

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2018**

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 6:02 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 of Operations Donahue; Director Romes; Director Curtis; Assistant Director Carr; Director Gogola; Manager Grill; Senior Planner Schwartz

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None

HIGHLAND PARK COUNTRY CLUB PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE

Manager Grill reviewed the Highland Park Country Club Golf (HPCC) Conversion project. The foundation of the plan rests on green play spaces surrounded by thoughtfully arranged native plantings that reflect the functionality of the land. The amenities that are proposed spring organically from the land and feature simple ideas for augmenting enjoyment of desired activities of walking, leisure biking, cross country skiing and running, access to water, picnicking, and exploring nature.

Manager Grill stated that privacy is created in the northern areas of the property with grassland habitat for birds; the middle zone is an area for family and group activity, that takes advantage of water features and access to parking in the Golf Learning Center; the zone closest to the Recreation Center answers community desire for play close to the building that might be especially attractive to users of the recreation center, future senior center and also families with young children.

Planning Process Conversion of the HPCC property to passive open space has been considered through a series of targeted outreach efforts to determine what experiences residents want in our new community park. These efforts have included:

- community survey including table top interviews
- internal planning group
- public advisory group
- small group meetings (trail, water, amenities)

- meetings with stakeholder groups (Neighbors, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, City of Highland Park, Lake County Forest Preserve District)

Overall, residents and the District have a shared vision about creating an intergenerational gathering place where nature is emphasized over the built environment so that people can play in nature. There is a consensus that the following key experiences would achieve that vision:

- Nature play including water play, specialized gardens, and using existing natural/golf features to create unique experiences
- Walking and leisure biking as primary activities
- Access to ponds
- Cross country running and skiing
- Picnics and places to gather with shelter from the sun

A satisfactory mix of trails is a key element of the success of this project.

- Interior trails that can comfortably be shared by walkers and leisure bikers
- Separate through path for road bikers (existing north south trail)
- Soft surface path for cross country running and skiing
- Interior path connecting to north south regional trail with future plan for connection to Route 22 via Skokie River Woods

Staff expressed a need for restrooms on the property. President Kaplan asked about bikers and walkers and if existing sand traps and bunkers would be utilized. Commissioner Grossberg wanted to know if there would be mileage markers installed for walkers and runners.

Manager Grill stated that following Board review, the Conceptual Plans will be presented at a Community Public Meeting to be held January 15, 2019. The plans will be posted to the District website and promoted in the Park Line. The plan will also be shared with the Lake County Forest Preserve District's Planning Committee in January, per requirement of conservation easements on the property.

Commissioner Grossberg asked if the Army Corp decided not to get involved would the Park District be willing to incur costs associated with the project. Commissioner Flores Weisskopf had a question regarding lighting and was it a part of the proposed budget. She felt this to be a safety issue. Manager Grill stated that lighting was not a part of the projected budget and that plans were to keep the hours for this facility in line with other facilities across the District. Commissioner Grossberg asked how the big storms will affect the park. Manager Grill stated that the District has studied this issue and is aware of how to plan for this when these storms occur.

LAKEFRONT MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROGRESS REPORT

Senior Planner Schwartz shared that Park District staff conducted community engagement efforts this summer to collect feedback on community priorities at Park District Lakefront properties. Community efforts included a survey available online and a paper format; as well as, a listening

tour where staff visited eight Park District locations throughout the summer and talked with park patrons. Through the engagement process the District collected 662 surveys in addition to comments received at the parks. This fall Park District staff went through each survey and comment to begin developing the plan update.

Senior Planner Schwartz stated that in 2007, the Park District, in collaboration with city-wide stakeholders, completed and began implementing the Lakefront Master Plan which provided a roadmap for improvements at all lakefront parks, beaches, and ravine ecosystems. GreenPrint 2024 identified the need to prepare a Lakefront Master Plan Update to better build upon recent accomplishments and to better reflect current community priorities and the changing nature of the lakefront.

Senior Planner Schwartz further explained that since 2007, major accomplishments include Rosewood Beach Development, Moraine Park Sculpture Garden, lakefront programming expansion, and natural areas restoration at Millard, Moraine, and Rosewood. Now, 11 years later, the lakefront parks and community priorities have changed. As a result, the plan is being revisited and updated to better address today's Highland Park.

The Lakefront Master Plan Update will focus on celebrating accomplishments since the 2007 Master Plan. Acknowledging the changing complexion of the lakefront and community, the update will reassess lakefront priorities. The information gathered through the update will better inform the Park District for next steps at Lakefront Parks, including Park Avenue Beach.

Senior Planner Schwartz closed by explaining that Staff will explore solutions to the priority needs identified through the engagement efforts and develop recommendations. The plan will be shared with the Board and the public. Capital recommendations will be integrated into the larger Park District capital plan.

Vice President Ruttenberg asked about the time table. Senior Planner Schwartz explained that quarter one, January-February is the target date for the plan to be completed.

ORDINANCE 18-05 – TAX LEVY 2018

Director Curtis stated that the 2018 tax levy ordinance represents the District's request for property taxes and reflects an increase of 4.26% from the 2017 property taxes collected during 2018 and is based on a CPI increase of 2.1% for those funds which are under the property tax cap and four cents per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation for the Special Recreation Fund. This levy focuses on capturing new growth within the District. The levy requested totals \$11,661,498.

Commissioner Ruttenberg noted that the levy had been discussed in detail at a previous Finance Committee Meeting. Commissioner Grossberg asked if the District was requesting more than needed and Director Curtis reported no.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Director Curtis presented the vouchers for checks written November 9, 2018 through November 30, 2018 for an amount totaling \$524,443.00. There were no questions from the Board.

OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD

Mrs. Bernstein introduced Joan Zahnle to the Board. Ms. Zahnle will be taking over as Martin Luther King Day Coordinator. Mrs. Bernstein wanted to know if she could buy a tree at the Highland Park Country Club.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg, seconded by Vice President Ruttenberg 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 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned into open session at 7:48 p.m.

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

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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.

Jeff Smith updated the Board on a meeting that was held with the Albion Group. The Albion Group developers were seeking a variance from the City for a 10-foot setback. President Kaplan expressed that he is not opposed to the project as it does not impact any of the uses or the playability at Sunset Woods Park. Commissioners Ruttenberg, Grossberg, and Flores Weisskopf all concurred.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg and seconded by Commissioner Ruttenberg and approved by unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary