

**WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 | 6:00 P.M.**

President James called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Mickey Archambault, Christina Codo, Warren James, Eric Lussen, Cynthia Rapp, Colleen Root, David Seaman

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** John Peterson, Executive Director; Kyle Berg, Superintendent of Recreation; Costa Kutulas, Director of Parks and Maintenance; Jim Crocker, Superintendent of Finance; Molly Krohe, Marketing Brand Manager; Matt Johnson, Golf Facility Manager; Matt McCann, Golf Course Superintendent; Michal Slezak, Asst. Golf Course Superintendent; Ania Cramer, Community Outreach/Business Development; Libby Baker, Office Associate

**Audience Present:** Don Smith

Commissioner Lussen made a motion to allow remote participation by Commissioner Codo. Commissioner Archambault seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Archambault, James, Lussen, Rapp, Root, Seaman

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried**

#### **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Executive Director Peterson commented on the cancellation of a tennis event intended to raise funds for the people of Ukraine. He noted several emails were received questioning the reason for the cancellation. He explained most local governments are prohibited from soliciting donations in support of a political effort.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Lakefront Update**

Director Kutulas reported responses are being prepared for the comments and questions received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources regarding the Elder + Centennial permit application. The Army Corps of Engineers has registered the application but not

made comments.

Commissioners Root and Rapp stated they do not recollect a detailed review or formal discussion of the plan design by the Board. The details of previous meetings related to Elder + Centennial and the design process were discussed.

Following discussion, it was determined a special meeting would be held at 5:00 pm, March 24, 2022. The design plan will be presented and discussed. The louver model will be available for viewing. In the meantime, Director Kutulas will put a string line up at the beach to replicate the sight lines.

Commissioner Root asked to receive copies of the permit application as it is updated. Commissioner Root inquired why the Board did not have the opportunity to review the applications prior to filing and requested that the application supporting documents and the application documents be placed on the park website.

### **Golf Operations**

Golf Manager Johnson described the budget exercise undertaken by staff to reduce expenses and increase revenue. He noted revenue will be limited during the 2022 and 2023 seasons due to the closure but explained some expenses will continue to be incurred to maintain areas of the course not affected by the construction. Superintendent McCann reviewed the projects to be completed during closure, by both staff and contractors.

Manager Johnson reviewed projections for 2025 that include an increase in membership and cart fees, rounds played, and cart fleet size, along with new sponsorship opportunities.

Following the presentation, the Board discussed opportunities for recognizing the environmental efforts of the golf course. Commissioner Seaman thanked staff for the presentation and the Board for their input. He referenced a financial spreadsheet and questioned whether the golf fund should receive money from the Recreation and General funds. Commissioner Seaman stressed the importance of ongoing discussions about the funding of Elder + Centennial and the golf course renovations. He stated difficult decisions would need to be made to get through 2023/2024 while the golf course is closed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Board Policy Manual Review Chapters 5-7**

Office Associate Baker noted the numerous changes proposed for Chapters 5-7, and the addition of two new policies. Commissioner James offered comments for Chapter 5 and Commissioner Seaman suggested Chapters 6 and 7 be addressed by the finance advisory group. Following discussion, consensus was reached to channel Chapters 6 and 7 suggested edits through Commissioner Seaman.

### **Kenilworth-Winnetka Baseball Association Donation**

Superintendent Berg reported the Kenilworth-Winnetka Baseball Association has offered to donate an outdoor portable fence for Field 3. An agreement was prepared to receive the donation and outline the parameters. This donation enhances the District's sponsorship opportunities.

### **Zamboni Replacement**

Executive Director Peterson commented on the proposed purchase of a new Zamboni. A memo will be presented for the purchase to be approved at the March 24, 2022 meeting.

### **MATTERS FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Executive Director Peterson reported the Winnetka Platform Tennis Club affiliate agreement is complete and will be presented March 24, 2022 for Board approval. He, Superintendent Berg and Office Associate Baker attended the Illinois Association of Park Districts Legislative Conference in Springfield, and were fortunate to speak with several legislators.

### **BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

**District 36** – Commissioner Rapp reported the school board thanked the District for their time and feedback on the Downsized Capital Improvement Plan. Responses are being prepared for the questions raised during the presentation.

**Environmental & Forestry Commission** – Commissioner Rapp reported the Village recently adopted the Chicago Region Climate Action Plan. The Commission is advancing positions on beach access as part of The Winnetka Futures 2040 Plan. Commissioner Rapp suggested the Board remain aware of the plan as certain aspects may affect the District.

**Dog Beach/Dog Park** – Commissioner Root reported about the March 3 Advisory Committee meeting. A subcommittee was formed and met March 7 to discuss communication strategies. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 24. Commissioner Root and Superintendent Berg will do a walkthrough of the beach with a Lakota Group representative.

**Parks Caucus** – Commissioner Seaman reported the Spring Town Hall is scheduled for April 5 via Zoom.

**Stormwater** – Commissioner James reported he has spoken with Village President Rintz about the lack of financial resources to fund the golf course capital projects and the stormwater relocation at Elder. Commissioner James acknowledged the significant money the Village has received from the state.

Commissioner James reported Peter Tyor, a Caucus representative, would like to speak with

the Board to promote a community-wide open house to engage residents and inform them of the volunteer opportunities available within the community. He will attend the March 24 Board meeting.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

**Kyle Berg, Superintendent of Recreation** – reported registration opened March 1 for Winnetka residents to attend One Camp. Maximum enrollment was met. Enrollment will begin in April for Waukegan residents. Beach, boat and dog passes are on sale. The District 36 Facilities Committee will review the draft IGA in late March or early April and return it to the District with their comments. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks will be launched from the Public Works site and Fourthfest will be held at Village Green. Superintendent Berg announced the resignation of Marty Kwiatkowski. The position is under evaluation and should be filled shortly. He also reported a staff person has been hired to manage Lloyd Beach and the Stepan Family Boat Launch. Superintendent Berg shared highlights of his attendance at the Legislative Conference.

**Jim Crocker, Superintendent of Finance** – reported fieldwork for the audit will take place March 21-25. Revenue is currently above projections and expenses are below projections.

**Costa Kutulas, Director of Parks and Maintenance** – reported there will be a meeting soon with the Village to review the final stormwater plan designs. Bid specifications will be created soon. The plan design for Nick Corwin Park is being completed.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Archambault made a motion to go into closed session at 7:39 p.m., pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1), (5) and (6) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp, Root, Seaman

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried**

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Commissioner Root made a motion at 8:35 p.m. to return to open session. Commissioner Rapp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp, Root, Seaman

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Archambault made a motion at 8:36 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rapp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

**Ayes:** Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp, Root, Seaman

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried**

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John Peterson, Board Secretary

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Date Approved