

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ELMHURST PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 23, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at the Administrative Office, 375 West First Street, Elmhurst, IL. Prior notice of the meeting was posted. The meeting was called to order by Board President Ubriaco at 7:00 p.m.

Board President Ubriaco announced that Commissioner Ennis requested to attend the Board meeting via electronic means by telephone. Commissioner Ubriaco made a motion that Commissioner Ennis be permitted to attend the September 23, 2015 regular meeting via electronic means in accordance with Board Policy 5.16. Commissioner Morissette-Moll seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously. All voting conducted during the meeting was by roll call vote.

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

Attendance via Electronic Means: Commissioner Ennis

Absent: None

Staff Present: James W. Rogers, Executive Director
Angela Ferrentino, Director of Parks & Facilities
Christi Jacobson, Director of Finance & Human Resources
David Kenny, Director of Information Technology
Brian McDermott, Director of Enterprise Services
Cindy Szkolka, Director of Recreation
Ginger Wade, Director of Marketing & Communications
Miranda Lovato, Landscape Architect
E. Anne Scheppele, Division Manager- Facilities
Amy Srail, Program Manager

Visitors:	Lance Adeszko	Toni Locasto
	Tom Allie	Ted Ponak
	Nick Deleonards	Carlton Rink
	Julie Konopacz	Kathleen Sullivan
	Larry Konopacz	

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA
None

REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE FROM VISITORS –

Tom Allie

Voiced his opposition to proposed elements in the Butterfield Park Master Plan including the addition of a basketball court, which he predicted may attract nonresidents. He also opposed the planting of native plants in the northeast corner of the park, as it may result in increased yard maintenance for his home adjacent to the area, become an area for dog waste, and reduce the play area east of the ball field. He said he was unhappy the path will surround the park, but noted it will provide access to the park.

Nick Deleonards

Appreciates the Park District investing in improvements to Butterfield Park, but opposes the addition of a basketball court as he questioned if it is a primary interest of the community. Although he will not utilize the path, he believes other residents would value it.

Lance Adeszko

Questioned how the Park District determined the amenities to include in the Butterfield Park Master Plan. How was it decided that the community wanted a basketball court in the park. Asked if a review of demographics and community needs was conducted and if surveys were administered. Opposed the addition of a basketball court in the park. Favored the path.

Kathleen Sullivan

Made several inquiries regarding the stormwater mitigation plans. Asked if the stormwater committee has met since the last meeting and if the City has provided necessary materials for applying to the IL Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) for property conversion. Questioned whether an application has been submitted to IDNR and has the appraisal process been performed for Golden Meadows Park. Provided her contact information for responses.

Carlton Rink

Spoke in regards to stormwater mitigation plans. Asked if the Park District has everything it needs from the City to apply for the conversion of Golden Meadows Park property to stormwater detention. If not, should citizens of Elmhurst encourage the City to keep things moving forward? Asked who, the City or the Park District, is causing the delay in implementing the stormwater mitigation plans.

Larry Konopacz

Voiced concern over the addition of swales in the northeast corner of Butterfield Park to mitigate water from the park. Asked what the impact of the swales would be to his home (adjacent to the northeast corner of the park), would it make his home vulnerable to flooding, do the swales pose safety issues. Questioned whether the planting of native plants in the area east of the northeast baseball field will reduce the play area.

David Onoro

Resident of the southwest side of Butterfield Park. Stated his area also experiences stormwater flooding. He is not sure if the park needs a basketball court, but believes the funds should be spent in other places where it will make an impact for Elmhurst residents. The playground cost is high, but understands upgrades are needed.

Julie Konopacz

Concerned with the addition of a basketball court in the Butterfield Park Master Plan. Stated that the noise level of a basketball bouncing is much louder in comparison to a tennis ball bouncing. Noted that competitive conversation from basketball players is also louder compared to tennis players. Stated a basketball court adjacent to a tennis court is not a good combination and distracting. Asked if the removal of drain tiles in the park were going to cause flooding issues for park neighbors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elmhurst Art Museum – Srail

- Cited fall program statistics – 112 students enrolled.
- Will continue to offer programming as long as minimum enrollments are met. Considering offering private lessons.
- Will continue to offer summer camp programming.
- Plan to make improvements to the McCormick house starting this winter. Bids for the work have come in at approximately \$75,000.
- Due to the lack of temperature control in the storage area, some art pieces will be auctioned. A New York auction house has bid on some of the art pieces currently not in use.
- Commissioner Kies inquired about a speaker session at the art museum.

Gateway – Szkolka

- Copies of the 2015 audit were distributed to agency members and will be voted on at another meeting.
- Fall program registrations are still being processed.
- The Friday social outings have been split between the north and south sides due to the increased number of participants.
 - Commissioner Morissette-Moll asked if participants can attend both the north and south outings thus attaining a weekly outing.
- The holiday production, which was cancelled last year, has been reinstated.
- Agency members received information and an invoice for Gateway's participation in I-Parks risk management agency.
- Commissioner Morissette-Moll thanked Park District staff for taking the initiative in implementing the Special Olympics gymnastics program.

Sugar Creek Golf Course – Rogers

- The 40th Anniversary celebration and Open House on September 12 was very successful. For 40 days prior to the celebration, raffle tickets were given for each golf round purchased resulting in almost 6,500 raffle tickets handed out. Winners were very pleased with their prizes.
- Total revenue through September 21 compared to the same period last year, has increased over \$5,700 for the month.
- The golf course experienced no serious damage during the latest storm event. PDRMA reimbursements have been received for storm repairs made from another storm event.

- The 2016 proposed budget was presented. Prior to the presentation, staff reviewed the proposed budget with both agencies and necessary changes were made accordingly. The 2016 budget shows a balanced bottom line and revenues and expenses reflect decreases. The budget will now go to both parent entities for final approval.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PEP – September 24, 2015

Gateway – October 8, 2015

Stormwater Subcommittee – September 30, 2015

Sugar Creek Golf Course – October 27, 2015

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Kies made a motion for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda of September 9, 2015. Commissioner Pelosi seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioners Spaeth, Ennis, Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

It should be noted that the following items were approved on the Consent Agenda: September 9, 2015 regular meeting minutes, September 9, 2015 closed meeting minutes, and voucher lists: 09/18/15 - \$285,062.97; 09/11/18 - \$91,808.94; 09/04/15 - \$148,515.77.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (OLD) –

Stormwater Management

Executive Director Rogers stated that the stormwater subcommittee met with the City on September 10, 2015 in Council Chambers with public present to review the revised IGA reflecting the Park Board's proposal to agree to implement three park sites for stormwater detention while continuing to consider the two other sites (Crestview and East End parks). According to the subcommittee, the tone of the subcommittee meeting was more contentious than prior meetings. The City remains firm on not agreeing to extend the maintenance building lease to the Park District unless all five sites are included in the IGA. Other topics of discussion at the stormwater meeting with the City included the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources' (IDNR) funding process, conversion properties and tree replacements. The subcommittee will meet with the engineer of V3 Engineering to continue work on the additional sites. Park District attorney, Andrew Paine of Tressler has been in contact with City attorneys to work on certain points in the IGA including subsequent modifications after construction and termination language. Commissioner Graf stated that the Park District will not approach the IDNR without a signed IGA. Commissioner Pelosi stated that the City extending the maintenance facility lease should be a non-issue as it saves the same taxpayers money. The Park District has already agreed on three sites, one of which does not require IDNR approval. Commissioner Morissette-Moll stated that the flood of 1987 should have prompted the City to consider infrastructure improvements. Board President Ubriaco stated that the Park District is looking to make the term of the City garage coterminous with the use of land in York Commons Park for the firehouse. There is no reason to delay construction of the detention basin in York Commons Park to help the 38 homes on Crescent Street.

NEW BUSINESS –

2016 Butterfield Park Playground for Everyone and Master Plan Concept

Director of Parks and Facilities Ferrentino stated that in accordance to the District's replacement schedule, the Butterfield Park playground is due for replacement in 2016. Landscape Architect Lovato presented the Board with plans for the proposed new playground, which has been coined the *Playground for Everyone*, as it will be fully accessible for individuals with mobility challenges and developmental disabilities as well as for those without special needs. Staff sought out public input at two public meetings and one focus group of individuals, who have specific interest/experience in serving those with special needs, thus ensuring playground components meet and exceed user expectations. Fundraising efforts have begun to offset the cost of the playground, estimated to cost \$600,000. A slideshow illustrated the many elements of the playground structure geared towards serving both individuals with or without special needs to foster play. The playground structure exhibited provides access for wheelchairs and walkers. Commissioners expressed positive comments about the proposed playground, which will provide equal access for all to have fun. In response to Commissioner Graf's concern of the surface transition from the concrete observation area to the soft surface playground area, Lovato stated that since the observation area is not a fall zone, concrete is acceptable. Board President Ubriaco noted that the playground not only serves participants of the playground, but because it eliminates barriers, caretakers/observers, who have physical challenges can access the playground area and share in the play experience or supervise play more closely.

Landscape Architect Lovato moved on to present the Butterfield Park Master Plan to include upgrading and replacing drainage, addressing walking paths, tennis courts resurfacing, relocating the basketball court and completing recommended ADA improvements. Comments from two public meetings were collected and incorporated into the master plan. Although there was some opposition to including a full basketball court in the park, after much consideration, staff determined the relocation of the basketball net from the parking lot to the area adjacent to the tennis courts was a better choice in order to address safety concerns and improve overall play experience. Ferrentino stated that placing a full basketball court in Elmhurst's third largest community park will aid in providing increased recreation, not only for the neighborhood surrounding the park, but the entire community. Executive Director Rogers stated that the basis for the decision to include the basketball court is partly based on the District's Comprehensive Plan, which is used as a guide in making park improvements. Commissioner Ennis proposed placing the basketball court on the west side of the tennis courts in order to reduce noise traveling to homes on the east side of the park. Board President Ubriaco proposed creating an accessible path to the basketball court for wheelchair basketball. In addressing public concern regarding increased crime at the basketball court, Executive Director Rogers stated that Butterfield Park has not experienced crime. Should issues arise at the basketball court, staff will manage them and/or if the basketball court proves unsuccessful, it can be converted to another amenity.

Proposed drainage improvements involve placing native plantings in swales on the east side of the park with a 30-foot buffer between houses and the swales. Approximately 20 feet remains between the baseball field on the northeast side of the park and the swale. The native plantings will absorb water before it is mitigated elsewhere. In response to public concerns regarding

native plants, staff informed the Board that parks with native planting areas have not been an issue for dog walking and has not created a dumping ground for garbage.

The walking path travels from the north side of the park to Butterfield Road on the south side, and then west to continue through the park and up to the north side to Adams Street for a full loop. Permeable paths will be installed where beneficial. Additional storm sewers will be added to capture water to travel to the swales and away from the park.

The picnic area on the southwest side will be relocated east of the area closer to the path thus moving the picnic further from neighboring homes. Interpretive signage will be installed describing tree species and native plantings. The parking lot and tennis courts will be resurfaced. Commissioner Kies suggested the tennis courts have entrances on both north and south sides of the fence for players to retrieve balls easily.

Ferrentino reviewed cost estimates of \$600,000 for the Playground for Everyone and \$1,639,427 for the master plan consisting of removals (\$336,039), pavement improvements (\$343,109), tennis lighting (\$215,000), erosion control (\$14,500), storm sewer (\$66,680), landscaping and site amenities (\$515,060), and 10% of monies from contingency fund (\$149,039). The project is proposed to begin in early July 2016 for completion mid-October 2016. Staff will work with ball field users in scheduling a timeline to complete the project with minimal interruption to ball playing. Rogers stated that the park grant awarded in November 2014 for Butterfield Park has been frozen at the State level and is not likely to be received as one of the stipulations is work not having begun. As there was no further discussion, Commissioner Kies made a motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Butterfield Park Master Plan and the Playground for Everyone design. Commissioner Morissette-Moll seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioner Ennis, Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER INFORMATION ITEMS –

Commissioner Morissette-Moll

- The Ray Graham Association will host a garden party fundraiser on September 26, 2015. Please consider attending.

Commissioner Kies

- The Prairie Path has attracted many monarch butterflies and yellow-tail swallows due to the milkweed growth. Please visit the Prairie Path.

Commissioner Graf

- The prairie restoration work day was this past Saturday; approximately 15 high school students helped clean out brush, saplings, and trees along the north side of the prairie. A Brownie group toured the area.
- This fall, the restoration group will remove some of the diseased Ash trees.
- Most of the prairie restoration work consists of controlling invasive plants rather than removing rubbish. The group is in need of volunteers and meets the third Saturday each month.

Elmhurst Park District Annual Board Meeting
September 23, 2015

Future Agenda – No additions.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director of Marketing & Communications – Wade

- Crowdfunding for the Playground for Everyone will end Saturday, September 26 at midnight. To date, \$12,634 has been collected.

Executive Director - Rogers

- The East End Park playground ribbon cutting ceremony will be held Saturday, October 24 at 10 a.m. The event coincides with soccer games in the park to increase awareness.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to adjourn to Closed Session was made by Commissioner Spaeth 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 9:36 p.m. Commissioner Kies 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 10:06 p.m. Board President Ubriaco stated that the Board met in Closed Session pursuant to 120/2(c)(5) for the discussion of “the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District.” No final action was taken at the meeting on matters that were discussed in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Spaeth moved to adjourn at 10:07 p.m. and Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board was polled. Ayes: Commissioner Spaeth, Ennis, Graf, Kies, Morissette-Moll, Pelosi, Spaeth, and Ubriaco. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administrative Office Boardroom, 375 West First Street, Elmhurst, IL. Prior notice will be posted.

Note: Roll call voting will start with Commissioner Ennis at the October 14, 2015 Park Board meeting.

Carolyn Ubriaco, Board President

Nimfa S. Melesio, Recording Secretary

Date Reviewed	
Date Approved	