

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Highland Park was held in the Multipurpose Room, 636 Ridge Road, Highland Park, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Kaplan.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, President Kaplan

Absent: Commissioner Bernstein

Staff Present: Executive Director McElroy; Deputy Director Donahue; IT Manager Johnson; Director Romes; Director Curtis; Assistant Director Smith; Senior Planner Schwartz, Manager Grill

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from December 4, 2018 Workshop Meeting; Minutes from December 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting; Minutes from January 2, 2019 Special Meeting; Minutes from January 8, 2019 Workshop Meeting; Ordinance 19-01 – Procedures for Closed Sessions Recordings and Minutes; Approval of Golf Course Maintenance Equipment Purchase; Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$5,148,412.92.

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Grossberg.

Roll Call:

Aye: Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Grossberg, President Kaplan

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Bernstein

Abstain: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Highland Park Community Nursery School Relocation Discussion

Zak Waichman from Highland Park Community Nursery School presented a preliminary plan for the construction of the nursery school on District 112 property West Ridge. The building is an 11,000 square foot single story building. All access will be off Ridge Road as requested by NSSD 112. The landscaping plan will include new tree planting and shrubs.

Commissioner Weisskopf asked about the drop-off area and parking. She wanted to know how the new plan would impact the District's summer camps. It was explained camp hours and school hours do not conflict. Nursery School staff hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Nursery school class hours are 7:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Flores Weisskopf wanted to know who would be responsible for snow removal, Executive Director McElroy stated that the Park District is responsible. Commissioner Flores Weisskopf wanted to know where Little Sluggers would be relocated and the site would be relocated at a later date.

Commissioner Grossberg asked about the detention; Waichman explained the detention will be shaped with the topography of the site. Commissioner Grossberg asked if the classroom doors would be opening onto the field and Waichman stated that yes, but, they are emergency doors. Vice President Ruttenberg inquired about the timing and when the District would see easement agreements and terms. Preliminary planning will be done by mid-February; presentation of plans to the City, mid-March and then report to City Council around April 1. Vice President Ruttenberg questioned timeline for documentation for agreements between all the parties.

B. Highland Park Country Club Planning Process Update

Manager Grill reported that the Park District of Highland Park held a Community Open House for the Highland Park Country Club, with 60 people attending. Those attending were supportive of plan ideas. The Open House covered picnic and enhanced seating near Center, Signage/wayfinding and bike/pedestrian conflict. Bike pedestrian conflicts were discussed as well as some operation issues that came up such as maintenance, permits, rentals, programming, temporary types of shelter and lighting.

Staff met with Lake County Forest Preserve District Planning Committee regarding the easement issue for the property. The District has met with the Public Works Staff of Highland Park regarding stormwater storage on the property.

The Internal Planning Committee discussed water access and safety, fitness opportunities, restroom facility and impact of flooding to designed features. The advisory Committee addressed monitoring and safety, educational opportunities/partnerships and pathway loops for all levels of ability.

Manager Grill reported that the overall project timeline is as follows: April 1 work will begin in the natural areas doing seed installation and plan to begin construction of elements and work on

paths in fall of 2019. Spring 2020 planting of live plants and working on the shorelines. Shoreline restoration gets going in Spring of 2020.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf shared that Ms. Christine Hill, AP Environmental teacher of Highland Park High School would like to have her students get involved in working on this project. Manager Grill stated the Park District and the High School have a great relationship and program together. Commissioner Grossberg shared that the Foundation is interested in supporting the project.

Executive Director McElroy stated that there have been meetings with some of the Foundation members and it was agreed that we wait until the design concepts are finalized which will be in March. Commissioner Grossberg asked if there had been any concerns at the meeting. Manager Grill stated that lighting and signage were concerns that were discussed.

President Kaplan brought up the issue of naming rights regarding the property. Executive Director McElroy stated if suggestions should be directed to the District and there may be a possible meeting with an internal planning committee. Vice President Ruttenberg stated that a name change would be beneficial sooner than later.

a. Naming Rights

Executive Director McElroy reviewed the naming policy. President Kaplan advised the Board to go back and review the packet and to table the discussion until Commissioner Bernstein is present.

C. Treasurer's Report

Director Curtis reported Preaudit 2018 Financial Statements will be presented for review at the March Board meeting. Final Audited Financials will be presented at the May Board meeting.

In December 2018, the IMRF Board of Trustees reduced the return it assumes it will earn on IMRF's investment portfolio from 7.5% to 7.25%.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks Foundation Update

Commissioner Grossberg reported that the Foundation will be teaming up with Ravinia Brewing Company on February 25th from 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. The Champions Banquet is May 21, 2019 with Mike Ditka as the guest speaker. MLK Day was a huge success with the Parks Foundation have a big presence at the event, kindness rocks money raised. Blue Grass Restaurant will once again be holding the Crawfish Boil around Mardi Gras with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Park District and the Parks Foundation.

B. Director's Report

Executive Director McElroy shared that the Park District of Highland Park was awarded the Finance Officer Associations certificate of achievement for the 28th year in a row.

Congratulations to Annette and her staff. Congratulations to the Park District of Highland Park again for receiving the highest level of accreditation and receipt of a \$1500 cash award from PDRMA for risk management.

The District was awarded the renovation of the year at IPRA for the Sunset Valley Golf Club for the golf course and the club house. In addition to that the District also received a photography award for a sports picture, and third place award for a landscaping picture.

The annual Daddy Daughter Dance takes place this weekend and is sold out, also Nature Discovery Day at Heller Nature Center. The last day for early bird Registration for camps is February 28.

C. Board Comments

OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD

Cathy Nachman, 844 Highland Place, Highland Park thanked the Park District, the Highland Park Community Nursery School and NSSD 112 on behalf of the Kennedy Park neighbors. She also thanked staff who worked on Sunset Valley Golf Club as well as a final thank you to Liza McElroy for her service to the Park District and her efforts to make all of the wonderful improvements the past 10 years possible.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Grossberg to adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of Section 2(c)(1) – the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline of the District including legal counsel for the District; Section 2(c)5 – the purchase or lease of real estate including discussion on whether a certain parcel of property should be acquired; Section 2(c)6 – the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District; Section 2(c)8 – security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property; Section 2(c)11 – litigation against or on behalf of the District or where the District finds that an action is probable or imminent; Section 2(c)21 – the discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Act, whether for the purposes of approval of said minutes or for conducting the semi-annual review of the minutes as set forth in Section 2.06 of the Act; Section 2(c)29 – for discussions between internal or external auditors and the Board.
Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Flores
Weisskopf, President Kaplan
Nay: None
Absent: Commissioner Bernstein
Abstain: None

Meeting was adjourned into closed session at 7:17 p.m.

Meeting adjourned into Open session at 7:31 pm.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY

President Kaplan reported that the Board met in Closed Session under Section 2(c)1 – the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline of the District including legal counsel for the District; Section 2(c)5 – the purchase or lease of real estate including discussion on whether a certain parcel of property should be acquired; Section 2(c)6 – the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District.

In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, each public body must meet to review minutes of all closed meetings at least twice per year. At such a meeting a determination is made and reported in an open session that (1) the needs for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes or (2) that the minutes or recordings or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for inspection by the public.

Staff would recommend that the following Closed Session minutes be made available for public inspection at this time. None.

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Flores Weisskopf that the minutes from July 24, 2018 September 17, 2018, September 25, 2018; November 5, 2018, December 4, 2018 and December 13, 2018, be approved and not be released for public inspection,

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, President Kaplan
Nay: None
Absent: Commissioner Bernstein
Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Flores Weisskopf and approved by unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary