PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 2, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Commissioner Bernstein.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf

Absent: Vice President Ruttenberg. President Kaplan arrived at 6:11 p.m.

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Carr, Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Gogola, Interim Director Becker, Assistant Director Maliszewski, Assistant Director Henriques; Projects and Planning Manager Schwartz; Executive Coordinator Hejnowski

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA - None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from August 27, 2019 Regular Board Meeting; Minutes from September 10, 2019 Workshop Meeting; Minutes from September 19, 2019 Special Meeting; Approval of 2019 District-Wide Tree Removal Bid in the amount of $49,733.00; Conditional Approval of Design and Engineering Contract for Community Park Pond; Bills and Payroll in the amount of $2,445,440.22.

Commissioner Bernstein requested that item E, Approval of 2019 Sunset Woods Fieldhouse Restroom ADA Bid in the amount of $32,475.00, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg; seconded by Commissioner Flores Weisskopf to approve the Consent Agenda except for item E, Approval of 2019 Sunset Woods Fieldhouse Restroom ADA Bid in the amount of $32,475.00.
Board Regular Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2019

Roll Call:

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

Motion Carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT
Interim Director Becker reported on a year to date basis the District is showing a surplus of just over $2.4 million as compared to a deficit of $1.6 million at the same time last year. The difference can primarily be seen in the reduction capital expenses by almost $3.7 million. Revenues are down $278,000, $154,000 of which is a timing issue relating to property taxes. Expenditures, absent of capital, are down over $600,000. This shows the District’s attention to efficiency on a year to date basis. With the exception of Special Recreation, all funds are exceeding expectations. The new NSSRA (Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association) building is responsible for the surplus. Lastly, the month of August shows a negative investment income which is due to the reversal of accrued interest which the District was overstating until July of this year. The error has been corrected. There were no questions from the Board.

NEW BUSINESS
A. Parks Foundation Update
Director Gogola reported the Parks Foundation has a new member who will assist with website updates. Commissioner Grossberg thanked Director Gogola for her recruiting efforts. The Foundation estimates that it recently raised over $1,000 from Funk Fest. The number of participants for the FYI Program’s Swim Lessons increased dramatically from two to twenty-four swimmers. The letters from Joel Hirsch, Illinois Golf Hall of Famer, made a huge impact, resulting in several donations towards the Youth Golf Development and Short Game Center. Lastly, the Foundation submitted a grant application that, if approved, could cover the remaining costs needed to build the Center.

B. Director’s Report
Executive Director Romes reported on events occurring throughout the District. On Friday, October 18th, families can attend Trick and Swim or Princesses, Princes and Superheroes. On Friday, October 25th, West Ridge Center is hosting a trick-or-treat event. Saturday, October 26th Centennial Ice Arena is offering Scary Skate and Deer Creek Racquet Club is hosting a Monster Bash. Aside from Halloween fun, Park School has 111 registrants, which exceeds the District’s expectations. Assistant Director Henriques reported that the program curriculum builds from year to year and the theme is custom-tailored to fit each age group.
Due to high enrollment, other recreational areas are utilizing Park School to cross-promote their programs.

C. Board Comments
President Kaplan attended a fundraiser on Saturday, September 28th, at Centennial Ice Arena to honor fallen state trooper Chris Lambert. Local high school hockey teams including Deerfield and Stevenson attended the event that was organized by Highland Park High School Hockey players to bring greater awareness to Scott’s Law. Thanks to their efforts, the Lambert family will receive a $40,000 donation check. President Kaplan was pleased to see the community come together and would like to see what else the District can offer to further support the Lambert family. In other community news, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf attended Go Highland Park, Commissioner Bernstein attended the Stupey Cabin Harvest Festival, and Commissioner Grossberg attended an Open House at the Water Reclamation Center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
A. Approval of 2019 Sunset Woods Fieldhouse Restroom ADA Bid in the amount of $32,745.00
President Kaplan noted that the proposed project to renovate the Sunset Woods Restroom requires a $32,745 contract approval and approximately $40,000 in materials and supplies. President Kaplan said he is not opposed to the approval, but he would like to discuss renovating the facility as a whole, versus a band-aid solution to one section of the building. President Kaplan asked Manager Schwartz to provide a brief overview of the proposed project. Manager Schwartz reported the renovations will focus on the restrooms that are accessible from the park. They will receive an ADA compliant outdoor access ramp, an ADA compliant floorplan, and the fixtures will be updated and modernized. Department Heads and Manager Schwartz are confident that the renovations would not impact any future opportunities for renovation of the remaining space. No further questions were asked. A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein to approve 2019 Sunset Woods Fieldhouse Restroom ADA Bid in the amount of $32,745.00 and seconded by Commissioner Grossberg.

After the motion was made, Manager Schwartz provided a project timeline stating renovations will begin this October and the project should be completed before the end of the year. During this time there will be portable restroom available for public use.

Roll Call:

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

B. Approval of Resolution 19-04 of Competitive Bidding and Awarding Contracts for Emergency Restoration and Preservation Measures at Rosewood Beach

President Kaplan requested an overview of the proposed measures in the Resolution. Director Smith reported the high-water levels of Lake Michigan this past summer led to rapid erosion and put the infrastructure in the back of the Interpretive Center and swimming coves in jeopardy. Since the fall and winter seasons are prone to intense storms along the lakefront this could cause further erosion. As a result, the District hired SmithGroup to provide restoration options and receive proposals for the sand nourishment project. Thelen Sand & Gravel was the most reasonably priced material supplier and John Keno & Company was the only contractor available to begin the project on such short notice and met the District’s project timeline. John Keno & Company worked at Rosewood Beach last winter, so they are familiar with the site and the District has had positive working relations with them.

Director Smith shared samples of the sand that would be spread in the two coves. He explained that SmithGroup will be at the October 15 Board Workshop Meeting to discuss project details. SmithGroup provided an approximate cost of $310,000. President Kaplan asked if this cost would include adding sand to the third cove. Director Smith explained that the current cost estimate is for the nature and middle swimming cove only and includes SmithGroup’s engineering costs, the cost of the sand, and spreading of the sand. The price will also vary based on how much sand is actually needed during construction. Part of the contractor’s proposal is a cost per cubic yard of sand placement.

Director Smith explained that the District will have approved permits from the City of Highland Park within the next week. Upon approval of this resolution Thelen Sand & Gravel and John Keno & Company could begin the restoration and preservation project on October 21, 2019. President Kaplan asked if the resolution does not pass will the District lose the beach and the facilities in this area? Director Smith stated that was a possibility and that this is an urgent matter, in the District’s best interest to respond quickly.

Commissioner Bernstein asked to review the costs once again, reporting the previous project estimate was around $230,000. Smith replied that the proposed emergency restoration and preservation measures would cost the District an additional $80,000 more than anticipated. Commissioner Grossberg asked if the District has an estimate of the remaining costs needed for the third cove, and if those estimates have been shared with the members of the Finance Committee. Director Smith replied that all project costs and estimates were reviewed with the members of the Finance Committee and the District will base budgeting for the remaining costs into the 2020 Capital Plan. Commissioner Bernstein asked if the quality of the bird’s eye sand will change over time. Director Smith reported that the larger stones will move closer to the shoreline over time. No further were questions were asked. A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein to approve Resolution 19-04 of Competitive Bidding and
Awarding Contracts for Emergency Restoration and Preservation Measures at Rosewood Beach and seconded by Commissioner Grossberg.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD - None

CLOSED SESSION
Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein, seconded by Commissioner Grossberg to adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of 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 for discussions between internal or external auditors and the Board.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned into closed session at 6:55 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened into open session at 7:00 p.m.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY
Section 2(c)5 was discussed

Roll Call:

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

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Commissioner Grossberg and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Romes, Secretary