

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. President Bernstein.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg and seconded by Vice President Freeman to allow Commissioner Ruttenberg to participate in tonight's meeting by electronic means.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Freeman, President Bernstein

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Labrador

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Ruttenberg, Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Freeman, President Bernstein

Absent: Commissioner Labrador

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

Guest: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATE

Supervisor Lawler reported that the Park District of Highland Park embraces sustainable practices as noted in our mission statement, values statements, and board-approved policy. In 1992, Highland Park was the first Park District in Illinois to adopt an Environmental Policy in an effort to increase awareness of environmental concerns and sustainable practices.

From 1992 to 2015 the District's Environmental Policy served as the primary document guiding sustainable efforts. In 2015, Park District staff developed the District's first Sustainability Plan to identify strategies to

achieve sustainability goals and better coordinate with City-wide priorities. The 2015 plan has since been used as an internal document guiding practices leading to quantifiable achievements in District operations.

The District's GreenPrint 2024 Master Plan called for a sustainability strategy that outlines our policy and goals to help preserve the District's natural assets and communicate a clear message about the Park District's commitment to environmental sustainability. This plan update was approved in 2018 and intended to incorporate the achievements and lessons learned since the 2015 plan.

She is pleased to report that through our internal stakeholder meetings, staff have heard about accomplishments and things to celebrate in the new plan. The 2015 through 2018 Plan had four goals:

- 1.) Reduce Waste
- 2.) 2.) Use Resources Wisely
- 3.) Protect the Environment
- 4.) Share What We Know

Working to Reduce Waste, the Park District installed recycling stations in our parks and implemented the Papercut System. Working to Use Resources Wisely, the Park District installed EV charging stations at Sunset Valley Golf Club and Centennial Ice Arena. The District has also seen energy efficiency improvements by installing LED lighting and more efficient equipment. Working to Protect the Environment, the Park District installed Low-Flow Fixtures and Rain Gardens. When Sharing What We Know, the Park District developed a Sustainability Page on the website, a Sustainable Event Suggestions Guide for rentals, and Programs that touch on sustainability.

Through the process of updating the plan, three guiding principles were identified: to build resiliency to climate change, to reduce our climate change impact, and to be a model for environmental best practices - these principles can be found within each of the proposed goals/objectives, and aim to preserve our mission, vision, and values.

Supervisor Lawler provided a progress report on recent sustainability efforts and shared draft goals and objectives for a new plan which is intended to be realistic, and measurable and serve as a model for environmental best practices.

The Park Board of Commissioners commended staff and requested staff share the plan with the City of Highland Park's Sustainability Advisory Committee and school districts 112 and 113.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES

A. New Facility and Site Improvements at West Ridge Park

The bid set was delivered to W.B. Olson. Next week, the Park District will release a bid for a general project manager. Bids for a general project manager are due November 14, 2024. Staff will review the bid results for a general project manager and provide a recommendation to the Park Board of Commissioners before requesting contract approval in December.

B. Recreation Center of Highland Park Construction updates

Deputy Director Carr shared images of the Parking Lot Improvements project, highlighting vehicular access points into the parking lot and pedestrian access points into the facility. He reminded the Park Board of Commissioners that the Parking Lot Renovations are being completed in a phased approach. Phase 1 improvements for the east side of the lot are complete. Phase 2 improvements, the central part of the lot and facility vehicular turnaround, are in progress and are on track to be completed in mid-November. There is a temporary pedestrian access pathway to the Recreation Center of Highland Park since vehicles cannot access that part of the site.

As for the locker room renovation, he shared images comparing the previous vs newly installed tiles, carpeting, and vanities. The reopening is anticipated for October 21, 2024.

C. *Danny Cunniff Playground Resurfacing and Fencing project*

Manager Kutscheid reported that the existing playground rubber surfacing and fencing have been replaced. There is no longer a fence separating the two playgrounds.

D. *Old Elm Playground Improvements project*

Manager Kutscheid reported that the construction fence has gone up and the play equipment has been removed.

E. *Port Clinton Playground Improvements project*

Manager Kutscheid reported that the construction fence has gone up and the play equipment has been removed.

F. *Rosewood Park Playground Replacement Design Concepts*

The renovation includes removing the existing play equipment and providing ADA access and ADA-accessible seating. Staff are preparing for a community meeting on October 22, 2024, to present two design concepts. He shared renderings of the design concepts.

G. *Sunset Woods Park Improvements project*

Drainage has been installed, rough grading is complete, and excavation is in process. He shared images of construction. completion is scheduled for April of 2025.

H. *Park Avenue Boating Facility North Beach Improvements project*

Demolition is occurring to remove the retaining wall, debris, and asphalt. Construction is anticipated to be completed in February of 2025.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Ruttenberg reported that he reviewed the vouchers and found no discrepancies.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Grossberg commended Manager Pierce, she helped him host a family reunion at one of our Park District facilities.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg and seconded by Vice President Freeman and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary