

**MINUTES OF A THE FACILITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2024, 5:03 PM.**

Present: Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Freeman, President Grossberg

Absent: None

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Smith,

Guest Speaker: Eric Risinger, Managing Partner of Operations and Business Development, Holabird and Root; Barb Dickson, Associate, Holabird and Root; Rusty Walker, Design Principal Holabird and Root

Commissioner Bernstein joined the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

New Community Center at West Ridge Park

Manager Schwarts reported that Holabird and Root are here this evening to review the schematic designs for the New Community Center at West Ridge Park. The schematic design includes two key elements the development of the site master plan and how the new building correlates to the site. The plan will be shared with W.B. Olsen so that they can generate cost estimates.

Mr. Risinger reviewed the proposed schematic layout for the site identifying new elements and existing amenities that will remain. The south parking lot and access points will remain; however, the lot will include new safety elements. The north parking lot and access point will remain; however, the confirmation will change since the new community center is being relocated at the site. The existing playground will remain; no changes are proposed. The walking path will remain and receive enhancements. The ballfields will be relocated since the new community center will sit adjacent to the south parking lot. The proposed location for the new community center allows Holabird and Root to leverage the existing utility lines. Safety Village will relocate be constructed behind the new community center.

Mr. Walker reviewed the schematic layout for the new community center, noting that the design focuses on three areas. Administrative offices and meeting spaces are located on the north side of the building, the gymnastics studio, dance studio, and offices for recreation professionals are central focal point, and the cultural enrichment spaces are located on the southside of the building. Additionally, the new building features a lobby which connects the park to the parking lot.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if the proposed schematic design allows for the building to expand in the future.

Mr. Walker reported that the current schematic design allows for future expansion.

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Commissioner Ruttenberg is concerned that the proposed location for the drop zone is along the north side of the building, where the administrative offices are located, not the youth enrichment programs.

Mr. Risinger reported that the drop zone can be relocated.

Commissioner Ruttenberg would like to know if a second free standing restroom be installed on the south side of the building.

Mr. Walker shared three dimensional views of the new building to get a better understanding of the aerial views for the neighbors.

Manager Schwartz reviewed the project schedule noting that the staff would like to present the cost estimated with the Park Board of Commissioners in April. Additionally, meetings will be held with the direct neighbors and a community open house in April.

Lot Three (3) Paddle Facility Update

Executive Director Romes reported staff are working with architects and engineers to develop design and engineering service agreements for the lot three (3) Paddle Facility. Architects Woodhouse Tinucci would develop and engineer the interior structure and Gewalt Hamilton will develop and engineer the site and utility infrastructures.

Other Business

None.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by President Grossberg and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary