

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 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, Vice President Kaplan, President Meyers

Staff Present: Executive Director McElroy, Director Becker, Director Stumpf, Director Baker, Director Behlow, Director Donahue, Asst. Director Malartsik, Asst. Director Romes, Superintendent Green, Project Manager Gardocki, and Manager Scheve

Guests: Residents Janet Bernstein, David Sogin, Councilman Alyssa Knobel, City of Highland Park, and SmithgroupJJR representatives Paul Weise and Patrick Brawley

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – There were no changes

2013 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE 13-14

Director Becker presented an overview of the November 19, 2013 passage of the Truth in Taxation Resolution which indicated that the levy for 2013 (2014 tax year) would be \$10,388,432.

Director Becker reviewed the draft ordinance of which \$4,100,000 is allocated for General Corporate purposes; \$5,412,250 for Recreation purposes, and \$876,182 for Special Recreation purposes. He reminded the Board that even with the proposed 6.6% increase in the tax levy, taxes are still lower than they were four years ago.

Commissioner Weisskopf asked what the 6.6% increase would mean to an average homeowner. Director Becker stated that the owner of a \$450,000 home would pay an additional \$24 per year. President Meyers directed staff to prepare the tax levy presentation for vote at the December 17 Board Meeting.

CENTRAL PARK STAIRS

Director Stumpf introduced Paul Weise and Patrick Brawley of the design and engineering firm SmithgroupJJR who presented revised draft plans and cost estimates for the proposed Central

Park Bluff Staircase project. The footprint of the project was altered based on comments received at the October workshop meeting. Paul Weise explained the revised plan and cost estimates which included extending the stairs and incorporating wood handrails into the design.

In response to previously stated concerns on the location of the staircase terminus, Weise presented an alternative design that would extend the stair farther north and would result in one extra pier and 75' of additional stairs. Materials were discussed, and the addition of wood handrails to the aluminum and steel design would add cost to the project as well.

Following Board discussion on cost reduction possibilities, President Meyers directed staff to review and revise the current construction criteria and work with SmithgroupJJR to reduce the cost of the project and look at alternate path options.

President Meyers called a recess at 7:10 p.m. The Board Meeting was called back to order at 7:16 p.m.

GREENPRINT 2024 UPDATE

Associate Project Manager Mary Gardocki presented an overview of the GreenPrint 2024 master planning process. Manager Gardocki revisited the expectations of the product and the Lakota Group and explained that the programming piece is necessary for the plan's completion. PDHP staff will work with the Lakota Group and consultants to compile a draft that will be presented to the Board for discussion and analysis. The draft is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

NOVA HP AGREEMENTS

Executive Director McElroy reviewed a draft agreement with District 113 and NOVA HP which was presented at the October Workshop Meeting. The agreement establishes NOVA HP as a Park District affiliate and allows for the use of equipment and facilities of the School District to be used by NOVA HP as a Park District affiliate. Executive Director McElroy recommended that the Board approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with District 113 to provide space for the NOVA HP program, and that the Board approve the Affiliate Agreement between the Park District of Highland Park and NOVA HP at the December Park Board meeting. President Meyers directed Executive Director McElroy to meet with NOVA HP's David Small prior to the December meeting.

ROSEWOOD UPDATE- Continued to next meeting

EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

Director Baker and Golf Course Superintendent Green presented an overview of the removal of trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Director Baker reported that 212 ash trees have been removed in the parks this year. At Sunset Valley Golf Course 178 are marked to come down during the winter, 50-70 are being watched, and 25-40 are currently being treated. Superintendent Green classified the EAB as the worst pest ever to hit the US.

Director Baker reported that the Park District has completed a joint bid for tree removal with the City of Highland Park that could result in a 23% savings.

President Meyers directed staff to be aware of potential uses for the larger logs such as the benches that were constructed at Heller Nature Center's Wander Woods. Baker also reported that 280 trees have been planted this year in replacement.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Director Becker called attention to the different format of the voucher list noting that it is not as cumbersome. There were no questions.

OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD

Resident David Sogin commended the Park Board for their decision on the Central Park Stairs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein moved to adjourn. Vice President Kaplan seconded.

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 at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary