

**MINUTES OF A THE FACILITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON MAY 13, 2024, 4:07 PM.**

- Present:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Ruttenberg, 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 Schwartz, Coordinator Hejnowski
- 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; David Olson, Owner; W.B. Olson; John Emser; Director of Business Development, W.B. Olson

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to allow Vice President Freeman to participate by electronic means.

Additions to the Agenda

None

New Community Center and Site Improvements West Ridge Park

Executive Director Romes reported that the staff has been working with Holabird and Root to develop and submit a design and review application for the New Recreation Facility and Site Improvements at West Ridge Park. Rusty Walker with Holabird and Root was present to review the schematic design that will be submitted in the review application. Essential items within the schematic design pertaining to programming include a gymnasium/gymnastics location at 9,500 square feet, a location for a dance studio, and a location for early childhood enrichment programming classrooms.

Mr. Walker reviewed the proposed building elevations; however, details are still being finalized for the application.

Mr. Walker shared a site layout, providing a visual of where the new building will be located on the site and where the adjacent outdoor amenities will be located throughout the site; ballfields, designated outdoor event space, designated courtyard for early childhood enrichment programming, safety village, and playground. The site layout also included locations for pedestrian pathways and vehicular parking.

Mr. Walker shared 3D building renderings of the new community center, showcasing canopy, porch, and window locations. Mr. Walker reported the goal of the window placements is to allow for as much natural light as possible to illuminate the building.

The Facility and Recreation Committee commended Holabird and Root and Staff for their due diligence and refinements. The Facility and Recreation Committee is pleased with the rendering and schematic design which will be submitted in the application.

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Manager Schwartz reviewed the next steps. The next steps include submitting the design review application, hosting a community engagement meeting in late May, hosting a community open house in late May, and beginning the City of Highland Park's public hearing process.

Executive Director Romes reported that weekly meetings with Park Board Committee liaisons will continue. He thanked Park Board Committee liaisons for their commitment, dedication, and support to ensure the project stays on track.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Commissioner Ruttenberg and approved by a unanimous vote. The Facility and Recreation Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary