

**MINUTES OF THE 2360th  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
AND OFFICERS OF THE WINNETKA  
PARK DISTRICT, WINNETKA, IL  
THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019**

President Archambault called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mickey Archambault, Teresa Claybrook, Christina Codo and Warren James. Commissioners Absent: Colleen Knupp, Eric Lussen and John Peterson.

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; Kelsey Raftery, Marketing Brand Manager; Pat Fragassi, Tennis Center Manager; Joe Holguin, Tennis Center Facility Coordinator; Toby Ross, Recreation Supervisor; Marty Kwiakowski, Recreation Supervisor; James Janesku, Recreation Coordinator and Jesus Contreras, Parks Crew Leader.

Audience Present: Nina Gray, Lisa Kohr, Nancy Fox, Susie Schreiber, Barbara Williams, Kimberly Brya, Anne Wilder, Colleen Danstrom, Mili Hecht, Robert Leonard, John Yasenar, Christine, Yasenar, Jeremy Marino and Lisa Kaestle.

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA**

President Archambault moved unfinished business a. Proposed Dog Park Statement and summarized the following statement provided in the board packet:

Over a number of years, the Winnetka Park District has considered an off-leash/off-beach dog park community opportunity. The interest became more relevant recently based largely on the following two factors.

- The 2016 WPD community survey highlighting this unmet need within the community with strong community interest for this type of amenity
- A voiced stakeholder interest from a representative group of residents attending a December 2018 Park Board meeting

With this renewed interest, the Park District Board directed staff to review and initially evaluate locations. Through the initial process, the District identified two Park District locations to further consider.

Since that time, there has been additional valuable community feedback including the most recent June 20, 2019 Park Board meeting.

District staff also conducted four well-attended stakeholder open house dates 6/24/19 (West Elm

Park) and 6/25/19 (Crow Island Woods); where a significant amount of further insightful and thoughtful community involvement was provided at all four meetings.

Two additional community surveys have featured the dog park consideration including; 2019 Village caucus, and July 2019 WPD online survey.

Taking all of the above-mentioned community and stakeholder feedback into consideration; the Winnetka Park District has re-prioritized and re-considered potential dog park locations to include two non-Park District owned properties, (Village of Winnetka-former landfill frontage and Forest Preserve of Cook County-Erickson Woods).

In recognition that the Winnetka Park District does not have ownership or jurisdictional authority of either of those properties, only initial and cursory contact had been made with both of these government entities. Since that initial contact, further dialogue has developed with both public property representatives.

Additional inquiry to the Forest Preserve District Cook County staff has resulted in their response indicating that; "...although the Forest Preserves currently supports three dog parks, there is no interest in increasing the number" and "...a land use request for a dog park is unlikely to succeed". Further response offered additional consideration of a list of properties belonging to the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways. While these sites did not initially meet our basic criteria, staff plans to further evaluate these sites.

Further discussion regarding the Village landfill site (Willow Road) has resulted in their staff suggesting a collaborative interest in the concept. However, a clear indication was given that the primary focus and priority for that site and surrounding area is dedicated to the complexities and timing surrounding storm water planning. The process for further consideration of that site for an off-leash dog park would not be expected until such time as a storm water plan and timeline were more fully developed. The district staff intends to continue to dialogue with Village staff in terms of the feasibility of this site for a dog park location in the future.

With the exception of the above-mentioned activities relating to the two alternate sites, there are currently no other planned public discussion or Park Board action expected to be taken on the creation of an off-leash/off-beach dog park.

Subsequently, there will no longer be a July 30 Open House or August 22 Park Board meeting agenda item related to this topic. Instead, a summary of this brief statement of direction will be part of the July 25 Board meeting agenda.

Future Park Board Meetings that plan to include agenda items relating to the potential dog park will be communicated on our website, as well as emailed to any current contacts who have attended/signed in for a board meeting or the open house events.

The District's current summary of information regarding this consideration is available on the District's website: <https://www.winpark.org/dog-park/>.

### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS**

Commissioner James made a motion to approve the June 2019 Financials as presented. Commissioner Claybrook seconded the motion. Superintendent of Finance Christine Berman provided highlights including an \$866,000 above budget net surplus, revenues are tracing on target and expenses are lower. Junior golf is up \$1400 over last year, but overall golf is down due to weather conditions. Recreation is \$93,000 above budget with \$68,000 being summer camps. Summer camps is also \$116,000 above last year revenues. President Archambault asked Superintendent of Recreation, John Shea why recreation numbers are tracking so well. He stated it was a combination of quality programming and more strategic marketing efforts. Commissioner Claybrook also added that the week-to-week option, although hard to manage it has allowed a lot more to try the camps. Word of mouth marketing from kids and parents has also been influential. Passed by voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to approve the July 25, 2019 vouchers for \$774,057.17. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. Commissioner Claybrook asked for clarification on the door lock replacements, which Superintendent of Parks, Costa Kutulas provided. Commissioner Codo asked about the payment to Jacobson, which Executive Director John Muno stated was in relation to the golf course stormwater master planning. He also added that Vice President Peterson has taken on the duty of reviewing the vouchers weekly. Unrelated to the vouchers, Commissioner Claybrook said she received positive feedback on the Fourth of July fireworks and was wondering how much that cost before donations. Superintendent Shea stated that this year's fireworks cost \$37,500. Superintendent Berman stated that people can still donate. President Archambault provided Superintendent Shea with a link to information on spherical pyrotechnics, which produces images. Superintendent Shea has not had a chance to review. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **REMARKS FROM VISITORS**

Resident Robert Leonard mentioned the information he presented at the last Board meeting regarding neighboring dog parks. At least six out of the 10 do not have adjacent neighbors. To avoid objections from neighbors, you need to find a location where there are not neighbors. If that site cannot be found, it is finished and cannot be done.

Resident Nancy Fox not a neighbor of West Elm Park, but feels that esthetically a dog park on part of the West Elm property will look like a kennel.

Resident Barbara Williams provided a narrative of the timeline of the dog park consideration by the Park District and the residents since December 2018. Based on her interpretation of the criteria she feels that both West Elm Park and Crow Island Woods site should be eliminated from consideration. She requests the Park Board formally remove both parks from consideration.

Resident Anne Wilder received an email from resident Sharon King, which she read and presented to the Board. The letter asked the Park Board officially remove West Elm Park from the dog park list.



Resident Kimberly Brya provided a couple additional points including, current resident lack of leash law compliance, poop not being picked up and concern over violation of the Village's noise ordinance. She feels that residents cannot seem to abide by these rules, so they do not earn the privilege of a dog park.

Resident Susie Schreiber and former Commissioner pointed out three things: West Elm Park is an ecologically inappropriate site, the site is owned by all citizens, not just the few proposed dog park users and her final thought is a regional solution is more appropriate.

Resident Jeremy Marino pro dog park. Feels the Board had to know that there would be opposition. Frustrated that the staff did all this work and now the Park District is stepping back from making a decision. Many local communities have dog parks and the community has made it work. He feels that the two non-Park District properties are the slow-death options.

Resident Lisa Kohr read a portion of the Crow Island Woods petition. A petitioner after the public meetings, felt even stronger the the two locations were unsuitable for a dog park.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to combine the Regular Park Board Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2019 and the closed session minutes of June 20, 2019. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James. Nays: None. Motion carried. Commissioner James made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. Passed by voice vote.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Executive Director, John Muno acknowledged the letter from Val Haller of Valslist thanking the Park District for its financial contribution to the Winnetka Music Festival. He also acknowledged the letter from Delio Calzolari, Director of Legislative and Government Affairs for the Cook County Forest Preserve District.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Winnetka Parks Foundation Update – Steve Hole**

Executive Director Muno introduced the new Foundation chairperson, Steve Hole. Chairperson Hole provided a brief Foundation update, including personal history, new responsive website, board member recruitment, social media messaging and branding, Paypal giving and Facebook charitable, VIP event on Fourth of July which raised \$5000, Wednesdays in the Woods beer and wine sales and more changes moving forward.

##### **NSSRA New Property Closing**

Executive Director Muno provided a brief update on the closing and referenced the board summary Superintendent of Finance, Christine Berman put together regarding our commitment and planned use of fund balance. He also provided an update of commitment by the SRA foundation to raise \$2 million of the anticipated \$4 million in renovation costs. Time of renovations still need to be determined and may be in a phased approach as funding is available.

##### **Truck Replacement – Unit #2 2009 Ford F-150 XLT Crew Cab Pick-Up**

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to approve the purchase of (1) new “2019 Ford F-250 XL” from Currie Commercial Center of Frankfort, Illinois with the configuration shown on the quote as presented through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative for the net price of \$30,070.00 which includes the trade-in allowance of \$5,000. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. Superintendent of Parks, Costa Kutulas provided a summary of the request, which will include a plow attachment. It is near budgeted amount, only \$70 over. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### **Truck Replacement – Unit #2 2009 Ford F-450 XLT Crew Cab Pick-Up**

Commissioner Codo made a motion to approve the purchase of (1) new “2019 Ford F-550 XL” from Sutton Ford of Matteson, Illinois in conjunction with Monroe Truck Equipment with the configuration shown on the quote as presented through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative for the estimated net price of \$75,469.00. Commissioner James seconded the motion. Superintendent Kutulas provided a summary of his request, including the need to upgrade to a F-550 due to weight of salt, and upgrade to a stainless steel body since it is used for heavy hauling. Anticipate after selling current truck, being approximately \$5000 over budget. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Policy Manual Review: Chapter 7**

Commissioner Codo made a motion to approve the first reading of Chapter 7 of the policy manual as presented with a second reading/adoption placed on the August 22 agenda. Commissioner Claybrook seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James. Nays: None. Motion carried.

##### **Policy Manual Chapters 8-13**

Commissioner James made a motion to approve and adopt Chapters 8-13 of the policy manual as presented. Commissioner Claybrook seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James. Nays: None. Motion carried.

##### **Winnetka Waterfront 2030 – Lakefront Master Plan Update**

Superintendent Kutulas provided a brief update on working draft schedule through construction documents through execution on the bluff land work. He provided an update on the staking of the staircase at Tower Road Park. Looking to utilize some of the footings of the existing staircase into the footprint of the new staircase. There was some brief Commissioner discussion on the flag markers and the engineer firm.

President Archambault asked about the high water levels, erosion and the effect at our beaches. Superintendent of Recreation, John Shea provided a brief recap on conditions, impact and safety measures taken. Superintendent Shea provided an update on the shoreline work at Lloyd Beach. Superintendent Kutulas provided an update on re-dredging at Lloyd Launch and impact at Elder Lane Beach. Superintendent Shea also stated that the guard chair was removed at Elder Lane Beach due to erosion. Commissioner Claybrook asked about the paddleboard racks at Elder Lane Beach, which Superintendent Shea indicated was impacted and provided an update. Superintendent Shea provided an update on the Lloyd Beach shoreline work and permit process. The permit will also include the emergency revetment request. Commissioner Claybrook asked if



the breakwater will be designed at this high lake level. Superintendent Kutulas indicated it will be based on overall lake level history, as not to over-engineer the project. Commissioner Codo asked if the permitting timeline has changed due to high water levels. Superintendent Shea indicated that he has not heard of any changes. Board discussion continued that the permit process timeline could increase if number of permits increased.

#### **MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR**

Executive Director, John Muno provided some staff recognitions, which included Pat Fragassi and Joe Holguin on their efforts during the tennis tournament. Superintendent Shea also recognized Toby Ross for his efforts with Memorial Day and Fourth of July, while still overseeing summer camps. He also introduced new full-time staff members James Janesku and Marty Kwiatkowski. Superintendent Kutulas recognized Jesus Contreras on his 25 years of dedicated service. He heads up the mowing crew.

#### **BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

Executive Director Muno mentioned the work Vice President Peterson has been doing with the Foundation, heading up the major gift giving area.

Commissioner Codo provided a brief New Trier High School report regarding voting against the Kenilworth TIF.

#### **REMARKS FROM VISITORS**

Resident Anne Wilder wanted to reiterate that the community has spoken and that West Elm Park is not an appropriate location for a dog park. The Board should vote to eliminate it from consideration to avoid a prolonged process. She hopes that it is on the August 22 Board agenda and taken off consideration.

Resident Robert Leonard believes the solution is to work with adjacent communities with dog parks.

Resident Barbara Williams stated that there is a lot of anxiety for West Elm Park and Crow Island Woods neighbors regarding indecision. Willing to work on a solution that does not affect local residents. She also asked if there is a question and answer session on the Winnetka Waterfront 2030 Plan. Commissioner James suggested viewing the website for details.

Resident Lisa Kaestle wanted to thank Superintendent Kutulas on the Crow Island Stewardship Plan review with her and some of the neighbors and the spot treatment signage.

#### **STAFF UPDATES**

Marketing Brand Manager, Kelsey Raftery provided an update on the Village design and review meeting for exterior signage updates to the Hibbard road frontage buildings. It passed through and will be initiated this fall. She also provided an update on the conversation Vice President Peterson, Pat Fragassi and she had with Chris Nielsen. As the family foundation representative, he was excited about the planned updates to the exterior of the building. Manager Raftery shared a copy of the fall brochure with the Board. It goes into the mail tomorrow. She pointed out the lakefront communication teaser on the back of the brochure.

Superintendent of Finance, Christine Berman stated that we are gearing up to roll out the 2020 budget process.

Superintendent of Recreation, John Shea reported on camps, Fourth of July, new staff, Red, White & Blue 5K, Wednesdays in the Woods, Camp Carnival, Family Campout and then finish off the summer strong.

Superintendent of Parks, Costa Kutulas reported on Crow Island Woods tree plantings, general park work and showed a short power point on the staff dredging at Lloyd.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner James made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss the purchase or lease of property pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Claybrook seconded the motion.

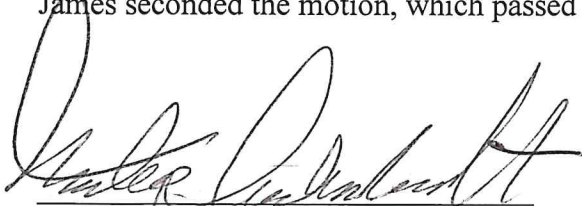
A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At 7:35 p.m., Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to return to Open Session. Commissioner James seconded the motion.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Commissioner James seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote. Motion carried.

  
Mickey Archambault, Board President  
John Muno, Board Secretary