

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

June 25, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, June 25, 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 7:00 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
Cathy A. Medema, Director of Finance & Human Resources
Cindy Szkolka, Director of Recreation
Ginger Wade, Director of Marketing & Communications
Marshall Harpestad, Administrative Assistant

Visitors:

Dan Lobbes, The Conservation Foundation
Jan Roehll, The Conservation Foundation
Ricky Dufort, Elmhurst League of Women
Voters - *The Observer*

Bob Abbott, 565 S. Kenilworth, Elmhurst
C.J. Elonich, 857 Cedar, Elmhurst
Dave Reginelli, 129 Pine, Elmhurst
Pat Boland, 775 Hawthorne, Elmhurst
David McKenna, 286 Crescent, Elmhurst
Lindsay Metiler, 148 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
Linda Stolz, 148 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
David P. Kaminski, 230 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
Mike Jasek, 748 S. Washington, Elmhurst
Cheryl Jasek, 748 S. Washington, Elmhurst
Mari Grigaliunas, Elmhurst Suburban Life
Newspaper

Greg Pardue, 603 S. Kearsage Ave., Elmhurst
Kaili Harding, 224 E. Crescent Ave., Elmhurst
Jill Buhrfiend, 703 S. Washington, Elmhurst
Sheila Scaggs, 160 E. Crescent Ave., Elmhurst
Carlton Rink, 114 N. Pine St., Elmhurst
Joan Sammarco, 220 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
Mike Baker, 432 E. Park, Elmhurst
Adam Tomczynski, 680 S. Euclid, Elmhurst
Nancy Hughes, 234 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
Mark Hughes, 234 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
Tracy Fleischer, 736 S. Washington, Elmhurst
Carrie Pedote, 242 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
Judith Michalski, 194 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
Gregory Sammarco, 220 E. Crescent, Elmhurst
K. Sullivan, 133 Pine, Elmhurst
David Kaminski, 230 E. Crescent, Elmhurst

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

Executive Director Rogers recommended an addition to the Agenda under Unfinished Business item #9a (1) *Stormwater Management Update* making the item titled *Wilder Park Conservatory and Greenhouse Project – Final Status Report* Item #9a (2).

REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE FROM VISITORS

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

From: Kendra Thompson, 204 E. Crescent Ave.
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014
To: Vince Spaeth, Bob Howard, Carolyn Ubriaco
Subject: York Commons Detention

Good Morning,

I believe the EPD has a board meeting this evening and I wanted to address the board with a plea to continue working with Burke Engineering regarding the Alternative #1 on the Burke Analysis regarding the York Commons detention area.

I live on Crescent and along with my 37 neighbors, we suffer from major flooding in our yards. Our backyards are along the tracks and not only is Crescent very low grade, but the railroad tracks act as a dam when we receive substantial amounts of rain. Our house is one of the lowest on the block and therefore we have a drain directly behind our house. That drain does help our situation during normal to substantial rainfalls, However, on the several occasion in 2010 and 2013 where we received 100 year storms, we were not so lucky.

During both rainfalls, our backyard took on almost 4 feet of water, as the drain stopped working due to the sewers not being able to take on any more water. Consequently, all the run-off from other yards drained into our yard and many others along the tracks. I have attached a picture of my yard that looked the same in 2010 and 2013.

I have worked closely with the city and Jim Kennedy (Alderman and Storm-Water Committee) and Diane Gutenkauf and attended several city meetings over the years to discuss and monitor the progress of the storm water mitigation.

I believe at this point, you are working with Burke Engineering regarding the alternative #1 proposal of adding a 36-foot acre detention area in York Commons, I understand you are reviewing questions with them and should be meeting with them soon to discuss their replies to your questions.

I am writing to you as a resident, citizen, taxpayer and a frequent participant in EPD programs with a plea to truly consider this proposal to help as many of the residents who are in desperate need of help solve flooding in their homes on Crescent and Washington Streets.

I truly believe working with Burke and the city, the park would remain as wonderful and utilized as it is today, while helping so many residents. Also, being that I live directly behind the park, I know that with these type rainfalls, that the park floods as well as cannot be used for many days or week + to help the fields dry out and drain. I would assume the proposal would also benefit the park for a quicker turnaround.

I have attached a few pictures of what we have experienced over the years while dealing with this problem.

Thanks so much for your consideration and time in reviewing this matter, as I know this is not something in normal EPD realm of priorities. We appreciate the time your are taking to truly review the plan to make sure the benefits do not negatively impact the park.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or concerns. I am hoping you can read my letter and show my pictures in the open forum this evening, as I am unable to attend due to personal prior commitments.

Thank you,
Kendra M. Thompson
204 E. Crescent Ave.

From: Carrie Pedote, 242 E. Crescent
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014
To: Vince Spaeth, Bob Howard, Carolyn Ubriaco
Subject: York Commons detention pond

My house flooded in 2010, then again in 2013. Both of those years we lost cars as well that were in our driveway. In 2013, my husband had to wade thru waist deep water to a borrowed car so he could get to Northwestern for his kidney transplant. He was quarantined in our 2nd floor for a week after he came home because that was the earliest I could get a service to sanitize our basement and his immune system is now weakened because of anti-rejection drugs. We have done everything we can to protect our home. We have 3 sump pumps and a drain tile system. None of this works when our house is surrounded by 3 feet of water. Its dangerous, unsanitary and very disruptive to our family and neighbors when our houses are filled with water. There is nothing left that we can do. Now we hope the city, school district and the park district will do what they can to help the residents they serve.

Sincerely,
Carrie Pedote
242 E. Crescent

C.J. Elonich, 857 Cedar, Elmhurst
Requested the Park District –

- explore tilling the soil at Butterfield Park as opposed to drain tile in order to address the drainage issues in the Park
- ensure the old farm well (that goes back to before the park existed) is sealed off properly
- open the Elmhurst College ball field in Butterfield Park for public use without requiring permission
- complete an archeological dig in the “old house that used to stand on Butterfield Road”
- explore using the proposed \$500,000 grant for Butterfield Park improvements to acquire open land at \$750,000
- Inquired whether the Park District has considered purchasing both north and south parcels at the old trailer park on Roosevelt Road to be used for park space or open space. According to Mr. Elonich, if these parcels are built upon, the drainage in the area will get worse.
- Would like the Park District to take a lead on the old York Tavern at 413 South York by moving it to Wilder Park. Mr. Elonich pledged the first \$100 should there be a public subscription.

In regards to the City’s stormwater management plans, he stated that the proposed plans are shortsighted and limited in scope. He believes that it will only absorb the first 4 to 6 inches in the event of a torrential rain and will not help in continuous events or during a wet season because the ponds will remain filled. He also stated that the Park District’s engineering study gives a false sense of security because it has taken Elmhurst 70 years to create the stormwater drainage problems due to the development of a suburban city. He would like the lowest lands in Elmhurst be bought out and developed for stormwater, “likely costing millions but benefitting every resident.”

Mr. Elonich foresees the Nitti development will add more stormwater problems similar to other new developments in the area. He suggested the Park Board visit the Yorkfield School site setbacks to view an example of expected problems resulting from the Nitte development. He

stated “development needs to be in control and the City needs to make a commitment to control the development before the Park District can buy into their flood study.”

Dave Reginelli, 129 Pine Street, Elmhurst

Pleaded with the Park Board to actively participate in the City’s stormwater management solutions by allowing the Park District property to be used for stormwater detention. Gave Downers Grove Park District as an example of a cooperative partner with their City by building a detention site in 2008, thus solving Downers Grove’s stormwater flooding problems. He stated “Yes, some soccer games may be rescheduled” but residents are completely devastated and experiencing financial loss due to stormwater and that flooding presents a danger of electrocution.

Dave McKenna, 286 East Crescent

Long-time resident and home builder, stated that he, along with other builders, has been required to build stormwater storage units for new homes and asked the Park District “step up” and do their share particularly in allowing the use of York Commons Park for a stormwater detention. He believes that York Commons would solve Crescent Street’s flooding problems 100% and that “of course, these are not solutions but everybody pitching in can move a mountain.”

Pat Boland, 715 S. Hawthorne

Came to the board meeting to support residents affected by stormwater flooding.

David Kaminski, 230 E. Crescent

Stormwater flooding has caused major damage to his home, caused loss of vehicles, and his inability to leave his home. He implored the Board to give some consideration to the use of the parks for stormwater detention but not entirely at the Park District’s expense. He said that if the public “cannot use the park for a long period of time after the rain then we will have to find some other place to play ball.” He stated that he thinks the “improvements reached on a common ground can work for everybody.”

Kaili Harding, 224 E. Crescent

She and her neighbors are fearful of flooding everytime it rains. She shared photos of a neighbor clearing sewer grates, standing water up to a car door and a neighbor’s shins. She chose Elmhurst to live because of its schools and park district and plans to live in Elmhurst a long time. She stated that the stormwater flooding cause risks of electrocution and drowning. If children are not properly supervised, they may be swept away with the floods and high water. She implored the Park Board to make decisions to help residents in their stormwater flooding issues.

Jill Buhrfiend, 703 S. Washington, Elmhurst

She supports the City’s plan for flooding. She was devastated by the July 2010 storms with eight feet of water in her basement, and has exhausted preventive measures/improvements to her home in attempt to deter water from her house and still had five feet of water in April 2013. She is fearful every time it rains. She pleaded with the Park Board to be part of the solution stating that the Park District has the most land and because it is a community problem, all need to come together.

Kathleen Sullivan, 133 Pine, Elmhurst

Described her experience with stormwater flooding in her home. She stated that V3 Engineering's initial findings report statement that the number of homes benefited by the stormwater plan improvements is small compared to the number of people who enjoy the parks should be discounted as it is not within V3's realm to make the statement and V3's portfolio should be questioned by the Board. She believes the statement was offensive and possibly tainted by someone on staff. Her neighborhood park is Golden Meadows, which is used infrequently. She pleaded with the Park Board to help residents with the stormwater problem.

Cheryl Jasek, 748 S. Washington

Urged the Park Board to act on the City's stormwater management plans. Stated that she and her neighbors are unable to rest when it rains as they must be able to react as water rises on their street and in their homes. Stated that plans to move forward are too slow. Stormwater affects all therefore a whole city problem to be solved together.

Mark Hughes, 234 E. Crescent

Stated that flooding has gotten worse over the years partly due to global warming. As a civil engineer, formerly with the City of Elmhurst, he is familiar with the storm water sewer system. During the April 2013 storm, he opened the street sewer covers draining three feet of water within ten minutes to Salt Creek. He said water needs to be collected somewhere else besides streets. Since the Park District is supported by property taxes, it would be in the Park District's best interest to allow the use of parks otherwise property values will decline affecting tax revenue, which helps support the Park District. Asked the Park Board to do something to support these flooding homes.

Carlton Rink, 114 N. Pine

Believes his street's storm sewer capacity is too small because water gushes up from the storm sewers. He is in favor of the Park Board using parks for stormwater detention. He believes Golden Meadows is an unutilized park and Burke's plans would be nice additions to the park including a soccer field and stadium seating. Stated that Golden Meadows would only hold water for about two hours. The water needs to be stored somewhere else. Implored the Park Board to allow the use of Golden Meadows.

Tracy Fleischer, 736 S. Washington

Said her house is the last house on her block as all other houses have been torn down, some of the residents moved out due to the flooding. Her first floor has been ruined twice. In April 2013, Governor Quinn held his press conference regarding the devastating flooding in front of her home. Implored the Park Board to make a decision stating that this may not be the best plan, but action is essential even if the answer is "no" to allow the City to move on to alternate solutions.

Linda Stolz, 148 E. Crescent

Has had up to 6.5 feet of water in her home. Her sump pump has been running since last week. Does not want to wreck the parks but would like some action quickly. Gave a call out of support to attendees.

Nancy Hughes, 234 E. Crescent

Did not have any flooding in her home for the first 17 years but in 2010 flooded resulting in a ruined finished basement and another level (multi-level home). Installed a shut-off valve in her sewer system to prevent water backing up, which helped, but water then came in from over the foundation. Her street was an island. The sewer water is a definite safety issue as her husband developed a sepsis infection from the sewer water. York Commons is directly behind her home and has observed very little use of the proposed detention area. We all have to work together.

Gregory Sammarco, 220 E. Crescent

In 1997, the City's stormwater solution was a yard drain; now, we get sewer water from that drain. In this last flood, the City gave us the option to install an overhead drain causing three feet of water in the backyard and two feet in the front yard, which does not allow use of the driveway. Believes the plans are doable only if the Park Board takes action and stops waiting for the next 100 year flood.

Mike Baker, 432 E. Park

Stated that six homes in his area are in jeopardy. He believes "Six is not a big number but it is not the number of homes that are affected, it is the good of the community as a whole." He stated that there seems to be a disjoint between the many elected officials and residents. This is a multi-faceted problem in many areas of the City. Citizens are looking at other citizens and saying well they are having "this done" and we're not. The southwest water detention facility is doing something for that area and we are not having anything. The community is acting in its own interest. We are asking the three agency boards (City Council, School Board, Park Board) to come together and make the plans to move ahead. The builders are being targeted. East End residents needed a boat to get out of their area during the flood. I would like one of the organizations to make a decision.

Mike Jasek, 748 S. Washington

Before coming to the Park Board meeting, he told his son that he could not tuck him in tonight because he had to speak for stormwater management solutions. His son agreed that it was an important duty.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elmhurst Art Museum – Ubriaco

- The new Director of Finance & Administration has started.
- Phyllis O'Neill has announced her resignation effective the day before Thanksgiving.
- The results of the Soiree fundraiser went out.

Gateway – Szkolka

- Passed the 2014-15 budget with a 1.59% increase compared to last year.
- A Special Board meeting will be held tomorrow at 9 a.m. to consider allowing the City of Countryside to rejoin Gateway effective July 1.

PEP – Wade

- Reviewed golf outing fundraiser. Unfortunately, it was not the day for golfing. Final numbers will be disseminated at the next meeting.
- Preparing for the August 23 Park Palooza.
- Looking at doing a Kentucky Derby fundraiser.

Sugar Creek Golf Course – Rogers and Morissette-Moll

- Jr. golf camp is in its second week. The parents information session was held.
- Father’s Day weekend revenues were successful.
- Rounds are down for the year but overall compared to last year revenues are up due to increased fees for golf carts and other amenities.
- The golf course has received 8 inches of rain in June. The historical average is 3.5 inches.
- Five trees were planted; one of the trees was a memorial tree for former Course Manager Kurt Stout.

Commissioner Morissette-Moll added:

- Appreciates the opportunity to learn more about the golf course.
- Thanked Marketing Director Wade for the advertisement in the *Elmhurst Offer Link* for a buy two buckets of balls for the price of one.
- Sugar Creek will be approaching its 40th Anniversary next year. Start to think about plans to celebrate the joint endeavor with Villa Park.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Gateway – July 10, 2014

Sugar Creek Golf Course – July 22, 2014

Elmhurst Art Museum – August 20, 2014

PEP – August 21, 2014

Stormwater Sub Committee – TBD

Lizzadro Museum – November 2014

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Spaeth made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda of June 25, 2014. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. The Board was polled: Ayes: Commissioners Pelosi, Spaeth, Howard, Kies, Kubiesa, Morissette-Moll, 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 June 11, 2014, Closed Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2014, and Voucher Lists dated: 06/20/14 - \$104,234.32, 06/13/14 - \$138,737.08.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (OLD) –

Stormwater Management Update

This agenda item was added during the *ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA* portion of the meeting. Board President Ubriaco attended the City of Elmhurst Public Works meeting on Monday, June 23. She explained that the Park Board understands the residents plight and takes very seriously the City’s desire to work with the Park District. Board President Ubriaco read the following prepared statement:

In August 2013, the City of Elmhurst approached the Park Board with very preliminary temporary stormwater detention concepts. With unanimous support, the Elmhurst Park Board approved the appointment of Commissioners Bob Howard and Vince Spaeth to the Stormwater Sub Committee. Over nearly the past year, Commissioners Howard and Spaeth have met regularly with their counterparts Alderman Jim Kennedy and Danee Polomsky joined by respective staff members from the both agencies including City Manager Jim Grabowski, and Elmhurst Park District Executive Director Jim Rogers. The Elmhurst Park Board unanimously approved hiring V3 Engineering to help speed our process and advance our progress on the City of Elmhurst’s desire to use parkland for temporary stormwater detention. V3 Engineering is

providing expertise that was not contemplated in the Burke Engineering engagement with the City of Elmhurst. Specifically, identifying what is necessary to preserve recreational features and uses while providing for temporary detention when needed. The Elmhurst Park District Board has not wavered in its support for the mutual efforts underway with the City of Elmhurst. We are motivated and anxious to contribute to effective sustainable stormwater methods because we believe it is in the community's best interest to do so and the right thing to do. Elmhurst Park District recreational land diverted to stormwater detention is likely to be encumbered into perpetuity. You, the Elmhurst resident, are counting on us to make wise choices and to do the right thing in the right way. Please support us in our Park District mission and as we continue to work with the City of Elmhurst on theirs, that is, providing stormwater management to residents. Thank you for your attention.

Executive Director Rogers stated that he and City Manager Grabowski will be meeting with Burke and V3 Engineering firms to go over V3's initial findings report. We look forward to Burke's response in order to move forward on the plan. Park Commissioners asked that the Sub Committee discuss the use of City property for stormwater detention, the possibility of the City purchasing flooding homes on Geneva to use for stormwater detention, and addressing concerns regarding the overflowing of the proposed York Commons detention basin to Cayuga Street. Commissioner Spaeth stated that it would be beneficial if the School District participated in the discussions in order to strategize options of including School District property e.g. using Madison School District property and moving children to an alternate space.

Executive Director Rogers explained to the public that one of the concerns with the proposed York Commons detention area is that the conceptual plans show a bottom depth resulting in water entering the park at any rain level from Crescent Street, which would make the field unusable during any rain event. The elevation needs to be raised for water to fall when Crescent Street water capacity is above a determined depth.

The Board consensus was that the detention basins will not solve stormwater problems altogether as it is a temporary solution to a problem of exponential building of large homes and direct downspouts to sewers. Commissioners stated that the stormwater plans are a priority to the Park Board, many hours have been spent in considering the use of park land, but are concerned for the parks in order to continue to provide open space for safe recreational use. The Board is interested in remaining active in participating in finding a solution as they stated that the problem is a community problem to be worked on by all as a whole and asked residents to implore the City to resolve the issues. Commissioner Pelosi agreed with residents' comments asking a decision be made in order for the City to move on to other options if the decision is "No." Members on the Park Board connected with residents' urgency as some had flooding in their homes.

Board President Ubriaco made a final statement to thank the residents in attendance for coming to the meeting, voicing their opinion and their demand for action. She encouraged residents to contact the Board if they had any questions or concerns. She would like to see the City and the Park District jointly work together to answer residents' concerns. Although 98% of items discussed at the meeting were previously discussed, it was important to give an update to residents. If the Park Board can reduce the community's anxiety then that is one step closer to moving ahead to something that will work. In addition to spending time on stormwater and running the pools and recreational programs, the Park District has taken on some of the work that

the City might otherwise be doing willingly and not begrudgingly. Thanked everyone for coming and fellow Commissioners for stepping up.

Wilder Park Conservatory and Greenhouse Project – Final Status Report

Director of Parks & Facilities Ferrentino presented the Board with the final report for the Wilder Park Conservatory project completed in April 2014. The District's total project cost was \$2,844,818, \$73,234 under the budgeted amount of \$2,918,052. According to the contract with McHugh Construction Company the savings will be divided amongst both parties as agreed, the District 70% (\$81,202) and McHugh Construction 30% (\$34,801). The combination of conscientious value engineering and generous donations from the families of Joanne B. Wagner and Phillip D. Milano contributed to the reduced cost. As there were no further comments or discussion, Commissioner Spaeth made a motion that the Park Board review the final status report and authorize the Executive Director to execute the last project change order to finalize construction documents including McHugh's shared savings of \$34,801. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Spaeth, Howard, Kies, Kubiesa, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS –

Presentation by The Conservation Foundation

Dan Lobbes, Director of Land Preservation of The Conservation Foundation (TCF) and Jan Roehll, DuPage County Program Director, presented on the TCF's mission to preserve open land and promote stewardship of the environment. In its efforts to achieve their mission, TCF assists public agencies in land acquisitions by providing services including advocating on behalf of the public agency, buying property and holding until the agency acquires funds to purchase the land, negotiating on behalf of the public agency, facilitating land donations, mediating partnerships amongst public, private or the combination of agencies, and referrals for contractors or other conservation-minded developers. The Board was impressed with The Conservation Foundation's work and its potential for assisting the Park District in its long-term property acquisition efforts.

COMMISSIONER INFORMATION ITEMS –

Announcements

Commissioner Kies

- The Prairie Group dedicated a park bench to LaVern Reiff by the shooting star trail on the north side of the Path.
- Submitted the Illinois Prairie Path work schedule for June 28 at 9 a.m. at Berkley Avenue and the Prairie Path.

Future Agenda

The Board discussed whether to add *Stormwater Management Discussion* on each Board agenda. Cons were to only list when there is news and not as a just-in-case. Pros were to allow for continued and last minute updates to keep the Board posted at each meeting. Executive Director Rogers explained that *Future Agenda* lists an item to discuss V3 Engineering's final report but *Stormwater Management Discussion* can be listed on the Board's meeting Agenda as frequently as needed for both Sub Committee updates and Board discussion.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Director Rogers

- The Board Policy Committee met and will bring recommendations to the July 9 Board meeting.
- Brian McDermott will serve as Acting Director while I am on vacation July 1 through the July 3.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Spaeth moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. and Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. The Board adjourned by voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 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 Spaeth at the July 9, 2014 Park Board meeting.

Carolyn Ubriaco, Board President

Nimfa Melesio, Recording Secretary