-moll@epd.org" <pmorissette-moll@epd.org>, "vspaeth@epd.org" <cubriaco@epd.org>, "cubriaco@epd.org" <cubriaco@epd.org>, "ckubiesa@epd.org" <ckubiesa@epd.org>

**Subject: Storm water detention at York Commons** 

Reply-To: HARTMANN/LOFFREDO < loffreod@prodigy.net>

Dear Park Board Members,

We live at 171 Cayuga, 4 houses east of York Road and with our backyard abutting York Commons Park. We would like to express our support of the Park District's decision (on October 22,2014) to only allow storm water detention on the west side of the park.

We have not previously had a chance to contribute our voices to those of other Cayuga residents, but we are very concerned about additional storm water detention in the park. Standing water and flooding do occur on Cayuga during heavy rain events, most notably during the April 2013 event during which water backed up from York, but also during less heavy rainfalls.

We do not support using the City's limited park space to create detention basins as a long term solution.

Heidi Hartmann Loffredo and David Loffredo

From: Kendra Thompson [mailto:kscud]

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:50 AM

To: Carolyn Ubriaco; Rogers, Jim

Subject: York Commons Proposal - Please Read at Meeting Tonight!!

Dear Park Board Commissioners -

Please re-consider your proposal of ONLY using the West lobe of York Commons and use both East and West.

Throughout this process, I was always under the impression that there were both an East and West plan and West was optional...and a 'nice to have' option. I went to your town hall style meeting back in October and NO mention was made regarding a West ONLY option. The entire night was spent on the East. If this West option was the one you were so focused on throughout your analysis, why was it never mentioned in that meeting, nor honestly in any other park district meetings I have attended.

I believe we went from a possible 24 acres (16 acres - East basin and 8 acres - West basin) down to 11 acres. Where I think this will help, I do not think this will make a great impact to areas outside of Crescent, as Crescent alone needs 8 acres at a minimum.

It was conveyed to the Cayuga residents several times in special 1:1 meetings with V3, Burke Engineering and the City that the York Commons East plan was a sound plan. However, they never could see past their own convictions and fears and were certain of a great fail, despite the physics of water and recommendations from accredited civil doctoral engineers.

The Cayuga residents made their own diagnosis without any proper training or education. They decided with worry and negativity that this design laid out by 2 engineering firms was going to flood entire neighborhoods, drown kids and ruin the park. Sadly, instead of the park district learning from 2 highly accredited engineering firms with 60 years experience, you sided with the hysteric opposition of people blinded by the 'not in my backyard' paranoia.

I am disappointed that the plan to to help more residents was swept under the carpet and the fears of some resounded louder than the needs of many. Where you might feel this is a great compromise to help flood victims and soothe the nerves of some, I feel this West only plan really just accommodates the Cayuga residents and dismisses the needs of many flood victims.

I am HOPING you will re-consider the City's proposal on using both the West and East sides of York Commons to help so many more residents who have suffered greatly from flooding. You have the power to do so much more than you are willing to do. Instead of simply dismissing the East basin, push to put in a shut off valve on BOTH basins...work with the city to help MORE residents and not just some. Don't just dismiss so many of us due to relentless opposition of a few who are acting on fear and not creditable knowledge.

I hate to walk away from many meetings that meant nights away from my family... with the attitude of 'something is better than nothing'. I was hoping for a greater sense of accomplishment than mediocrity with an outcome not based on the recommendations from highly accredited / educated engineers who have helped many other towns.

Please re-consider using BOTH the East and West sides of York Commons.

Thank You,

Kendra Thompson

204 E. Crescent Ave. Elmhurst

#10

From: Laurel [lbwestman@]

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:51 AM

To: Carolyn Ubriaco; Vince Spaeth

Subject: storm water retention

Please read this at the meeting.

I am writing in support of the full storm water retention plan submitted by the city at york commons. Both sides of the park need to be used to make a significant impact on the area. Using both sides would help many houses west of York which are impacted by storm water flooding again and again. Your proposed plan would not help those west of York which was the goal of the project. The engineers have impartially addressed the cayuga resistance with facts to rebut their concerns. However they are not listening to reason and instead are letting fear and emotion get in the way of true facts. The park would not decrease their home value. However, many people west of York have decreased home value because of storm water coming from other areas of town and flooding our streets. In fact, with the improved park and improved drainage system their home value may go up as in downer's grove. I urge the members of the park district board to listen to the engineers and professional opinions of the city in making the right decision as well as talking to surrounding cities who have implemented similar projects. Your current proposal is not nearly enough for sufficient help for south Elmhurst. More time and more money will have to be spent in finding alternative solutions that will be more costly to the residents of elmhurst if this is not approved. There is much concern over the park district decision. Please use facts only to make this very important decision (and not what lay people are afraid of ). And if you decide against it, we need to know exactly why and how you came to your decision. Our city has a huge problem to face and the majority of Elmhurst residents would like the Park District to support this plan in full. Thank you for reconsidering your votes and helping to make Elmhurst a better place to live.

Sincerely, Laurel Holze 886 Saylor

From: Queena Chu [queena\_chu@]

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:31 PM

To: Park Commissioners Subject: York Commons

My name is Queena Chu. I live at 273 E Cayuga. Thank you for reading my comments at your meeting.

I support the Elmhurst Park District's (EPD) recent, unanimous decision with your proposed solution for York Commons. Each of you spent a lot of time evaluating issues, concerns and benefits for Elmhurst, I applaud each of you for your effort, transparency and integrity serving us residents as a Commissioner. I believe your decision is the best solution for all - the residents, the EPD and the City.

From my neighbors, I learned that there was an email written and sent by Alderman Honquest who called for residents to "apply extreme political pressure" to the EPD; this to motivate you to change your decision and vote the RIGHT? way in support of the City's agenda for York Commons. Personally, I am appalled from this very biased opinion and agenda of Alderman Honquest. It is very divisive, with implications that the residents on Cayuga, are the troublemakers and shows that the City never took our concerns seriously. To send out such an email is unprofessional from an Alderman of the City of Elmhurst.

I ask that you NOT waiver or consider another vote with your previous decision for York Commons.

From: Seth Weis <saweis@ >

Date: November 19, 2014 at 12:35:42 PM CST

To: <<u>ckubiesa@epd.org</u>>, <<u>apelosi@epd.org</u>>, Bob Howard <<u>bhoward@epd.org</u>>, <<u>mkies@epd.org</u>>,

# <pmorissette-moll@epd.org>, <vspaeth@epd.org>, <cubriaco@epd.org>

## **Subject: Proposed York Commons Area Detention Pond**

I am writing to convey my continued support of your decision on October 22, 2014 to allocate the west portion of York Commons to provide a stormwater detention basin. Based on the needs outlined by the city, your solution provides ample storage capacity to address the issues experienced on Crescent without creating new issues for residents on Cayuga. Overall, a very good compromise.

Given the limited park space in Elmhurst, I do not feel that using the east portion of York Commons to add additional capacity is its best use. Elmhurst would be better served if the city focused on upgrading the infrastructure to truly alleviate the flooding issues.

Again, thank you for your support.

Seth Weis

From: Patti O'Brien < patti.obrien700@ >

Date: November 19, 2014 at 2:30:33 PM CST

To: <<u>ckubiesa@epd.orq</u>>, <<u>apelosi@epd.orq</u>>, <<u>bhoward@epd.orq</u>>, <<u>mkies@epd.orq</u>>, <<u>pmorissette-</u>

moll@epd.org>, <vspaeth@epd.org>, <cubriaco@epd.org>

Subject: Flood Remediation to be read at tonight's board meeting.

To Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners:

My name is Patricia O'Brien and I reside at 700 Washington Street in Elmhurst. I am requesting that you give careful consideration to my views expressed in this email regarding your recent decision to deny one detention area in York Commons and to significantly reduce the capacity for another.

I can only speak from my experience and that of my neighbors. I can only tell you about what REALLY happens when Washington Street floods and not the POSSIBILITY of something that may take place.

By voting to eliminate one detention pond and reducing the other you have said:

YES to Washington Street BEING the detention pond for South Elmhurst and all streets east of it.

YES to the fact that as Board members you would rather see a residential street of private homes act as that detention area rather than the public lands of a park

YES to the fact that parents and homeowners can no longer guarantee their own safety and that of their children IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

YES to the fact that it's okay to have an entire basement submerged in water and threatening to breach the first floor by mere feet and in some cases inches.

YES that our personal belongings including cars are of no value to you.

YES that it's okay to miss work because you can't get off your block.

YES that predicted storms of high rain volume will guarantee no sleep for homeowners including their CHILDREN.

YES to children being left with the residual trauma of seeing their neighbors crying, children removed by boat, personal belongings thrown out and many others tragic experiences.

YES to the anxiety of those children living in constant fear that their home has flooded, the potential that they won't be able to get back to their home if they are off the block when the street floods, returning their attention back to school where it should be.

YES to fact that elected officials in this town will do their best NOT to help us.

YES that the Governor of Illinois can return to broadcast live from the end of our block because of flooding. You have the ability to significantly alter the experience of every resident on Washington Street. You have the power to allow families and residence to feel safe in their homes, return their property values to what they should be, and beautify our local parks. I have witnessed the potential power of the detention area in other

suburbs where elected officials are committed to working together to alleviate flooding. My son played an IHSA soccer game in a detention pond that was filled with water 24 hours prior to the game. The field was drained and playable. How long does it take the fields at York Commons to dry? How many AYSO soccer games are cancelled because of poor drainage?

You have a proposal on the table that can only HELP us and you feel comfortable telling Washington Street residents that we don't matter? The REALITY of our experience should speak for itself. I urge, beseech, beg, whatever word will work for you to vote in favor of both detention ponds at their maximum capacity.

Patricia O'Brien

From: Lucia Cegielski < Imcegielski >

Date: November 19, 2014 at 2:35:33 PM CST

To: "cubriaco@epd.org" <cubriaco@epd.org", "vspaeth@epd.ord" <vspaeth@epd.ord", "bhoward@epd.org"

<br/>bhoward@epd.org>

# **Subject: November 19 Meeting/Storm Water Detention**

We support the Park Districts Decision dated October 22,2014. We do not feel that giving up the City's limited park space to create detention basins is a long term/sustainable solution. We urge the City to begin work on the much needed infrastructure upgrades that need to be done to truly impact flooding issues in Elmhurst.

Ed & Lucia Cegielski

194 Cayuga Ave, Elmhurst IL

From: Megan Corrigan <<u>corrigan.megan</u>>
Date: November 19, 2014 at 2:46:05 PM CST
To: Carolyn Ubriaco <<u>cubriaco@epd.org</u>>

Subject: Email to be read tonight at EPD Meeting

Dear Park Board Members

We would like to take an opportunity to thank you for your diligent work on partnering with the city on the stormwater mitigation project. We would like to commend your efforts and the decision you made to utilize the west portion of York Commons Park for a detention pond. Not only do we feel that this is a fair and viable option for stormwater mitigation, but you also are keeping the integrity of the park for the residents of Elmhurst to use. We feel the city is placing unnecessary pressure on you to reconsider your decision as you are keeping the concerns and needs of all of the residents in Elmhurst at the forefront of your decisions. Not only has the city been uncooperative to discuss our concerns, but our own alderman has not supported us and has written and stated untrue things about our concerns. As residents on Cayuga, who have the potential to benefit and suffer from the detention pond, we encourage you to continue to push forward with the west detention pond in York Commons and forego the east detention pond which puts our properties in jeopardy.

Thank you for your time and service to our town,

Megan Corrigan and Mike Deardurff

170 E Cayuga

From: "Cruse, Ellen" < EllenHoganCruse@ > Date: November 19, 2014 at 3:49:46 PM CST To: "cubriaco@epd.org" < cubriaco@epd.org>

Subject: Please read tonight!

Good evening Park District Board Members and neighbors,

Build the storm water ponds at York Commons (including the West side) and Golden Meadows as designed. I oppose any change to the original plans for storm water mitigation at both York Commons and Golden Meadow parks.

We residents have hired and paid millions of dollars to get the best experts in the field of engineering, storm and sewer water management to guide us to the solutions of our city flooding problems. I say city-wide problems because our continuous flooding affects every Elmhurst resident. We have also waited years for solutions to be activated.

It is ludicrous to ignore the advice of these experts in favor a few personal preferences and oppositional opinions. It would be like going to the doctor with an ailment, but deciding you will only follow half of the doctor's plan for your recovery. As with every advancement in our city, a select few will always object. Many years ago, there were those who objected to building the underpass and yet, the underpass saved lives on the way to the old hospital.

When the proposal to rebuild York High School was made, many of the neighbors around the school property objected vehemently. Did that mean that the School Board caved in and only build half of the new high school? Of course not. The school board worked with the neighbors to move the project forward as designed.....to the benefit every student in Elmhurst. The had the courage to do the right thing for all of us instead of kowtowing to a few disgruntled neighbors. Compromising on building lighting and neighborhood parking, among others were made, but the school was built and the neighbors adjusted. The School Board had a vision to improve our town and the talent to work with the unhappy neighbors to do the right thing for all of us.

Now it is the Park Board's turn to step up. I want the Park District to be equally as brave as the City and the School Board have been. Build the storm water areas at York Commons using the west side and also build the one at Golden Meadows as the EXPERTS have designed and advised. Not doing so would be cowardly. It is your duty to look out for the good of EVERY resident in town, not just a few vocal objectors. Do the right thing. We are all counting on you.

Sincerely, Ellen Cruse 868 Saylor Avenue., Elmhurst, IL

## Jill Buhrfiend, 703 S. Washington

Requested the Park Board reconsider the use of the east lobe of York Commons for a stormwater retention basin. The basin is more than a band aid fix and can help a few more homes from flooding. Explained the precautions she has taken in making her home flood proof and implored the Park Board to help by approving the use of the east lobe.

#### Brendan O'Brian, 700 Washington

Asked the Park Board to approve the use of the east lobe at York Commons Park. Retention is the only solution as the EPA does not allow additional water to be pumped into Salt Creek. As an AYSO's coach using the fields, stated the current drainage in the fields is not the greatest. The proposed basin's better drainage will allow for consistent game play after rainfall events. Has witnessed the use of detention basins in Downers Grove and found it to work. He has

watched water travel from other areas to his street not just from the sewers and would like to see a better job of keeping water off of his street.

# Milana Kosanovich, 181 E. Cayuga

Spoke in support of the Park Board's decision to use only the west lobe of York Commons for stormwater mitigation and commended the Board for their efforts to protect parkland that draws new comers to Elmhurst. Stated that improving infrastructure and existing pump houses should be the City's first and only choice in correcting the problem not sacrificing parkland.

#### Jim Prather, 448 East Court

Expressed concern in using the eastern portion of Golden Meadows Park for stormwater retention as it would mean he would have a retention pond in his backyard and flooding in his front yard. Stated that his street's water sewer cannot keep up with the water collected on his street. Requested the Park Board reconsider its motion for stormwater detention that did not include East Court but only Pine Street. Claimed that the Park Board's vote to approve the use of Golden Meadows Park for stormwater detention was in violation of the Open Meetings Act as the Board's agenda did not provide proper notification that action would be taken at the October 22, 2014 Park Board meeting.

## Bryan Wool, 704 Washington

Stated that he was appointed by former Mayor DiCianni in 2010 to the stormwater task force participating in 50 to 100 meetings, which resolved that the use of overland stormwater detention was the only option to solving the city's flooding problem. Stated that if 'no' is said to the first request of land, then it will be 'no' to the next land request and the land after that.

#### Mike Buhrfiend, 703 Washington

Stated that he has been dealing with flooding on his street and home for five years. Said he was optimistic when the plans were first presented, has waited, but yet no shovel has been lifted to solve the problem. Some of his neighbors have moved out, while others remain in their homes at the mercy of their government to fix the problem. Stated that the Park District could save up to 50 homes from flooding. Asked why the Park Board sent a proposal to the City to use only half the park without an explanation.

## Mike Honquest, 232 Niagara Avenue

As Alderman of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward has received several comments from constituents in support and opposed to using parkland for stormwater detention. Is frustrated because the engineers have said this is the right thing to do. It is not right to switch the plan and stated that the parks will be better when this is done. The City could add stop gaps on Cayuga and people will be safe. Stated this is the right thing to do. Requested the Park Board give the City an opportunity next month.

## Mimi Black, 275 Cayuga

Spoke in support of the Park Board's decision to use only the west lobe of York Commons Park for a detention basin. Stated that the Board's decision demonstrates its firm dedication to the parks and the people of Elmhurst.

## Susan Eget, 232 Cayuga

Thanked the Park Board for its careful deliberation in the use of parkland for stormwater detention. Stated that the decision to deed over a portion of Golden Meadows allows the City to make the basin as deep as needed as the area will not be used as playing fields. Stated that using the east end of York Commons would lack site lines for monitoring while the west end does allow for casual monitoring from the firehouse as well as from York Street and the parking lot.

# Suzanne Prost, 205 Cayuga

Stated that the thought of having a detention pond at York Commons without a shut-off valve does not make her and her neighbors feel better. The detention pond will not help existing flooding. Something needs to be done but wasting money on the proposed project is only a band aid. The City needs to spend money to cure the problem which would be overall infrastructure improvements not the proposed band aid.

## William Chu, 273 Cayuga

Stated he was bewildered that the City Council believes that they productively addressed the Cayuga residents' concerns from the questions proposed to them regarding the plans for York Commons Park. Asked the Park Board to not waiver from their decision as the Board proposed a solution with a right balance of benefit and risk. Questioned why the City is pressing a solution for only limited short-term benefits. Why the City is against spending money to improve infrastructure for long-term benefit. Why does the City feel the need to politically bully the Park District to get what they want their way.

#### Kevin Graf, 233 Cayuga

Stated that the Park Board offered a creative win-win solution that helps the City alleviate flooding and protect the parks. At a prior Park Board meeting, V3 engineer Wolterstorff stated that the proposed York Commons basin would not solve the flooding issues on Washington; other work has to be done. 'That other work' is long-term solutions which require infrastructure upgrades to the laterals, the main trunk sewers, and the pumps, as well as compensatory storage near Salt Creek. The City has done very little in the past 20 years with all of Elmhurst's new construction and changing landscape.

# Mike Jasek, 748 Washington

Asked the Park Board to reconsider the use of the east lobe and to seek a compromise if necessary. Stated that the Board was not transparent in pulling the east lobe of York Commons from the table. In regards to risks associated with drowning in the basins, he has witnessed youths swimming on Washington Street during the 2013 flooding which is unsafe.

# Dan Buhrfiend, 285 E. Niagara

Stated that the City has spent millions of dollars and many years to develop the proposed stormwater plan. Asked that the board explore the belief that the detention basin would cause harm to Cayuga Street. Requested the Park Board reconsider its vote in using the east lobe of York Commons.

#### Carol Buhrfiend, 301 Chandler

Asked the Board to work with the City in finding a solution to Elmhurst's flooding. Encouraged the Board to reconsider the reservoir in York Commons Park and build enough to help the people instead of not enough to not help them. Concerned for her children and grandchildren who, during a past flood, had to wait for help to get safely out from their flooded home.

## Molly Hughes, 692 Washington

Requested the Park Board reconsider the use of both the east and west lobe of York Commons Park. Her home has flooded eight times in seven years. The flooding has caused her to make the decision to leave Elmhurst; her children are devastated because they will leave their friends.

# Tracy Fleischer, 736 Washington

Stated that it was disheartening to see her neighbor upset because of losing everything they have due to flooding when the Park Board has it within their hands to help. Asked the Board to reconsider use of the east lobe of York Commons Park to make it better and help residents, their children, and everyone in Elmhurst.

## Patti Vorel, 273 East Wilson St.

Spoke in support of the Park Board's vote to only use one part of York Commons Park. Stated that the stormwater issue has created a division between residents who support stormwater detention in the park against those who don't. The Park Board has conducted due diligence in making its decision and asked that the City solve the problem with improved infrastructure to improve the entire town and not pit residents against each other.

Board President Ubriaco called order to the meeting as Patti Vorel and Mary Honquest began to exchange words. Board President Ubriaco reminded them that the Board meeting is to conduct public business.

## Eileen Kennedy, 184 E. Cayuga

Compared the size of parkland to nearby cities using parks for stormwater detention to Elmhurst, which has 50% less than Downers Grove and 65% less than Schaumburg. The City's plan includes the use of five parks (50 acres or 18.5% of parkland) leaving the Park District with 250 acres of parkland that is not used for detention or along Salt Creek. The Park Board's duty is to protect the parks and not to help the City in doing what they need to do. In July 2011, the City released a plan, but had not requested the Park District's permission until August 2013. People are upset/crying because the City does not take care of its residents.

#### Tim Kennedy, 184 E. Cayuga

Stated that flooding is a city-wide issue especially in southwest Elmhurst. All options should be investigated, alternatives set forth, and cost feasibility reported. Asked why the cost of increasing the pump capacity outside the sewers and finding compensatory storage near Salt Creek or Eldridge Park have not been reported. Stated that the City is demanding water detention at York Commons pursuant to its standards and requirements and asked if the City will approach the Park District in the same manner for the other proposed parks. Elmhurst has limited park space and the Board has been placed in a position of trust to ensure that the parks be preserved.

# Heather Herbst, 699 S. Washington

Stated that while pregnant, she was trapped in her home with her small child during the 2013 flooding until help arrived. Implored the Park Board to do whatever is within their control to help residents dealing with flooding in their home.

# Chris Zimmerman, 185 E. Cayuga

Sympathized with residents who flood, but does not agree that stormwater detention in York Commons Park will help Washington Street residents from flooding as other work must be done. Stated that the City move ahead and use the west lobe of York Commons and improve infrastructure for now. Asked what will happen when the basin overflows and will the City dig deeper. The City is saving money by not making necessary improvements to Washington Street.

## Jennifer Gordon, 439 East Court

Requested the Park Board reconsider using not just the garden plots at Golden Meadows.

## Arun Subramanian, 699 S. Washington

Stated that his home flooded while he was away from home and his pregnant wife had to deal with the situation. Implored the Park Board to have the courage to make the right decision to help residents on Washington Street out by reconsidering the use of the east lobe at York Commons Park for stormwater detention. Asked that the Board make the decision before a tragedy occurs not after.

Board President Ubriaco thanked the public for their comments. Executive Director Rogers stated that the Park District received a letter from the City of Elmhurst late last Thursday asking the Park Board to reconsider the use of the east lobe of York Commons Park. V3 Engineer Greg Wolterstorff is conducting a preliminary review of that request but has indicated that there is not much new information. The request does not mention a change in the number of homes that will be affected nor increased costs that the City will bear by not using the east basin despite the fact that in the last subcommittee meeting, the City and Burke Engineering stated that the information would be provided as a rationale for the Park Board to reconsider. After V3 Engineering completes a thorough review of the request point by point, the subcommittee will reconvene to discuss the findings.

Executive Director Rogers stated that the City was informed that because Golden Meadows Park was acquired using a federally funded state grant the property is retained in perpetuity for open recreation. The grant specifically stipulates that off-site compensatory stormwater detention is not allowed. On-site retention is allowed for water that flows in the park itself. The grant does allow the deeding over of the property in exchange for property of equal cost not equal size. The property would have to be appraised and other property acquired for its replacement.

As a clarification, Executive Director Rogers stated that in October 2014, there were two public meetings held. One meeting was held on October 1 by the Elmhurst Park District at The Abbey and another held on October 15 by the City of Elmhurst at City Hall with Burke Engineering.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Gateway - Szkolka

- Internal candidate Ryan Cortez was promoted as the new Superintendent of Recreation. Ms. Cortez is the former Recreation Coordinator for Gateway.
- The new position of Recreation Specialist has been added for approximately 25-30 hours a week. Therefore, there are two additional positions open.
- The Winter/Spring brochure has been printed and distributed.

## Gateway Committee Report continued...

• Vehicle 192 has been repaired but will be considered for replacement in the near future. An IDOT grant will be sought. In order to prepare for future needs, a rolling vehicle replacement schedule will be developed.

## Lizzadro - Kies

- The Pension Schedule and Operating Budget were approved.
- The Museum underwent a Museum Assessment Program (MAP) and a committee was appointed.
- A revised mission statement was approved.
- Working on new building development plans and possible expansion sites in and around Wilder Park.
  - Executive Director Rogers added that District staff has had preliminary discussions with Lizzadro staff on expansion plans.
- Approved shows/exhibits Faces of Destiny and Championship Rings of Chicago Sports Teams.

#### **UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

PEP – November 20, 2014 Gateway – December 11, 2014 Sugar Creek Golf Course – November 25, 2014 Elmhurst Art Museum – December 17, 2014

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Morissette-Moll made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda of November 19, 2014. Commissioner Spaeth seconded the motion. The Board was polled: Ayes: Commissioners Spaeth, Howard, Kies, Kubiesa, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

It should be noted that the following items were approved on the Consent Agenda: October 22, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, November 5, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, Voucher Lists for: 11/04/14 - \$60,674.76, 11/14/14 - \$78,972.18, Medical Insurance Renewal, Dental Insurance Renewal, and 2015-17 Electric Supply Vendor.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (OLD) –**

# FY2015 Proposed Budget Discussion continued

Executive Director Rogers stated that the agenda item is listed to continue budget discussions. The Board was distributed replacement pages reflecting non-substantial corrections to the proposed FY2015 Budget. Commissioner Howard asked if the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) has advocated for park districts in regards to the minimum wage increase.

Executive Director Rogers explained as it stands now, employees under the age of 18 will be paid \$0.50 less. IAPD does support a legislative platform for a reduced rate, recognizing that fewer youths may be employed if the minimum wage would be increased to \$10 an hour. Increasing the minimum wage to \$10 would be detrimental to park districts as a large number of youths are employed during the peak season of summer. Commissioner Spaeth commended staff for preparing a conservative budget while taking care of the District during the tough economy. The FY2015 Budget and document will be brought to the Board on December 10, 2014 for approval along with the Budget Appropriations Ordinance, and Tax Levy Ordinance.

# **NEW BUSINESS –**

## **Program and Service Report: Gateway Special Recreation**

Director of Recreation Szkolka presented Kathy Carmody, Chief of Staff of Ray Graham Association (RGA). The Gateway Special Recreation Association contracts with RGA to provide recreational services for the District's special needs participants. Gateway Superintendent Ryan Cortez presented the Board with an overview of Gateway's services and participant trends. Commissioners asked why additional social programs for participants 21 years and older are not added when there has been a consistent wait list; if less programs are offered because more inclusion programming has been offered through the park districts themselves or if people are going elsewhere for programming; and if volunteers are utilized in programming. Ms. Cortez responded that staffing programs for the 4:1 participant/staff requirement makes it difficult to expand programs. The use of volunteers to help with outings is not an option as volunteers are not properly trained but volunteers are used for special events. Additionally, some park districts or community organizations have begun to offer special needs programs. The Board thanked Ms. Cortez for her report.

#### **2015 Proposed Board Meeting Dates**

Executive Director Rogers presented the proposed 2015 Board Meeting dates per Section 120/2.02 of the Illinois Public Meetings Act which requires public bodies to give public notice at the beginning of each calendar year of the dates, times and places of the regular meetings for the calendar year. Commissioner Pelosi made a motion for the Board to schedule the 2015 Board meeting dates falling on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month with the exception of the month of November which will be the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in order to avoid having a meeting on the night before Thanksgiving. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Howard, Kies, Kubiesa, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, and Ubriaco. Nays: none. Motion passed unanimously. The 2015 Board meeting dates are as follows:

January 14 and 28	July 8 and 22
February 11 and 25	August 12 and 26
March 11 and 25	September 9 and 23
April 8 and 22	October 14 and 28
May 13 and 27	November 4 and 18
June 10 and 24	December 9

## **COMMISSIONER INFORMATION ITEMS –**

## Commissioner Ubriaco

• Thanked staff and the Veterans Commission for a beautiful and moving Veterans Day ceremony held in Wilder Mansion.

# <u>Future Agenda</u> – No changes.

#### STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Director - Rogers

- The Employee Recognition Luncheon will be held on December 15, 2014 at 11:30 at Wilder Mansion.
- The Holiday Open House will be held on December 18, 2014 from 3 to 8 p.m. at Wilder Mansion

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

A motion to adjourn to Closed Session was made by Commissioner Howard pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) for the "appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body" and pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) for the discussion of "pending, or probable or imminent litigation against, affecting or on behalf of the District" at 9:38 p.m. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Howard, Kies, Kubiesa, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

## **OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to open session at 10:45 p.m.

Board President Ubriaco stated that the Board met in Closed Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) for the "appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body" and pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) for the discussion of "pending, or probable or imminent litigation against, affecting or on behalf 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 Howard moved to adjourn at 10:49 p.m. and Commissioner Pelosi seconded the motion. The Board adjourned by voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 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	Howard	at th	e December	10,	2014	Park
Board	meeting.											
	C											

Carolyn Ubriaco, Board President

Nimfa S. Melesio, Recording Secretary