

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
July 12, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. President Grossberg.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Kaplan to allow Commissioner Bernstein to participate in tonight's meeting by electronic means.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Ruttenberg, Commissioner Kaplan, President Grossberg

Absent: Vice President Freeman

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Smith; Director Peters; Director Voss; Director Gogola; Director Hall; Assistant Director Acevedo; Manager Schwartz; Manager Kutscheid; Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speakers: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Amy Berland

215 Ridge Rd, Highland Park

She has lived in Highland Park for 45 years. She is concerned about the possibility of placing a dome on the remaining tennis courts at Danny Cunniff Park and converting those courts to pickleball. She has been playing tennis for several years, and with the pickleball court conversion at Danny Cunniff her and friends are having a tough time finding tennis courts available for play.

Ann Gaines

1165 County Line Rd, Highland Park

She has lived in Highland Park for 33 years. Is there any way the Park District can prioritize tennis and pickleball play for Highland Park residents? She recommends a reservation system, which was utilized during COVID.

Commissioner Ruttenberg requested staff put together a report of the total number of tennis and pickleball courts owned by the Park District and utilization.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CENTENNIAL ICE ARENA RENOVATION AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS CHANGE ORDER #39

Director Smith provided an update on the proposed design changes to the Centennial Ice Arena locker rooms and presented a proposal from Stuckey Construction Company, Inc. to complete this work. He shared images of the existing conditions vs the proposed changes, proposed demolition, and proposed construction prints.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know the square footage of the active space and would like to know how much additional square footage would be activated by the proposed improvements.

Director Smith reported that he will follow up and provide those figures.

President Grossberg requested abundant signage clearly marking the locker room entrance and exit.

Commissioner Kaplan would like staff to provide a breakdown of the locker room renovation costs prior to the proposed change order.

Director Smith reported that the proposed improvements would begin July 17, 2023, and are anticipated to be completed by September 1, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to approve the Centennial Ice Arena Renovation and Site Improvements Change Order #39 from Stuckey Construction Company, Inc in the amount of \$106,244.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Ruttenberg, President Grossberg

Nay: Commissioner Kaplan

Absent: Vice President Freeman

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

NEW COMMUNITY CENTER AT WEST RIDGE PARK DESIGN

Manager Schwartz reported that at the Park Board Workshop Meeting on May 10, 2023, Holabird and Root presented the results of the preliminary planning phase reconciled with the market study conducted by BerryDunn. At that meeting, the Park Board of Commissioners directed staff to begin negotiating terms with Holabird and Root for a design agreement, based on the report presented to construct a new building at West Ridge Park. Staff presented a summary of terms to the Finance Committee on June 20, 2023. With feedback from the Finance Committee, staff have been working with corporate counsel and board liaisons to review and finalize the agreement. Staff are concurrently exploring construction management options to

ensure there is a global understanding of the costs associated with design and construction. She provided a budget overview which compared estimated costs with/out the PARC Grant and elements of the site master plan which includes ballfields. Staff will have a deeper discussion regarding design and construction agreements at the July 18 Finance Committee Meeting.

YOUR PARKS, YOUR PERSPECTIVES: SUMMER PLANNING INITIATIVE

Manager Schwartz reported that this summer the Park District Planning team will be visiting 26 park sites throughout the community, asking residents to share their opinions about District parks. This effort is intended to identify the District's strengths and assess opportunities to better meet community needs at our parks. The dates and locations for each visit are posted on the Park District's website. A sign will also be posted on site a few days before the visit. Two summer college interns are being trained this week to facilitate conversations and collect feedback from park patrons. There is also an online survey available to collect feedback.

The information collected will inform the Park Site Plan Initiative. The Planning Team last provided an update on the Park Site Plan Initiative at the Parks and Natural Areas Committee Meeting on September 30, 2021. At that meeting staff reported that the team would be identifying opportunities and looking at the overall level of service to identify priority improvements. The information collected through the Your Parks, Your Perspectives initiative will validate and inform improvements identified by staff.

THE PRESERVE TRAIL CONNECTION AT COMPTON AVENUE UPDATE

Director Smith reported that per the First Amendment of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Park District of Highland Park, City of Highland Park, and Lake County Forest Preserves, the Park District has an obligation to design and construct a trail connection from the Preserve to Half Day Road along Compton Avenue making it ADA Accessible.

The Hidden Oak Development, consisting of ten new homes, is currently being constructed at the corner of Livingston Street and Compton Avenue, adjacent to the Preserve of Highland Park. As part of this project, a sidewalk is being constructed to provide pedestrian access from the development to Half Day Road. As a result, the Park District's only obligation is to reconstruct a section of trail at the Preserve of Highland Park and connect it to this new sidewalk. A portion of the sidewalk will be on Park District property. This is a significant cost savings to the Park District and staff are recommending a Plat of Dedication.

The Park Board of Commissioners supports staff's recommendation and requested that the Plat of Dedication be placed on the consent agenda at the July 26, 2023 Regular Meeting.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES

A. Centennial Ice Arena Facility and Site Renovations project

Manager Schwartz shared images of the exterior entrance, parking lot, and landscaping, along with interior images of the lobby, office space, and the Giants Dedicated Locker Room, reporting that the project is nearing completion.

Commissioner Ruttenberg requested staff paint the white PVC piping along the entrance.

President Grossberg requested adding floral the parking lot islands.

Manager Schwartz reported that the parking lot islands are storm sewer and pollinator gardens, however she will look to see if floral can be added.

B. The Recreation Center of Highland Park Dehumidification System project

Manager Schwartz reported that demolition will begin July 19. Installation is scheduled from July 24 – August 25. Start up and testing of the new system will occur August 28 – September 3. Assistant Director Acevedo reported that the indoor pool will be closed during this time so lap swim will be moved to Hidden Creek AquaPark.

C. Moroney Park Playground Improvements project

Manager Kutscheid shared images of the completed accessible walkway and retaining wall, the added amenities and structures that have been installed. The new park should be open and available for use on August 11.

D. Larry Fink Memorial Park Baseball Field Improvements project

Manager Kutscheid reminded the Park Board of Commissioners that the improvements include installing synthetic turf in the infield, covered dug outs and bleachers, a warning track and portable outfield fence, a scoreboard and welcome sign, and donor bricks behind the batter’s box. Staff will submit for permits in September, release the bid in October, award the bid in November, and begin construction in March of 2024. Staff estimated the project to be completed in July of 2024.

E. Park Avenue Breakwater and Boat Ramp project

Director Smith is pleased to report that the breakwater, bollards, floating dock, and parapet wall are complete, and the parking lot will be stripped this week. Seven benches will be installed next week. He shared images of the site.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Due to a tornado warning, staff and patrons were asked to evacuate into the appropriate sheltering areas at West Ridge Center.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaplan and seconded by Commissioner Ruttenberg and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Workshop Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary