

**MINUTES OF A THE FACILITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON MAY 01, 2024, 5:06 PM.**

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

Absent: None

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Smith, Director Baird, Director Peters, Director Gogola, Assistant Director Reyes, Assistant Director Acevedo; Manager Nichols, Manager Schwartz, Supervisor Geoffrion; Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speaker: Rusty Walker, Design Principal Holabird and Root Barb Dickson, Associate, Holabird and Root

Additions to the Agenda

None

New Community Center at West Ridge Park

Executive Director Romes reported at the April 24, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Park Board, Architects, Holabird and Root, provided Schematic Design Scheme for the New Recreation Facility and Site Improvements at West Ridge Park which needs to be confirmed for this project to progress. The Schematic Design Scheme will lead to facility elevations (which are critical for Design/Review Commission Approval), and to move this project into the next phase for Design Development and eventually Construction Documents.

The Schematic Design Scheme that needs to be confirmed tonight is based on W.B. Olson's Schematic Design cost Estimate, which indicates a new recreation facility would cost approximately \$534/square foot which includes contingencies and escalation.

With an "all in" budget of \$17,678,727 and an available budget of approximately \$12,122,496 for the facility, staff are basing the Schematic Design Scheme on a building size of roughly 23,000 square feet.

He reminded the Committee that the Park District received a PARC Grant of \$1.4 Million. In order to comply with the Grant Timeline, and to avoid future cost escalation, we need to bid this project by September 15, 2024, and hope to begin construction before the end of 2024. In order for that to be possible, staff believe it is critical to submit an application for Design Review by May 15.

In order to submit an application, the Committee will need to come to a consensus or a majority agreement to the Schematic Design Scheme.

If the Committee agrees to a Schematic design scheme tonight, at the May 8 Workshop Meeting of the Park Board, Holabird and Root will provide more detailed elevations to be used for the Design Review Application, and neighborhood and community meetings.

Rusty Walker with Holabird and Root presented three (3) schematic designs. Each design included a building plan, possible alternates within the building, and how the building correlates to the site master plan. While the Committee does not need to determine all the details today, there are 3 essential items to agree on or have consensus on: Gymnasium location and proposed 9,500 square feet, Future Administration location or consideration to eliminate 6,500 square feet, which is not included in the base scope of 23,000 square feet, and whether or not to include 2,000 square feet for a dedicated space for Ceramics.

Commissioner Kaplan left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Staff received consensus from the Committee to use Building Option F to enter into design development.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

Irene Minkov

744 Marion Ave, Highland Park

She asked, what is the Park District's commitment to keeping the ceramics program? If the program is relocated, will it still be owned and operated by the Park District? Aside from adult ceramics, does the Park District offer other adult programs? She is not interested in athletic programs. How many youth art programs are offered by the Park District of Highland Park? If the ceramics program will be run out of the Art Center of Highland Park, will that include adult and youth ceramic classes?

Wendy Griffith

1024 Marion Ave, Highland Park

She asked how the Park District determines the age of ceramics participants. She does not recall providing her age when registering. Also, she asked if the new community center at West Ridge Park will provide adult programming or strictly youth programming.

Julie Malen

674 Pleasant Ave, Highland Park

Since there is a discussion of the ceramics program moving to the Art Center of Highland Park, she asked if the Park District will still oversee and run the program.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by President Grossberg and seconded by Commissioner Ruttenberg and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary