



**Park District of Oak Park
Committee of the Whole
Oak Park Conservatory
615 Garfield Street
Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 7:30pm
Revised Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm.

I. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Aeschleman, Guarino, Lentz, Wick, and President Bullock.

Park District Staff present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; Diane Stanke, Director of Marketing and Customer Service; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Revenue Services; Scott Stewart, Oak Park Conservatory Manager; Poppy Vogel, Cheney Mansion Supervisor; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Mark Burkland, Attorney; Marianne Birko, WSSRA; Georgia Hunter and Nick Conor, Special Olympic National Game athletes; Chris Wollmuth, GAC Chair; Patricia Bauhs, Liaison to SAC; Don McKay, Nagle Hartray; and residents.

II. Public Comments

Bob Kleps – 1142 Kennilworth – Wanted to state that the batting cages were not in the information for the Carroll Park Master Planning Meeting he also wanted to make the Board aware that the notes from the meeting were not made available until three weeks after the meeting yet the notes say to make a comment within ten days. He stated that if batting cages were put in the park it would be an eye and ear sore throughout the year and felt a better site located far from neighbors of a park should be found.

Bill Sullivan – 825 Home Avenue – President of OPYB/S which serves over 1500 players. For the 61 year history of OPYB/S they have never had access to batting cages. At the Carroll Park Master Planning meeting it was suggested that a second location for batting cages might be good there to go along with the batting cages being put up at RCRC. The plan would eventually be to have three batting cages (north, central and south) in Oak Park. As discussed at the meeting, it was felt that the cages would help the problem of the children running into the alley that is currently a concern by blocking the alley from the park.

Joan Simpson – 1139 S. Grove – Lives at the edge of the alley and currently has windows that look out onto the park. The batting cages would block her view and make parking very difficult as there is only one way into the alley with the school's street schedules. She is also worried about the noise and who would police the batting cages and area.

Roy Simpson – 1139 S. Grove – Their property backs up to the park. He wanted to know if anyone had looked into the parking problems that would occur if batting cages were added to the park. He also wanted to know who would supervise the batting cages and who would supervise keeping the park neat and clean. It currently is a great park for little kids to play in and feels it would totally change the park.

Joseph Barabe – 1178 Clinton – Feels the property value of their homes would go down if batting cages were put into the park.

III. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

A. WSSRA Annual Report Update

Marianne Birko, Director WSSRA, updated the Board on the tasks accomplished during the past year as well as successes achieved. She briefly went over the WSSRA snapshot showing: program facts, revenue, program participation, community events, WSSRA Board accomplishments and fundraising. Georgia Hunter and Nick Conor, Special Olympic athletes from WSSRA, informed the Board of their experiences at the Special Olympics and each's experience within WSSRA. The Board thanked Executive Director Birko for the snapshot, the athletes, and for everything WSSRA does. No action is needed by the Board on this item.

B. Senior Advisory Committee Annual Report

Patricia Bauhs, PDCC member and Liaison to the SAC, informed the Board of events during the past year as well as plans for the upcoming year including: attracting additional committee members, programming both for physical health and mental health, and programming to attract senior males. They have been very pleased with the new passes used for the senior activities and feel their use will continue to grow. They are excited for the new part-time position to be filled that will be involved with the active adults and the SAC. The Board thanked Ms. Bauhs for her service. No action is needed by the Board on this item.

IV. Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance Committee

A. Greening Advisory Committee Annual Report

Chris Wollmuth, GAC Chair, informed the Board he was fairly new to the position and shared the GAC's plans for the past year and upcoming year with continuing the carry-in/carry-out program, the burns, establishing sub-committees that align with PlanItGreen initiative, as well as working with the Buildings and Grounds maintenance staff on sports fields, helping with natural areas, along with providing input for the renovation of Ridgeland Common specifically in relation to LEED certification along with bringing more green into all of our facilities. The Board thanked Chris and the GAC for the work. No action is needed by the Board on this item.

B. Carroll Master Plan Review

John McManus, Altamanu, showed the Board plans for Phase II of the Carroll Master Plan derived from comments at the Community Meeting held on January 21, including the drinking fountain, shading and baseball diamond upgrades, a walking path, benches, etc. Discussion took place regarding the turf and soil issues of the park which the Board wanted to make sure were addressed correctly and the Board felt the suggested site of the batting cages was not an ideal location. Executive Director Arnold informed the Board of the upcoming meeting planned with D97; where she will be able to gather further information for Carroll Park and will bring it to the Regular Board Meeting. This will come before the Board at the March Regular Board Meeting under the Regular Agenda.

C. Vehicle Replacement Update

Mike Grandy, Superintendent Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance, informed the Board of the CIP funds planned for a new T-truck and the initial specs for the vehicle including recycling and compressed natural gas versus diesel which the VOP would be able to continue supplying. Upon information received regarding safety issues and the size of a T-truck with recycling, it was decided that recycling would not be able to be accommodated in the new vehicle. This will come before the Board at a future meeting.

D. PARC Application

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the previous discussions and their approval of Resolution 2014-02-01, for the application for an IDNR Grant for Rehm Pool. She listed the amenities included in the application: roof stabilization, replacement of skylights, ADA accessibility, removal of the sand area and wading pool replaced by a water playground, shading and restrooms as part of the pump house. The Board discussed many of the amenities and wanted

confirmation that more community meetings were taking place and if changes came from the meetings, if changes would be allowed to be made to the application. This will come before the Board at the March Regular Board Meeting under the Consent Agenda.

D. Longfellow Master Plan Community Meeting – March 18, Update

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the Community Meeting for Longfellow Park Master Plan will take place on Tuesday, March 18, at Longfellow Center in the lower room. Planning Resources will be there to facilitate the meeting as they were the architects on record for this plan. No action is needed by the Board on this item.

V. Administration and Finance Committee

A. Revised FOIA Rules and Forms – Resolution 2014-03-01

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that Park District Attorney, Mark Burkland, has updated the Park District's forms to include the newest legislation on FOIA. The new forms and rules will be uploaded to our website. This will come before the Board at the March Regular Board Meeting under the Consent Agenda.

A. Groundbreaking Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex Update

The Board was reminded that the Park Foundation wished to hold a preopening function with the ice rink as a fundraiser which they were currently working on. The grand opening and ribbon cutting for the dog park will be held on Saturday, April 5, at 10:00am and the turf ribbon cutting directly following at 10:30am with a pitch, hit and run competition at 11:00am. The RCRC ribbon cutting is scheduled for June 14.

VI. New Business

VII. Executive Session

At 9:37p.m. Commissioner Aeschleman moved and Commissioner Wick seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners convene into closed session to discussion of appointment, employment, or performance of a specific employee of the District and to discuss matters related to the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Park District and. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

At 10:55p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Aeschleman and seconded by Commissioner Wick to adjourn the Executive Session. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**

VIII. Property

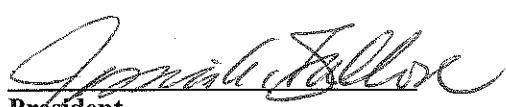
The Board reconvened to confirm its decision for Jan Arnold, Executive Director, and Attorney Mark Burkland to purchase the property at 947 Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Park, IL.

VIII. Adjournment

At 10:55pm a voice vote was taken to adjourn the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried in a voice vote of 5:0.**


Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

August 21, 2014
Date


President
Board of Park Commissioners

August 21, 2014
Date