

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2017**

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 6:04 p.m. by President Kaplan.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Ruttenberg, President Kaplan

Absent: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf

Staff Present: Executive Director McElroy, Deputy Director Donahue, Director Curtis, Manager Johnson, Superintendent Ochs, Senior Planner Schwartz, Assistant Director Carr, Assistant Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Gogola, Manager Grill, Director Romes

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Vice President Ruttenberg complimented Senior Planner Schwartz and Manager Grill on their presentation at the City Council on October 9, 2017.

Commissioner Bernstein arrived at 6:15 p.m.

FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS

Executive Director McElroy introduced Ms. Debra Rade, a resident of Highland Park. Ms. Rade shared some concerns regarding the effectiveness and attentiveness of the Park District in the wake of the heavy rains. Ms. Rade had taken photos which indicated elevated water levels at Fink Park, and she questioned the presence of bacteria and sewage in the water.

Ms. Wade did not feel the Park District had done enough to protect and inform its residents during this time. She explained that the Park District website did not contain necessary information that would have been helpful to residents.

Vice President Ruttenberg thanked Ms. Rade for a thorough presentation. Commissioner Bernstein asked if the Park District has protocol to follow during these events. President Kaplan asked that the Staff review procedures. Commissioner Bernstein asked that there be follow-up

discussion at an upcoming Workshop Meeting. Executive Director McElroy stated that the Safety Committee will meet with PDRMA.

Commissioner Flores-Weisskopf arrived at 6:38 p.m.

PARK OPERATIONS / GOLF OPERATIONS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Senior Planner Schwartz presented progress at the construction site. Crews have been focusing on finishing up the shell of the building. The site is being prepped for colder weather so the focus can turn to the interior of the building. Some recent work completed: the water main is in, underground plumbing installed, installation of drains, installation of transformer, electric lines to the building are complete and there should be power to the building in the next week or two. The roofing has started and curbs will go in soon. The outside work on the building should be completed in November. Senior Planner Schwartz confirmed that at the next Board Meeting she will report on when the work will move to the inside of the building exclusively. She also reported that the landscape plan was sent to the City per a suggestion from Commissioner Bernstein.

There are some construction costs as well as additional contingency costs which consider both the value engineering and the additional costs for the added plumbing vents, the asbestos survey and the asbestos abatement that was required prior to demolition. Commissioner Bernstein asked if there was any feedback from neighbors and Senior Planner Schwartz reported that there has been none.

SUNSET VALLEY GOLF COURSE RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Ochs reported that the course is close to completion. Holes #7 and #1 are the last to get completed. Commissioner Bernstein discussed some new and different ways to market the course to increase traffic. Some items that were discussed: playing fewer holes and promoting Youth Golf by offering discounted memberships to millennials. Commissioner Grossberg asked Superintendent Ochs what the best and worst-case scenarios are for the opening of the course. At this time, mid-July – August 1 is the target. Commissioner Bernstein also asked about the drainage.

SKOKIE RIVER WOODS MASTER PLAN

Manager Grill outlined the Gateway Plan which intends to introduce public accessibility onto the Skokie River Woods property. The Park District is obligated by an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Highland Park and Lake County Forest Preserve District to provide public access. There is also an Open Lands Trust Grant that came from IDNR (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) that helped to purchase the property.

Manager Grill explained that the District did get concurrence from the IDNR for this proposed trail as being acceptable to satisfy the District's Open Land Trust Contract. The District has

reached out to the City of Highland Park to discuss their consensus on this plan. The plan is to use the existing trail that runs on the east side of Skokie River Woods and the golf dome. Manager Grill stated that reuse of this path would be most cost effective and sustainable.

Manager Grill explained that we have applied for a Chicago-Cal Funding for half of the cost of development. We have budgeted \$300,000 in the capital fund for next year for this project. The District should be hearing soon as to the outcome of this funding. Vice President Ruttenberg questioned if the path would connect to Route 22. Manager Grill stated that to do this would be more than the project's budget. Vice President Ruttenberg wanted to know how the path would be surfaced. Manager Grill stated that asphalt would be used as it is most cost effective. Vice President Ruttenberg suggested investigating the use of porous asphalt. Manager Grill stated she would and report back to the Board with her findings.

5-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN REVIEW

Assistant Director Smith presented an overview of the 5-year Capital Plan. On October 4, 2017, the Finance Committee reviewed the replacement capital needs of the District for 2018, and future needs 2019-2023 in detail. Capital planning is a district wide effort. Planning, Parks and Facility Managers come together to discuss the future needs of parks and facilities. Replacement schedules and general maintenance records are reviewed and included in the Replacement Capital Plan to ensure the District's assets are maintained at a high-quality level. New initiatives are included to provide additional amenities for the community.

The Summarized version totals budget amounts for 2018 plus 2019-2023 by park, facility and district-wide. The Detailed version includes descriptive itemization of budgeted amounts for 2018 plus 2019-2023 by park, facility and district-wide, also 2017 budget and 2017 projected year end. At the bottom of each report additional unbudgeted items are listed. These are items that may or may not be addressed in future Replacement Capital Plans. Assistant Director Smith noted that GreenPrint initiatives are not included in the Replacement Plan. Commissioner Grossberg asked if the District had a policy on purchasing "green" vehicles. Assistant Director Smith commented that vehicles are purchased with sustainability in mind. Executive Director McElroy commented that there are not energy efficient trucks on the market at this time. Commissioner Bernstein asked about flooding at Hidden Creek AquaPark parking lot. Commissioner Bernstein complimented Staff on the plan and gave an overview of the District Capital Planning.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Director Curtis presented bills for checks written September 22 through October 6, 2017 for an amount totaling \$1,793,242. There were no questions from the Board.

OPEN TO PUBLIC ADDRESS TO ADDRESS BOARD - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein, 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 Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Ruttenberg, President Kaplan
Nay: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Meeting was adjourned into closed session at 7:28 p.m.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

President Kaplan reported that the Board met in Closed Session under 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.

No action was taken.

HIGHLAND PARK COUNTRY CLUB LEASE - There was no discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made Vice President Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein and approved by unanimous voice vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary