

**MINUTES OF THE 2,375th
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE | REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD
MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS
OF THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT, WINNETKA, IL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020 – VIA ZOOM**

President Archambault called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mickey Archambault, Teresa Claybrook, Christina Codo, Warren James, Colleen Knupp, Eric Lussen, David Seaman

Commissioners Absent:

Staff present in the Winnetka Park District Administrative Office with observance of social distancing practices: John Peterson, Executive Director; Christine Berman, Superintendent of Finance; Costa Kutulas, Superintendent of Parks; John Shea, Superintendent of Recreation; Lara Kuechel, Executive Assistant; Kelsey Raftery, Marketing Brand Manager.

Audience Present via Zoom: Mark Vorwald, Elisha Gray, Craig Witty

Audience Present: None

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Claybrook mentioned the receipt of an email and that it offered accolades to the Park District Staff for providing programs for the community; President Archambault will forward to the staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consent agenda to approve:

- COW & Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2020
- Closed Session Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2020

Commissioner James made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

A motion was made by Commissioner Codo to approve the Financials for July 2020. Commissioner Seaman seconded. A brief report was made by Superintendent Berman, and the favorable weather conditions were mentioned as a contributing factor to the successful summer season, most notably at the Winnetka Golf Club, outdoor Tennis and Park District Beaches, which all had revenue over budget projections. Executive Director Peterson called out staff members for their admirable performance in a challenging environment. President Archambault in turn, complimented Executive Director Peterson. Commissioner Claybrook inquired as to how these numbers have compared to a normal summer, to which Superintendent Shea reported that camp had only 150 fewer participants and beach pass sale totals rose from 3800 to 6000. Plans for capital projects were discussed briefly in response to a query from Commissioner Seaman. President Archambault acknowledged the phenomenal challenges and achievement by the staff and thanked everyone. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Commissioner Codo to approve Vouchers for August 27, 2020 in the amount of \$ 1,073,154.43. Commissioner Knupp seconded the motion. A brief discussion took place regarding the funds distributed to the Winnetka Youth Organization, to which the Commissioners explained the significant role it plays in the community. Superintendent Shea further expressed that he was looking forward to working with the newest Executive Director of the WYO and will relay additional information to Commissioner Seaman. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Lloyd Tier II Project

A motion was made by Commissioner James to approve the scope of services of Winnetka Park District Bluff Restoration Tier Two Implementation Landscape Architectural Consulting Services from The Lakota Group, from Chicago Illinois for the total of \$131,921.00. Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion. Superintendent Kutulas offered an explanation of the hardscape and presented the schematic design concept, i.e. bluff restoration at Lloyd, Elder and Centennial, storage racks, an elevated boardwalk system and access drive. It was expected that the final design would be presented to the Board for approval in the next month or month and a half. A brief discussion of the soft costs took place, noting the cost would be reduced by using Michels. President Archambault confirmed that the WPD has a very good relationship with The Lakota Group, to which

Commissioner Claybrook added they have a proven commitment to being a part of our future. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Shabica & Associates Proposal

A motion was made by Commissioner Claybrook to approve the scope of services of Coastal Consulting for Elder Lane & Centennial Beach from Shabica & Associates, from Northfield, Illinois for the total amount of \$42,000.00. Commissioner Seaman seconded the motion. Superintendent Kutulas gave a brief explanation of the breakwater projects for Elder & Centennial Beaches. Commissioner Codo questioned if this translates to a future higher price for the two projects, Superintendent Kutulas confirmed that it will impact high level plans, but noted this proposal sets the stage for the future.

Commissioner Seaman questioned the comparison to the Lloyd cost proposal to which Superintendent Shea added that it is in-line. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Indian Hill Easement

Superintendent Kutulas relayed the plan for the Village to reduce overhead high voltage cable and help service to adjacent residents. The work would take place at the northeast corner of Indian Hill Park. The staff had reviewed the plans on-site with the Village of Winnetka. It will also be reviewed before the Village Council. No approval is needed at this time, but a consensus of consideration was given by the Park Board

***Commissioner Lussen left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.**

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

President Archambault explained the processor visitors to comment. Mark Vorwald will be addressed during Superintendent Shea's Staff Update segment.

Elisha Gray – asked for the Park District's support for a Green Bay Trail photo contest. He also commented on the damage to the shoreline and boardwalk; questioning if the timing was right to execute and suggested a taking a wait and see approach.

Craig Witty – said that he is just listening to the meeting, but added he would like a vote for the Green Bay Trail photo he submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Platform Tennis Facility Update

Executive Director Peterson reported on his conversation with Winnetka Platform Tennis Club (WPTC) President, Colin Cross, stating that their fundraising efforts are in a holding pattern for the two additional courts. Commissioner Codo questioned the fundraising target amount for the WPTC; that was estimated to be around \$350,000.00.

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Peterson said that he would be following up with the WPTC.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Codo reported that District 36 is following a hybrid model for teaching and New Trier is fully remote. The Commissioners had a short discussion about the various local return to school plans.

STAFF UPDATES

Superintendent of Finance, Christine Berman – She is reviewing the 2020 Financials and the 2021 Budget process is underway.

Superintendent of Parks, Costa Kutulas – A brief presentation was given updating the progress at Lloyd, crediting Commissioner James for aerial photography. He reported on plans to raise the existing breakwater one (1) foot in elevation at a minimal cost of \$202,406.50 for additional security and the ability to break wave action. Commissioner James discussed the elevation and ultimately stated that now is the time to take that approach if the Park District wants to pursue that plan. He also said that the horizon will still be visible from the beach in the event lake levels drop. President Archambault encouraged the Board to visit the site. Superintendent Kutulas said that a December 2020 completion date is expected. He also noted that time is of the essence and wanted to know if the Board would be agreeable to an offset of an additional 20% contingency to complete the work. President Archambault asked if anyone was opposed and Commissioner Seaman questioned if there would be additional expenses. It was reported that clay depths were already confirmed, but Tier II was not in the original contract and would require a change order. The use of road delivery also helps with expenses and Superintendent Kutulas will follow-up subsequent to the upcoming Tier II approval process. The Commissioners did not express opposition to the plan to add to the break wall.

The Tower staircase project has had issues with product lead-time as well as with the contractor. He is happy to provide tours of the project. The Crow Island Woods Phase V restoration is moving along and neighbors are pleased. Commissioner Knupp stated that the conditions in the park from user groups were terrible, to which Superintendent Kutulas replied that we are not currently renting and those are regular visitors. A brief discussion took place and Superintendent Shea clarified that we do collect a security deposit when renting. Commissioner Claybrook also mentioned an incident regarding a picnic table that was thrown in the water at Maple Beach. The staff addresses these issues promptly.

Marketing Brand Manager, Kelsey Raftery – reported that Chris Varner has moved on to a position with NSSRA and she is interviewing applicants to fill the position – hopeful that a candidate has been identified. A Lakefront update email regarding the Tower staircase and Lloyd will be going out.

Executive Assistant, Lara Kuechel – offering support where needed, busy FOIA week.

Superintendent of Recreation, John Shea – Lakefront Staff member and Eagle Scout, Mark Vorwald was introduced and recognized as a “hero”, as was Lakefront Asst. Manager Cello Tedeschi, who was not able to attend the meeting. Their lifesaving efforts to perform CPR on a Camp Staff member who had fallen ill were exemplary. Mark explained what happened that day and what the experience was like; emphasizing that it is far more intense than you imagine it will be when in training. Superintendent Shea noted that their leadership and dedication were commendable. Commissioner James added that it showed Scouts in action; handling an intense situation with composure and that he is so proud, further encouraging Mark to relay the lessons he has learned to others. All present offered their applause.

Superintendent Shea also reported that camp was extended to 9 weeks and season beach passes brought 75,000.00 more than budgeted, Centennial Beach is monitored daily. Another concert took place in Hubbard Woods with a great turnout and so far, 19 yoga classes have been held, expanding the use of the turf. Fall Fest will be held September 26 and 2 comedy shows will be held, working with Richard Laible Productions. He has been talking with District 36 and some additional vendors regarding programs for daytime as well as vendors for other program expansion. Flag football has over 500 kids participating, lacrosse has added more rentals and additional dialogs with New Trier are continuing. Commissioner Codo inquired about hockey and was referred to Paul Schwartz, Commissioner Knupp added that the Winnetka Hockey Club was holding tryouts and parents were concerned about the expense with no competition. Commissioner Seaman added that the staff has done a remarkable job.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Codo made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act, for the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, and 2(c)(6) for the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body, and pursuant to Section 2(c)(1), for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body
Commissioner Knupp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Seaman

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 8:05 p.m. Commissioner Codo made a motion to return to Open Session.
Commissioner Knupp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Seaman

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION ACTION ITEM

Commissioner James made a motion that the Winnetka Park District proceed with the proposed property exchange wherein the southernmost 70 foot wide parcel running from the ordinary high water line of Lake Michigan to the right of way of Sheridan Road be exchanged for a similar width parcel 70 feet wide running from the ordinary high water line of Lake Michigan to Sheridan Road known as 261 Sheridan Road or the Ricard house. This motion would realize a long term objective of the Park District to consolidate Elder and Centennial Parks. Commissioner Claybrook seconded the motion. Executive Director Peterson amended it to an approximate 70 feet. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Seaman

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

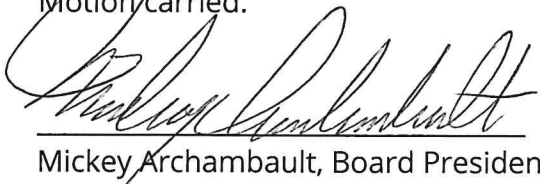
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Codo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.
Commissioner Claybrook seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Seaman

Nays: None.

Motion carried.


Mickey Archambault, Board President
John Peterson, Board Secretary