

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING  
NOVEMBER 5, 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 6:05 p.m. by President Meyers.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Ruttenberg, President Meyers

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

**Guests:** Residents Janet Bernstein, David Sogin, and Councilman Alyssa Knobel, City of Highland Park

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – Review of Vouchers moved to the first item on the agenda.

**REVIEW OF VOUCHERS**

Director Becker offered to answer questions on the voucher list. There were no questions.

Vice President Kaplan arrived at 6:07pm.

**2014 CAPITAL PLAN**

Director Becker presented an overview of drafts of the upcoming 2014 fiscal year (9 month) Capital Plan and the five-year Capital Plan explaining that both represent a compilation of staff recommendations. Becker elaborated that both plans are draft only and contingent upon the completion and adoption of GreenPrint 2024, the District's 10-year master plan which will direct the priorities of capital projects going forward. The capital plan for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014 will be incorporated into the Park District's overall budget which will come before the Board for approval. Any changes to the draft Capital Plan will be presented to the Board prior to the completion of the budget.

**TRUTH IN TAXATION RESOLUTION**

Director Becker presented information on the Truth In Taxation Resolution that requires approval within 28 days of passing the Park District's tax levy. The Truth In Taxation

requirement is simply the Board's estimate of what the anticipated levy will be. Becker presented an overview of the District's tax levy history. The Board reduced taxes by 10% four years ago and have held that reduced rate for the past three years. Becker reported that the Finance Committee has made a 2013 recommendation that the Park District levy \$10,388,432, an increase of 6.6%, and that given the current reserves, the District refrain from levying for Debt Service. President Meyers noted that the 6.6% tax levy increase is less than the 10% decrease in 2009.

### **INVESTMENT POLICY**

Director Becker presented a recommendation that the Board of Commissioners adopt an amendment to the Park District's current investment policy incorporating the Investment of Municipal Funds Act. Since that time, the Investment of Municipal Funds Act (50 ILCS 340) was passed giving the District an opportunity to invest in other local government's debt issues. As an added benefit, the issuing municipality would also save on both interest and issuance costs. Staff would look to other park districts to consider purchasing PDHP's thus realizing the benefits of being the issuing agency.

Commissioner Bernstein asked questions about the newly passed law. Staff was directed to research and report on its history. He also requested a list of other agencies who have taken advantage of the law's benefits.

President Meyers asked that a quarterly investment report be a standing item on the Finance Committee agendas, and the monthly list of investments presented to the Board include more detail.

### **CENTRAL PARK STAIRS**

Director Stumpf reported that City and Park District representatives visited the Park Avenue site to determine how to better lay out the terminus of the bluff stairs. An alternate plan was recommended that shifts the staircase 40-50' north. A pedestrian walkway across the parking lot would address safety concerns.

Softening the appearance of the staircase by adding a wood lean rail was also presented as an alternative to the steel and aluminum stairs.

The extension of the walkway and/or the addition of wood to the stairs will increase the cost of the project. If the project cost estimate exceeds 1 million, the Park District will need to go back to the City Council and revisit the Memo of Understanding.

Commissioner Ruttenberg expressed his concern that the project is becoming cost prohibitive. Director Stumpf is researching structural capabilities and cost and has asked WB Olson to assess the project and offer cost estimates. It was also suggested that a well known local contractor be contacted. Stumpf will report his findings to the Park Board at the December workshop meeting.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

David Sogin, Commodore of the Park Avenue Yacht Club, thanked the Park District staff for their support during the past challenging year. Sogin reported that the Yacht Club had a successful year and gained new members. President Meyers thanked Sogin for his service as Commodore.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein, seconded by Vice President Kaplan, 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 Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Kaplan, President Meyers

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**Motion carried.**

Meeting was adjourned into Closed Session at 7:39 p.m.

**ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Kaplan, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein, and approved by unanimous voice vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary