

**MINUTES OF THE 2358th
REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD
MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS
AND OFFICERS OF THE WINNETKA
PARK DISTRICT, WINNETKA, IL
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019**

President Archambault called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners Present: Mickey Archambault, Teresa Claybrook, Christina Codo, Warren James, Colleen Knupp and John Peterson.

Commissioners Absent: Eric Lussen.

Staff Present: John Muno, Executive Director; John Shea, Superintendent of Recreation; Christine Berman, Superintendent of Finance; Costa Kutulas, Superintendent of Parks; Mary Cherveney, Administrative Services Manager; and Kelsey Raftery, Marketing Brand Manager.

Audience Present: Jim Bernahl, Jackie Ramo, Ben Armstrong, Anne Wilder, Steve Juliusson, Heidi Mitidiero, Bill Hahjun, Colin Cross, Elisha Gray, Amy Hilarides, Bob Braham, Allen Welch, Thomas Bittman, Rory Hackbarth and Kitty Bliss.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Vice President Peterson made a motion to approve the April 2019 Financials as presented. Commissioner James seconded the motion. Superintendent of Finance, Christine Berman provided a brief update one-third of the way through the fiscal year. Commissioner James would like to see some tracking on golf revenues on average playable days versus actual. It would be helpful to note why revenues are up or down. Commissioner Knupp asked for clarification on why interest income is up, which Superintendent Berman clarified is a combination of conservative budgeting and more aggressive investing. Passed by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Vice President Peterson made a motion to approve the May 16, 2019 vouchers for \$527,572.50. Commissioner Claybrook seconded the motion. Commissioner Claybrook asked about the large equipment purchase, which Superintendent of Parks, Costa Kutulas clarified was the budgeted skidster. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Peterson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

Resident Jackie Ramo addressed the Park Board about the use of pesticides and the Park Board should explore going pesticide free in our parks. Noted that Evanston piloted a program at several of their parks, which we may want to find out how that went.

Resident Ben Armstrong stated he is here representing his dog Tucker (photo shown). In support of an off-leash dog park for socialization. Although considered a dog park, it is a people park as the dog socialize so do their "parents". Thanks the Park Board for their consideration and the staff for the research.

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Resident Bill Hahjun although an owner of two dogs, he would not utilize a dog park. As a neighbor of West Elm Park he finds the site not suitable due to the summertime use by the school district and their archery program. Otherwise, he said, go ahead with a dog park.

Spruce Street Resident Anne Wilder is also in favor of a dog park, but not at West Elm Park. She just learned about West Elm Park being a consideration. Upon survey of her neighbors, approximately 70% are dog owners; all would be in favor of a dog park, but agreed that West Elm Park is not a good location. She does not want to go into all the reasons, but feels the neighbors need to be notified and weigh-in on the decision.

An unidentified man asked what the other locations are. President Archambault stated it is on the agenda tonight.

Hubbard Woods area resident Steve Juliusson cited and quoted several out-of-state legal cases and judgments against the manufacturers' of Round Up. He proceeded to present the Park Board with a bottle of Round Up and cups and asked them to take the "Round Up Challenge".

Resident Amy Hilarides stated that she is in favor of a dog park. The challenge will be finding a suitable location. She shared her connections to residents, whom she met through dog ownership. Many of different age demographics, but do they share interest have forged relationships, which strengthens roots in the community.

President Archambault thanked all for coming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner James made a motion to combine the Regular Park Board Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2019 and the Closed Session Minutes of April 25, 2019. Commissioner Claybrook seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Peterson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Vice President Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. Passed by voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Administrative Services Manager, Mary Cherveney pointed out the thank you letter from members of the Winnetka Youth Organization for the Park District's support. President Archambault enjoyed receiving a hand written letter. The Winnetka Youth Organization will be on the agenda later this summer to make a presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Boal Parkway Land Transfer

Superintendent Kutulas reminded the Park Board about a previous conversation last year and that Jim Bernahl from the Village is here tonight to revisit and present revised plans and ask. No action will be taken this evening. Jim Bernahl presented the request of the Boal Parkway land transfer. The village is in a position to maintain the storm sewers, while the Park District is not. Thus, it makes sense for the Village to take ownership. Two new pump stations would be installed to help elevate flooding in this area. Next steps would be for Park Board consensus for staff to work on an agreement, which satisfies both the Park District and Village. Ideally, the Village would like to complete the pump stations by the end of 2019.

President Archambault asked if the residents on Boal Parkway still flood. Jim Bernahl stated that they are, but mostly the parcels on the west side. The pump stations would eliminate most flooding in this area. President Archambault thanked the Village for finding a better way of doing this project. Commissioner Knupp asked if there is a cost to maintain this property. Superintendent Kutulas said it was minimal and that the flap into the pond is checked regularly.

Commissioner Knupp sought clarification on why the Village wants to own the property. Jim Bernahl provided clarification that it made sense, as the storm sewer benefits the community and the Village is equip to take care of the property. In any agreement, the Park District would have right of first refusal if the Village vacated the property or would be the beneficiaries if the property was sold.

Commissioner Codo asked if the pump was needed because of a grade differential and about flooding at Tower Road. Jim Bernahl affirmed that it would pumped up to Tower Road and that there is a back flow system. This system would provide a level of protection for the neighbors in a 50-60 year storm.

Commissioner James asked if this plan is less than the one originally proposed, which Jim Bernahl affirmed. Commissioner James is in support of this plan and if the property is ever sold the proceeds should come to the Park District. This language will be part of the legal agreement. There is value to the adjacent neighbors and not the Park District.

Policy Manual Chapters 5-6 Adoption

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to adopt Chapters 5-6 of the policy manual as presented. Commissioner James seconded the motion. There were no changes since the 1st reading. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Peterson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Coastal Consulting for Lloyd Beach Breakwater System

Vice President Peterson made a motion to approve the proposal from Shabica and Associates, Inc. of Northfield, Illinois for an amount not to exceed \$294,000 as presented. Commissioner James seconded the motion. Commissioner James provided a synopsis of the steps that led to movement on the Lakefront Master Plan and he is supportive of this proposal. President Archambault thanked Commissioner James for his comments. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Peterson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Bluff Restoration Design/Construction Documents, Lakota Group

Commissioner James made a motion to approve the proposal from Lakota Group of Chicago, Illinois for an amount not to exceed \$249,486 as presented. Vice President Peterson seconded the motion. Commissioner Claybrook appreciated the level of detail in the proposal. President Archambault expressed similar to Commissioner James regarding the shoreline proposal; this has been years of work building to this proposal and to get us to this point. It is in keeping with the Lakefront Master Plan. Commissioner Claybrook stated that if you have been down to Tower Road Beach lately, you would notice the work needed.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Peterson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Proposed Dog Park Update

Superintendent of Park, Costa Kutulas took the Park Board through an updated power point presentation regarding a proposed dog park. This included history, request, site criteria, communication and research, potential site amenities, estimated costs and staff recommended top sites based on findings: West Elm Park, Crow Island Woods and Village Landfill. He also discussed next steps, which would include

stakeholder and community engagement, operations planning, revisit with Park Board, Village permit process and timeline for construction through site opening.

Commissioner Claybrook asked if the Crow Island Woods site was selected would a portion on the site remain wooded. Superintendent Kutulas stated that the trees would remain, but the forest floor would turn into a grassy area. Commissioner Knupp asked if the site could be moved north where in the Indian Tree Circle is located. Superintendent Kutulas stated that in theory yes, but located in a wetter area and it moves the site closer to the other activities at Crow Island Woods.

Commissioner Knupp asked about reaching out to Cook County for access of Erickson Woods. Superintendent Kutulas share his contact with the Forest Preserve District and their lack of interest in the project at that site. President Archambault stated it would be an uphill battle at this time to pursue.

Commissioner Codo asked about the capacity of the sites. Superintendent Kutulas stated that all sites are similar in size and could accommodate an estimated 30-40 dogs. Vice President Peterson thanked Superintendent Kutulas and staff for the work to date. Vice President Peterson asked about maintenance closures at other dog parks. Landscape Architect, Rick Schram provided insight.

Vice President Peterson asked about school activity concerns with the West Elm Park location changing, based on School District plans. Superintendent Kutulas stated that could be a possibility, but does not know there plans at this time. Commissioner Claybrook stated that the school has some concerns but not necessarily opposed, but just want to be made aware. Although the referendum failed would like to be able to work with the Park District if there was a construction project at Skokie School.

Vice President Peterson asked about the cost of the Landfill location, which Superintendent Kutulas stated was the same as the other sites: \$125,000-\$150,000. Commissioner Claybrook feels this site presents safety concerns all related to Willow Road. Commissioner James is supportive of a dog park and it brings people together who share a common interest. He feels that there is only one reason to put a dog park along Willow Road – no neighbors. The reasons not to pursue this site far outweigh the one reason to explore this site. Commissioner James stated that after all exploration favors the West Elm Park site, but could be convinced of the Crow Island Woods location.

Commissioner Knupp asked if there was space available on the golf course property. Based on Commissioner continued discussions, this could not be accomplished safely and especially not in-season.

Vice President Peterson asked from clarification from Administrative Services Manager, Mary Cherveney when these discussions started, which she responded back in December 2018 and has been discussed or on the agenda several times throughout the last couple of months.

President Archambault said the Park Board is conceptually in favor of a dog park and understand that there will be hurdles to overcome. Executive Director asked for clarification on whether to continue pursuit of the landfill option. Board consensus was not to pursue at this time. Executive Director Muno stated that we would move into stakeholder and community engagement of these two sites and next level of fact-finding. There was some further Commissioner discussion about stakeholder, community engagement and the process. Commissioner James would like to move this process forward. Staff will put together timeline, meeting structure and communication plan.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Executive Director, John Muno will defer to staff as we ramp up for summer.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

President Archambault stated that there was a meeting with the Village regarding stormwater on Monday. Getting closer on points so that an Intergovernmental Agreement could be crafted.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

Anne Wilder asked why Maple Street Park was dropped from dog park consideration and Thomas Bittman asked the same question of Sheridan Road Park. Commissioner James said he withdrew his request to staff to consider the Maple Street Park site. Executive Director stated that both parks were reviewed by staff, but did not qualify as a top location. Additionally, Maple Street Park did not emerge during the criteria process due to the established Lakefront Master Plan, which does not call out a dog park. Anne Wilder also stated that the Park District is minimizing the school issue at West Elm Park. It is heavily used by the school. The park is used more than the Park District thinks and proposed use will clash. A park use change would change the visuals.

Crow Island Resident Kitty Bliss is in favor of a dog park. Not necessarily opposed to the Crow Island site, but concerned about flooding conditions, the deer population and other uses at the park.

Anne Wilder also commented on the flooding at West Elm Park.

Resident Rory Hackbarth is in support of a dog park and is truly more for the owners than the dogs. Nice community connections occur through dog ownership. It would be beneficial for neighbors of proposed sites visit other dog parks to see it is not as intrusive as you might imagine. Thanked the Park District staff for their work.

WPTC President Colin Cross addressed the Park Board about the need for LED lights at the platform tennis facility to improve quality of play and safety issues. He suggested that surrounding Park District facilities have LED lightings.

STAFF UPDATES

Superintendent of Parks, Costa Kutulas provided an updated and visuals on the Maple Street Beach Boardwalk project. Collectively, the Park Board liked the progress and results. Commissioner Codo asked about the product used on the boardwalk, which Superintendent Kutulas said is IPE, a natural hardwood. Dredging at Lloyd begins on May 17 and other late-spring projects are underway.

Superintendent of Recreation, John Shea provided an updated on the Beach Clean-Up, Lifeguard/CPR training, Lloyd opening, Wednesdays in the Woods, Tidal Wave Thursdays, Summer Camps numbers, and Skokie Playfields work. Commissioner Claybrook asked how numbers were for Winnetka's Got Talent and if some word of mouth outreach was needed. Superintendent Shea stated that the deadline is May 20 and we have received phone calls but was unsure of registration numbers. Commissioner Claybrook asked if there was electrical, which Superintendent Shea confirmed. Vice Peterson asked if we were hosting a drive, pitch and putt tournament at the Golf Course this weekend. It was confirmed that the Annual Range Fair would be taking place.

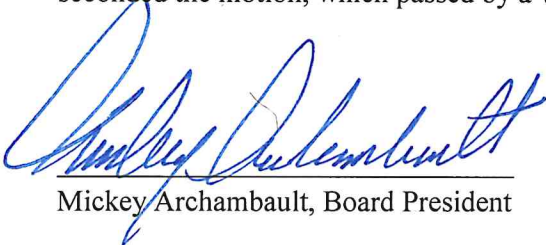
Administrative Services Manager, Mary Cherveney asked which Board members will be in town for the Fourth of July and be interested in being in the parade. Vice President Peterson will be there and Commissioner Codo was a maybe.

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Superintendent of Finance, Christine Berman reported that HR is busy on boarding all the summer employees. The audit will be a part of the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner James made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Vice President Peterson seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote. Motion carried.


Mickey Archambault, Board President
John Muno, Board Secretary