

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2013**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by President Meyers.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Vice President Kaplan, President Meyers

**Staff Present:** Director Becker, Director Stumpf, Director Donahue, Director Baker, Director Behlow, Asst. Director Malartsik, Asst. Director Romes, Manager Scheve, Specialist Huegel, Executive Director McElroy

**City Council Present:** Mayor Rotering, Council members Higginson, Blumberg, Kirsch, Naftzger, Kaufman

**City Staff Present:** David Knapp, Ghida Neukirch, Ramesh Kanapareddy, Nikki Winikates, Steve Earnhardt, John Welch, Shubhra Govind, Megan Fulara

**Guests:** David Sogin

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON AGENDA** - None

**CENTRAL PARK STAIR REPLACEMENT**

Rick Stumpf, Director of Planning and Projects, gave a brief historical overview and introduced Patrick S. Brawley and Paul J. Wiese from Smithgroup JJR. Mr. Brawley gave a detailed presentation concerning materials, methods, construction and costs of the Highland Park Central Park Bluff Staircase. Mayor Rotering questioned how frequently and by whom the staircase is utilized as well as inquired about the safety of materials used and if there is a preferred material to promote safety. Mr. Brawley responded that steel is the preferred material to promote safety and stability and that maintenance costs for steel are much lower than wood in the lifetime of this proposed staircase. Councilman Kirsch noted the tremendous frequency that the staircase was utilized in the past and by the vast array of users including high school sports teams, neighborhood dwellers as well as all Highland Park residents and visitors to the area. Councilman Higginson noted that she prefers option 2A of the diagramed proposals. She also

stated that she would like to see a middle handrail to promote safety and reduce slipping. Director Stumpf stated that Park District Staff are putting together a cost estimate for staircase maintenance depending on construction materials selected. Mr. Brawley stated that his company has done many commercial construction projects along the Great Lakes and that they are continuing to explore locations for the pile location prior to the bidding of the project to minimize risk during installation. He also noted, when asked, that construction design is generally given a 1 year warranty but that materials may have additional warranties.

Mayor Rotering asked about the partnership in regard to the ongoing maintenance of the stairs. President Meyers responded that there had been no discussion on that yet, but his inclination is that the Park District would provide the maintenance.

Commissioner Kaplan questioned the lifespan of steel exposed to the elements configured in this manner. Mr. Wiese commented that wood generally needs to be replaced and that steel can be refurbished. Commissioner Flores-Weisskopf noted that maintenance costs need to be considered when selecting materials and construction. She also noted that this staircase should not look industrial but blend in with the environment. Commissioner Bernstein added that he would like to see the landings on the staircase expanded to include rest areas and benches for viewing. Director Stumpf noted that maintenance costs could be reduced and liabilities minimized if the staircase is properly barricaded and shut down in winter.

Mayor Rotering counted that Council prefers option 2A and President Meyer counted and conceded that the Commissioners agree. Discussion was had as to the implementation of this project and if it can coincide with the construction at the water plant. City Manager David Knapp noted that City staff will take the Board and Council's recommendations and present them as an action to be voted on at the next City Council Meeting. President Meyers stated that the item would be placed on the Park Board's April 23 agenda.

### **ADJOURNMENT JOINT MEETING**

Mayor Rotering stated that she would like to discuss the Highland Park Country Club and shared efficiencies with the Park Board at a future meeting. She entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilman Kaufman moved to adjourn and Councilman Naftzger seconded the motion.

Following a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

The City Council and Board of Park Commissioners adjourned its meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Park Board President Meyers called a short recess.

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Park Commissioners Present: President Meyers, Vice President Kaplan, Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Flores-Weisskopf

Park Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Waxman

Park District Staff Present: Director Becker, Director Stumpf, Director Donahue, Director Baker, Director Behlow, Asst. Director Malartsik, Asst. Director Romes, Manager Scheve, Specialist Huegel, Executive Director McElroy

After establishing the presence of a quorum, President Meyers eliminated the Closed Session due to lack of business.

**President Meyers reconvened the Workshop Meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners at 7:43 p.m.**

### **POLICY MANUAL REVIEW**

Executive Director McElroy and Ancel Glink representative Adam Simon presented updates to the Ethics Ordinance, FOIA Policy, and Comprehensive Needs Assessment Policy as part of the comprehensive review of the Park District's Policy Manual. President Meyers suggested an annual training on the Ethics Ordinance which was unanimously agreed upon. President Meyers called a short recess, and upon return convened a Board Work Group to meet with staff and legal counsel to thoroughly review all of the updated policies and report to the Board at the May 14 Workshop Meeting. Commissioners Bernstein and Kaplan volunteered to review the policies and report.

### **REVIEW OF MARCH VOUCHERS**

Director Becker was available to answer questions. No comments were received.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Sogin addressed the Board saying he was thrilled that the Central Park stairs will be built and asked that the City and Park District are considerate of the timeline of the project as it relates to the Park Avenue Yacht Club operations. He also expressed appreciation for the new bench in the locker room at the Recreation Center. Executive Director McElroy noted that more new benches would be installed and that the Park District and City are sharing the expense.

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Executive Director McElroy added that the Master Planning kick off meeting with the staff steering committee and the Lakota Group went very well and everyone is excited about engaging the community in the process. GREENPRINT 2024: A Community's Vision for the Park District of Highland Park is the name of the project and there will be many ways for residents to participate. President Meyers shared his desire that the process gather sufficient community input from the various focus groups, stakeholders, and residents to result in data as useful as a formal survey.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Kaplan and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein, and approved by unanimous voice vote. The Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary