

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ELMHURST PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 24, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, September 24, 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
Cindy Szkolka, Director of Recreation
Ginger Wade, Director of Marketing & Communications
Julie Bruns, Division Manager – Human Resources & Risk Management
Barbara Stembridge, Division Manager – Finance

Visitors: Erika Ehmann, Elmhurst League of Women Voters
Mike Baker, 432 E. Park, Elmhurst Eileen Kennedy, 184 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst
Mimi Black, 275 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst Bob Stewart, 215 Cayuga, Elmhurst
Judy Dabertin, 177 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst Chris Stewart, 215 Cayuga, Elmhurst
Peter Dabertin, 177 E. Cayuga, Elmhurst Kathleen Sullivan, 133 Pine, Elmhurst
Kevin Graf, 233 Cayuga, Elmhurst Patti Vorel, 273 E. Wilson St., Elmhurst

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA
None

REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE FROM VISITORS

Mimi Black, 275 E. Cayuga Ave.

Thanked the Park Board for its continued and careful consideration of the proposed stormwater detention basin projects throughout the city. Thanked the Board for hosting a public meeting giving residents an opportunity to discuss the stormwater issue with the Park Board. Stated that she is aware that the School District has voted to work with the City on stormwater detention basin projects and hopes this will open up the opportunity for the Park District to consider working with the City on a site-by-site basis. Respectfully suggested the Park District work with the City to allocate resources to infrastructure improvements in areas where scenarios exist benefiting some residents while detrimental to others. Thanked the Board for its stewardship.

Kevin Graf, 233 E. Cayuga

Stated the following: I came to discuss additional maintenance costs and extra responsibilities that would be placed on the Park District if it chooses to move forward in letting the city dig up their parks and use them as detention basins. I understand that the School Board has decided to work with the City and I hope the School Board understands the full ramifications to doing this especially regarding the safety of all Elmhurst children. Regardless of their decision, the Cayuga residents still feel that York Commons is not the appropriate location for a detention basin. In this whole process, I am completely disappointed in our City government as they ask us to voice our opinions and come to meetings and then do not fully address one of our questions or concerns. It is quite clear their decision was made long ago with no alternative except letting residents still flood. If the City cared about the residents flooding in areas such as Saylor and Jackson, they would have developed a plan long ago to fix their current two-year flood protection by fixing the antiquated storm sewers. In regards to what happens; they will still flood with their current sewers. The city was irresponsible in the Washington area allowing 20 plus new homes to be built in a low elevation area knowing it already floods in small storms. Now the City is willing to flow that water north of the C&N Railroad tracks into York Commons. When York Commons overflows, it will go to Euclid, Washington and beyond. At the last City Cayuga meeting, we had a genuine concern where all that overflow water would go and the City's response was point blank – 'they will flood downstream.' Unfortunately the Washington residents and others will realize that when there is another 100 plus year storm that many of them will flood worse than before when the overflow at York Commons comes at them like raging rapids. The perceived pressure being applied to the Park District is unfair just like that hydrostatic pressure that will be applied to the Cayuga residents' homes adjacent to York Commons when there is millions of gallons of water a stone's throw from the foundations of our homes. How anyone can think that the water will not seep into our yards, saturate the roots of our mature trees, drown our landscaping, creep into our foundation and homes is uninformed. I believe that a detention basin adjacent to 21 homes landlocked on three sides with no shut off mechanism, one small outlet with large storm sewers feeding in an already stressed sewer system, and an overflow that floods an already flooded area is not a viable solution. No matter how you look at it, this puts the Cayuga residents and others at risk trying to solve another neighborhood's flooding. The Cayuga residents appreciate the Park District listening to their concerns and openly communicating with residents, staying strong, protecting our parks and spending countless hours evaluating many alternatives but most importantly trying to help residents who flood while keeping others like us out of harm's way.

Kathleen Sullivan, 133 Pine

Thanked the Board for all the work they have done so far especially after the April 2013 storm. Glad that the City has allowed overnight parking on her street to protect cars from stormwater damage. Stated this summer has been more stressful in comparison to last summer's weather. Appreciates the Park Board listening to everyone and the various sides of the issues. Requested the Board consider the people and children who live in homes that flood. Thanked the Board for their consideration.

Peter Dabertin

Thanked the Park Board for listening to people on Cayuga and protecting the park. Does not believe turning a park into a detention basin is a good idea. Thanked the Board for their thoughtful consideration of the full endeavor. Believes the City should be investing in improved infrastructures, such as storm drains, things that are going to impact a lot more people. It may involve more cost but less cost per household with the plan they have now. Thanked the Park Board for being extremely responsive to the people. Wrote a letter to the Park District and was surprised to receive a response within 24 hours, which he has not experienced with anyone from the City.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gateway - Szkolka

- Funds received from Countryside rejoining the Gateway SRA will be allocated as additional revenue in the FY14-15 budget, adjustments have yet to be made to the expense line item in that budget.
- The participant transportation vehicle is beyond repair and the Gateway Board is currently looking into purchasing and leasing options for a replacement vehicle.
- With the resignation of Superintendent Alexander, who gave advance notice, the Ray Graham Association has begun an active search for his replacement.

Sugar Creek Golf Course – Morissette-Moll and Rogers

- The FY15 Budget was approved. This will be the first time advertisement expenses have been allocated in the budget.
- Board President Ubriaco met with Village of Villa Park President Deborah Bullwinkel to discuss equalizing the golf course's debt between the two entities.
- Commissioner Kies asked if the golf course has any interest in purchasing the property on Villa south of the Creek currently for sale. Executive Director Rogers stated that the Golf Course Board has not discussed the parcel but does not believe any utilitarian value can be attained from acquiring the parcel as it lies south of the maintenance facility directly adjacent to Sugar Creek. The parcel may be of some interest to DuPage County in its Sugar Creek watershed plans for stormwater management.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Gateway – October 9, 2014

Elmhurst Art Museum – October 15, 2014

PEP – October 23, 2014

Sugar Creek Golf Course – October 28, 2014

Lizzadro Museum – November 6, 2014

Stormwater Subcommittee – TBD

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Kies made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda of September 24, 2014. Commissioner Morissette-Moll seconded the motion. The Board was polled: Ayes: Commissioners Kies, Kubiesa, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Howard, 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 September 10, 2014, Closed Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2014, and Voucher Lists for 09/12/2014 - \$141,871.75; 09/19/2014 - \$158,091.59.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (OLD) –

Stormwater Management Discussion

Executive Director Rogers reviewed with the Park Board a York Commons decision making matrix developed by the stormwater subcommittee and the City's conceptual storm sewer layout for York Commons to help facilitate discussion. Commissioner Spaeth stated the matrix will aid the Park Board in making an educated decision when the time comes. Commissioner Howard added that the matrix provides four separate options with various positive and negative outcomes. V3 Engineering and Burke Engineering, as highly professional engineering firms, have worked well together in helping both entities find a resolution for the community. Board President Ubriaco stated that the City and Park District have developed a much more productive way of working together in getting beyond the surface and coming up with viable options and good alternatives that provide the community with some ideas for both the long and short term. Commissioner Morissette-Moll stated that the Park Board is conducting due diligence by listening to residents' concerns and taking into account the Board's responsibility in protecting the parks and agreed with Commissioner Howard in the benefit the Park District's website has been in providing accurate information. The Park Board is anxious to come to a decision as soon as possible by doing its best to serve its residents.

Executive Director Rogers reminded visitors of the October 1, 2014 Public Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at The Abbey. The meeting will be interactive, audio recorded and likely video recorded. Park Board Commissioners are not required to attend as the meeting will be held similar to other Park District public meetings where the objective is to gather public feedback and provide accurate information. The Park Board may attend as audience members only but must refrain from engaging in discussions with each other as such engagements may be subject to the Open Meetings Act requirements. Park Board Commissioners are also not to engage in discussion with the audience but direct them to the meeting panel. Commissioners Howard and Spaeth will serve on the panel as stormwater subcommittee members only. The latest information received from the City regarding three additional sites being studied has been posted on the District's website. One of the sites involves Crestview Park, which will also be reviewed at the Public Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS –

Transportation Services for Individuals with Special Needs

Commissioner Morissette-Moll made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approves awarding the Transportation Bid to Superior Ambulance Service for a one (1) year term, commencing on January 1, 2015, said term is to automatically renew on the same terms and conditions for an additional one (1) year term, commencing on January 1, 2016, unless sooner terminated as provided in the contract and to authorize the Executive Director to execute a final contract. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. Executive Director Rogers stated that the Park District is fortunate that Superior Ambulance has not increased its pricing for the third consecutive time. The expenditure has been included in the proposed FY15 budget. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Kubiesa, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Howard, Kies, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

2014 Tax Levy Resolution R-05-14

Commissioner Pelosi made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approves Tax Levy Resolution R-05-14 with no proposed increase in tax dollars in the aggregate extension and no increase in the SRA Fund. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. Executive Director Rogers gave a slideshow presentation to illustrate the calculations used to determine the appropriate 2014 Tax Levy, the effect caused by the decline in EAV to District funds, the limiting rate, the CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 1.5%, and results from the 2013 tax levy assumption. Due to the decline in EAV, the District proposes to levy the same tax dollars as received in 2014. This will ensure that if EAV percentage declines are less than projected, any potential tax dollars available will be calculated for the 2015 levy and potentially in future years. The proposed 2015 budget will reflect a more conservative assumption of a tax levy reduction of \$239,000. With the significant decrease, Executive Director Rogers stated that he plans on proposing the Park Board utilize surplus funds received in 2014 from tax levies to balance the budget in 2015. Staff responded to Park Commissioners inquiries explaining where surplus monies are allocated, principal drivers to the tax levy, and process in proposing an increase to the Statutory Tax Rate. As there was no further discussion, the Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioner Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Howard, Kies, Kubiesa, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER INFORMATION ITEMS –

Commissioner Kies –

- Has received numerous compliments on the railroad crossing at Pioneer Park as to how well it looks and how safe it is.
- The volunteer recognition program last week was wonderful and well attended. Our volunteers help to save Park District time and money. They should be commended.
- There is a bee hotel at the Herb Garden that is made up of hundreds of 4x4 inch pieces of oak and pine wood with little holes where the female bees leave their eggs.

Future Agenda

Board consensus was to remove *Stormwater Discussion following completion of V3 study* of May 14, 2014 as the Board has had ongoing collaboration and discussions.

Commissioner Kubiesa inquired whether the Park District, in its participation with the Park/City/School Committee, can be updated of items going before the Department of Planning & Zoning (DPZ). Executive Director Rogers stated that he has attended DPZ meetings to keep abreast of new proposed endeavors in the City but notifications from the City have, at times, been inconsistent. Commissioner Howard stated he believes the Park Board would be better served if Commissioners took turns attending City committee meetings as the Park/City/School Committee provides little value in learning of new plans for the City. Commissioner Spaeth stated that the community would prefer the three entities work together. The Board consensus was to add "Future Direction of Park/City/School Committee" on the Future Agenda.

Commissioner Kubiesa asked if the proposed Prairie Path underpass should be placed on Future Agenda. Executive Director Rogers recommended the Board review materials received from the City before placing it on the Future Agenda as the City does not currently plan to approach the Park Board as the stormwater issue has taken priority. Board President Ubriaco requested it be placed on Future Agenda to be discussed when the City does approach the Park District.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director of Information Technology - Kenny

- With the Board's approval of the WAN infrastructure upgrade, staff has been working with Comcast this past week to complete site surveys.

Director of Enterprise Services - McDermott

- Courts Plus September Special is winding down with one week to go. We have 262 new members which is nearly the same as last year.

Division Manager of Human Resources & Risk Management - Bruns

- We had our employee health and wellness fair this morning. Commissioner Kubiesa was able to join us along with 27 vendors and 60 employees. Health screenings were provided to 40 employees.

Director of Marketing and Communications - Wade

- An email blast was sent today to 10,000 residents announcing the stormwater public meeting on October 1 at The Abbey. Nearly 2,300 recipients opened the email message.

Director of Recreation - Szkolka

- Octoberfest is this Friday at The Abbey.

Director of Parks & Facilities - Ferrentino

- Held the athletic field advisory meeting last Monday night and notified the user groups of the public meeting as they use the fields and parks
- The 261 Grantley Drainage Improvements were completed. We did a walk through today and will have the engineer come out and take a look at it. The landscaping looks great.

Executive Director - Rogers

- Just a reminder that the IAPD Legal Symposium will be on November 6, 2014, in Oak Brook, IL. If any of the Park Commissioners are interested in attending, please let us know.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to adjourn to Closed Session was made by Commissioner Howard pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5) for the discussion of “the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District” at 8:30 p.m. Commissioner Kies seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Kubiesa, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, Howard, Kies, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously to go to Closed Session.

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 8:49 p.m.

Board President Ubriaco stated that the Board met in Closed Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5) for the discussion of “the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District.” No final action was taken on the matter discussed in Closed Session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Spaeth moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. and Commissioner Pelosi seconded the motion. The Board adjourned by voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 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 Kubiesa at the October 8, 2014 Park Board meeting.

Carolyn Ubriaco, Board President

Nimfa S. Melesio, Recording Secretary