

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

January 13, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at The Abbey, 407 W. St. Charles Road, 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, Spaeth, and Ubriaco

Absent: None

Staff Present: James W. Rogers, Executive Director
Angela Ferrentino, Director of Parks & Facilities
David Kenny, Director of Information Technology
Brian McDermott, Director of Enterprise Services
Ginger Wade, Director of Marketing & Communications
E. Anne Scheppele, Division Manager- Facilities
Miranda Lovato, Park Planner
Jim Doherty, Park Ambassador

Visitors:

Heidi Baird	Pete Koutsopoulos, 929 Euclid
Bob Berger, 807 Linden	Jean Lawnee
Mike Bilder, 853 S. Linden Avenue	Cathy Magas
Courtney Braafhart, 410 Hawthorne	Nick Magas, 822 S. Hillcrest
Bob Bressan, 832 S. Cedar	Anthony Mancini, 841 S. Linden
Joe Calcagno, 15W045 Harrison	Deana Mancini, 841 S. Linden
Kevin Diamond, 120 Kenmore	John Marren, 148 Knighton
Chris J. Elonich, 857 S. Cedar Avenue	Graydon Megan, Pioneer Press
Justin Fierce, 849 S. Linden	Bob Merry, 356 E. Van Buren
Taras Gracey, 827 S. Linden	Bob Miles, 714 S. Berkley
Therese Gracey, 827 S. Linden	Rev. Matt Mimlitz
Julie Grainge	Deborah Norris, 861 S. Hillcrest
Melissa Hahn, 568 N. Emroy	Jim Pagni, 803 S. Cedar
Dan Hemmersmeier, 798 S. Linden	Patti Pagni, 803 S. Cedar
Robert Honig, 425 Holly	Carrie Pedote, 242 E. Crescent
Julie Konopacz, 426 E. Adams	Rosie Schwartz, 978 Fairfield
Larry Konopacz, 426 E. Adams	Kathleen Sullivan, 133 Pine St.
Kim Kortess, 562 W. Lorraine	Luke Villarreal
George Schober, V3 Engineering	John Wiener, 237 N. Evergreen

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE FROM VISITORS –

Chris J. Elonich

Spoke in support of the removal of the basketball court in the Butterfield Park master plan. Quoted a 1976 Chicago Daily News article citing the ethnic diversity of Elmhurst. The south part of Elmhurst is ethnically diverse but does not represent everyone. Does not understand why his neighborhood is being accused of racism. Stated that he has repeatedly told the Park that a basketball court in Butterfield Park is a bad idea.

Rev. Matt Mimplitz

Stated that his understanding of the argument against the basketball court in Butterfield Park is due to the element of crime. He hopes that those against a basketball court in Butterfield Park have a valid reason because if it is strictly to encourage good behavior they have to realize that these are public facilities and people are going to be people.

Luke Villarreal

Expressed that he is new to the topic of the basketball court at Butterfield Park. He finds it offensive that a basketball court is thought to bring crime into a town. He has been playing on the basketball courts in Elmhurst since he was young and has never experienced the police called, a crime committed, fighting, or anything of that nature. Stated that all the courts existing in Elmhurst are not problematic. To say that a basketball court in Butterfield Park will bring crime or criminals is inaccurate.

Cathy Magas

Has lived a block from Butterfield Park for 47 years, raised three children there, used the park for her children and now her grandchildren, and has felt safe for most of the time. Stated that she has taught in the surrounding communities like Hillside and Berkeley and has seen the issues that accompany basketball courts and the subsequent removal of the courts. If there is something that encourages crime, offensive language, or offensive behavior, there is no reason to bring it to Butterfield Park. It is a safe area and everyone has chosen to live in Elmhurst because it is a safe community. Statistics show basketball courts bring crime.

Robert Honig

According to the District's Attitude & Interest survey of 10,000, 26% of people wanted more basketball courts in Elmhurst. Reiterated that when the original plan for Butterfield Park was presented most people were happy with the plan. Then, a tiny number of people came forward and said that they did not want basketball because they did not want people from Hillside coming into their town. When there was a new plan that did not have basketball, the Park Board then heard from about 100 people stating they do want basketball. He stated he was not in favor of the plan to eliminate the basketball court because he is not afraid of people who live in Hillside. He suggest that the Park Board listen to the professionals to create a balance in Elmhurst parks.

Larry Konopacz

Spoke of the revised Butterfield Park master plan. Believes the proposed plan is in support of the majority of the people that live in the Butterfield Park neighborhood and hopes that the Park Board approves the new plan.

Kathleen Sullivan

Thanked the Park Board for including the stormwater detention at Butterfield Park to keep stormwater out of homes. Asked the Park Board to make their engineering explanation easy to understand for the public. Wants the Board to focus on the final issues remaining so that they can move forward with stormwater mitigation efforts at other sites. Has attended several public open meetings regarding stormwater. Believes there is a successful way to handle the situation. She asked what is the best route for overflow should a storm exceed the 100-year stormwater design? Stated that there are many ways to design a detention basin that do not require a shut-off valve. Wants the project to move from the conceptual phase to the detailed design phase.

John Weiner

Due to a poor billing issue with the Park District's transportation vendor Superior Transportation Services, asked the Park Board to find a new vendor.

Joe Calcago

Considers the main problem in Elmhurst to be the basketball courts more so than stormwater. He is a fan of basketball but from his own experience of a friend whose daughter would get heroin from Washington Park. With that said, he would personally pay for every basketball rim to be torn down in Elmhurst. For whatever reason crime is attracted to basketball courts. Does not have any suggestions to solve the problem, but realizes that it is one of the unfortunate realities in life. He would be in favor of an indoor basketball court that has security and supervision.

Julie Grainge

Has a different approach to the basketball court at Butterfield Park. Stated that a basketball court is very different from a tennis court. A basketball court is going to infringe on the playground area.

Kevin Diamond

Read a letter that was addressed to the Park Commissioners on November 18 from the Elmhurst Children's Assistance Foundation supporting the removal of the basketball court from the Butterfield Park master plan. The letter states that a basketball court within the proximity of a special needs playground is not favorable.

Rosie Schwartz

Has lived near Eldridge Park for 17 years and has never had an issue with the basketball courts. She has had more problems with teenagers on the sled hill during the winter than the basketball courts. Does not understand why the basketball courts are all of a sudden being riddled with crime and bringing crime into town.

Therese Gracey

As reported in the Park District's Attitude & Interest survey, 26% reported an interest in basketball courts while 74% do not have an interest in basketball courts. My family will not use a basketball court, but will use the tennis courts. Anyone that has gone out to play tennis at Butterfield Park knows that the tennis courts are very crowded and it would be felt if one of the tennis courts is taken away. Has had direct experience with bad behavior and foul language at the current basketball hoop in Butterfield Park. On more than a handful of times, she has had to leave the park with her five young children because of elbowing, pushing, shoving, foul language, and on one occasion open alcohol use in the broad daylight at the basketball hoop. The described behavior is not wanted by tax-paying residents of Elmhurst, nor do they want their children exposed to it. The kids involved in the poor behavior were white, black, and Hispanic. The color of their skin does not make a difference; the behavior is the problem. Those who oppose the basketball courts are not racist. Race baiting should have absolutely no say in the debate over a basketball court in Butterfield Park.

Julie Konopacz

Is in favor of the revised Butterfield Park master plan and appreciates the thoughtfulness that went into the revisions. The initial placement of the basketball court was secluded and did not allow for patrol cars to circle the court making it more vulnerable to mishap.

Carrie Pedote

In the 15 years living in her current home, has flooded three times in the last 5 years from overland flooding. Has lost two cars parked in her driveway due to flooding. As a preventative measure, makes arrangements to have her cars moved while on vacation. She was pleased that the Park District and City was close to reaching an agreement, but disappointed that the proceedings are being held up again. Urged the Park District to reach an agreement with the City to provide stormwater relief to Elmhurst residents.

Justin Fierce

Lives near Butterfield Park, loves basketball, and recounted fond memories of playing basketball. Stated no one knows what goes on at pickup basketball courts unless they have done it. Things he has witnessed at basketball courts are drug deals, guns, fights, and vulgarity. Agreed with another speaker's point regarding location of the initially proposed basketball court. It is best to place a basketball court where police can easily patrol and have it readily accessible for people to see. The placement has a lot to do with the criminal activity that may take place. One of the worse places for a basketball court is tucked away far from asphalt pavement, far from where police cars can drive by. Safety is the biggest concern. The one thing that everyone can agree with, is that there will be more crime, more criminal activity with a basketball court compared to a tennis court. Asked why place kids in a bad environment or in harms way.

Taras Gracey

A lot of people that have spoken in favor of a basketball court have also stated they were new to the discussion. They have missed most of the discussion that has taken place and all of the reasons why a hundred people showed up to voice their opposition. It has been suggested to listen to the professionals, how about listening to the people. Some people may not know that residents living near Butterfield Park conducted a survey revealing 97% opposing a basketball court. Those are the people that will be affected, not those living near Washington Park or Eldridge Park. Butterfield Park is a direct shot into Berkley and Hillside. Perhaps those who feel bad about those

communities should fund a basketball court in those communities. Unfortunately, city officials of those communities will not want a basketball court. Building a basketball court in Butterfield Park would defeat the purpose of why he built a home directly behind the park. Appreciates revisions made to the master plan. Stated Commissioner Pelosi spoke with the mayor of one of the surrounding communities and learned of their bad experience with basketball courts. During the November 2 special board meeting, not a single person spoke in favor of a basketball court in Butterfield Park. If most of the people who live around the park do not want a basketball court, why not listen to them. Vote to approve the amended plan.

Patti Pagni

Thanked the Board for revisions made to the Butterfield Park master plan. Disappointed with the way the discussion/debate has gone – social media and race baiting. She never mentioned Hillside nor any race, nor has heard anyone at the meetings talk about race, but did hear about crime and history of different communities with basketball courts. She never heard anyone say that they did not want a certain kind of person coming to Butterfield Park. There has been talk about what basketball courts can attract. Baseball is thriving in Elmhurst. As someone who has been involved with one of the baseball leagues for over 12 years is disappointed that this past summer, the team was unable to play on Elmhurst baseball fields 5 times out of 12 because of poor field conditions. Agrees there was lots of rain, but other towns were able to play after a storm. Advocated for improved baseball fields and requested the Board listen to the people who do not want a basketball court.

Deana Mancini

Bothered that she has been slandered by being called racist. If the issue was about race, people would also complain about the pavilion, which hosts picnics from other communities. The pavilion was never brought up nor was any race. Points were made about surrounding communities' issues with basketball courts. Would like to dispel any accusations that those opposed to basketball are racist.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stormwater Subcommittee – Graf, Spaeth, Rogers

Executive Director Rogers updated the Board on stormwater management discussions with the City of Elmhurst. Subsequent to the December 9 stormwater management meeting, the City Council voted to amend a resolution for an intergovernmental agreement with the Park District to remove the shut-off valve from the IGA for the proposed detention basin in York Commons Park. The Council then voted to defer consideration of the amended resolution to January 4 and again to January 19. Following the January 4 meeting, on January 11 the City Council held a special Committee of the Whole meeting during which Burke Engineering presented information regarding the York Commons Park proposed detention basin with a shut-off valve. The next stormwater management subcommittee meeting will be on January 14, 2016. Commissioner Spaeth added that he looks forward to meeting with the City to reach a resolution and help residents affected by stormwater flooding. The shut-off valve has always been part of the proposed detention basin.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Elmhurst Art Museum – January 13, 2016
Gateway – January 14, 2016
PEP – January 14, 2016

Stormwater Subcommittee – January 14, 2016
Sugar Creek Golf Course – February 23, 2016

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Spaeth made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda of January 13, 2016. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Ennis, Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

It should be noted that the following items were approved on the Consent Agenda: Regular Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2015 and December 16, 2015, Closed Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2015 and Voucher Lists: 12/18/15 - \$175,859.41, 12/31/15 - \$263,324.63.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (OLD) –

2016 Butterfield Park Master Plan Concept - Revised

Commissioner Spaeth made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners review and approve the revised Butterfield Park Master Plan with the two proposed alternates. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. Director of Parks and Facilities Ferrentino presented the Board with a revised master plan concept for Butterfield Park. Changes to the initial plan consisted of retaining and redeveloping the three tennis courts in lieu of replacing one tennis court with a basketball court and eliminating detention areas in the northeast portion of the park by relocating detention areas to other areas including east of the tennis courts with two potential alternates including ball field underdrainage systems at fields 2, 3, and 4 and the increased parking of 20 additional spots. Other proposed changes include revisions to the park user policies and practices at Butterfield Park i.e., reducing the picnic shelter capacity from 75 to 50 people, prohibiting Special Use permits for groups over 100, coordinating neighborhood roll calls with the Elmhurst Police Department, engaging athletic field user groups to help keep their play area clean. Cost estimates for the proposed Butterfield Park Master Plan, including the Playground for Everyone total \$2.2 million. Commissioners questioned whether the relocated detention area would reduce retention volume and benefits to making paths near field 2 and 3 permeable. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioner Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Ennis, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Playground for Everyone Partial Equipment Purchase

Commissioner Morissette-Moll made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the purchase of the Wee-Saw and Sway-Fun playground elements from Nutoys/Landscape Structures for a total of \$22,895 and authorize the Executive Director to execute said purchase accordingly. Commissioner Graf seconded the motion. Executive Director Rogers stated that the People for Elmhurst Parks Foundation (PEP) has planned a fundraising event for the Butterfield Park Playground for Everyone on February 20, 2016 at Courts Plus. Plans for the event include featuring two large play equipment components (Wee-Saw and Sway-Fun) proposed to be part of the new playground. Event attendees will be able to “test drive” the new play amenities and see first-hand how the components will enhance play for both children and caregivers with special needs. Photographs of the components were provided to the Board. Commissioner Ubriaco thanked the Elmhurst Children’s Assistance Foundation, Rich Rosenberg of Special Kids Day, and

the PEP Foundation for their support and leadership in making the Playground for Everyone possible. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioner Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Ennis, Graf, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Recess

The Board took a short recess at 8:22 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:25 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS –

None

COMMISSIONER INFORMATION ITEMS –

Commissioner Ennis

The invitations for the Playground for Everyone are ready to be mailed. If any Board Commissioners have the names of any additional invitees or wish to personalize an invitation, please see Ginger Wade.

Future Agenda –

No changes.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director of Information Technology – Kenny

- The back-end servers were upgraded as well as external websites.

Director of Enterprise Services – McDermott

- 360 new members have joined as of January 13 due to the “no-joining fee” special; as a comparison, 260 new members joined during the entire month of January last year.

Park Planner – Lovato

- The 2016 Spring Tree Planting bid will be let on January 15.

Director of Marketing & Communications – Wade

- The volunteer recognition event will be held next Thursday, January 21 at Wilder Mansion. Park Commissioners will also be recognized for their volunteerism.

Director of Parks & Facilities – Ferrentino

- The Lincoln School Girl Scout Troop will host a bake sale at Wagner Community Center from 4 – 7:30 p.m. to help fund the Playground for Everyone.

Executive Director - Rogers

- This coming Monday, January 18, Laura Guttman will join me in meeting with City staff to review the indoor sports facility RFP submissions. The management team has done a full review and vetting of the proposals. Both agencies will compare their short list and determine which firms to bring back for interviews.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to adjourn to Closed Session was made by Commissioner Spaeth pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21) “discussion of minutes of prior meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for the purposes of approval by the body of the minutes of semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by section 2.06 of the Act,” pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5) for the discussion of “the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District,” and pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) for the discussion of the “appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body” at 8:31 p.m. Commissioner Ubriaco stated that any final action on items discussed in closed session will be taken in open session. Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Ennis, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 8:42 p.m. Board President Ubriaco stated that the Board met in Closed Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21) “discussion of minutes of prior meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for the purposes of approval by the body of the minutes of semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by section 2.06 of the Act,” pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5) for the discussion of “the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District,” and pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) for the discussion of the “appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.” No final action was taken in closed session. Action was taken in open session on two items discussed in closed session.

Commissioner Morissette-Moll made a motion for the Park Board to approve the release of Closed Session minutes of June 10, 2015 as the need for confidentiality no longer exists; and retain confidential status for Closed Session minutes of May 28, 2014, June 11, 2014, July 9, 2014, August 13, 2014, September 10, 2014, September 24, 2014, October 8, 2014, October 22, 2014, November 19, 2014, January 28, 2015, May 13, 2015, May 27, 2015, June 24, 2015, July 22, 2015, August 12, 2015, August 26, 2015, September 9, 2015, September 23, 2015, October 14, 2015, October 28, 2015, November 4, 2015, November 18, 2015, December 2, 2015 as the need for confidentiality still exists. Commissioner Graf seconded the motion. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Spaeth, Ennis, Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Morissette-Moll made a motion for the Park Board to approve the destruction of verbatim recordings of Closed Session minutes of January 8, 2014, January 22, 2014, February 12, 2014, February 26, 2014, March 12, 2014, March 26, 2014, April 9, 2014, and April 23, 2014 as the written minutes for these Closed Sessions have been released and the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Commissioner Pelosi seconded the motion. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioner Ennis, Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, and Ubriaco. Nays: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Elmhurst Park District Regular Board Meeting
January 13, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Spaeth moved to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. and Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board adjourned by voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 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 January 27, 2016 Park Board meeting.

Carolyn Ubriaco, Board President

Nimfa S. Melesio, Recording Secretary

Date Reviewed	
Date Approved	