



**Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois**

Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 7:30pm

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Park District Staff present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Mitch Bowlin, Finance Manager; Chris Lindgren, Assistant Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Joan Fiscella, League of Women Voters; and residents.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda. **The motion was passed by a voice vote.**

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larry Higgs, 1110 Highland, opposes putting synthetic turf in at Barry. He has refereed soccer for the past 16 years at many different type of fields and believes natural grass is better for the referees, well-being of the soccer players, and the environment due to the heat synthetic turf puts out.

Daniel Becker, 1105 Highland, has lived at this location for 21 years. He attended most of the community meetings and appreciates that the Park District takes surveys but feels the surveys of the neighbors of parks should be weighted. Synthetic turf's impact should be considered on all days, not just days of sports. Some of the non-sport impacts would be fencing, health concerns, costs, design's life, and neighbors' opposition.

Joette Higgs, 1110 Highland, has lived for 30 years and raised her kids at this address. She was here prior to the update at Barrie and is happy that her children were in high school when it was finished, as the sled hill is now steeper. With the Irving School's synthetic turf, she feels we should leave Barrie Park as natural grass and just improve the drainage.

Brenda Latsla, 1127 Highland, has lived 25 years at this address and was surprised to hear about the survey through the youth River Forest soccer organization; it seems they were busy getting the information out for everyone to fill out the survey. She was wondering how much of the survey responses were representative of sports people versus people who just want to use the park for their own enjoyment and also pointed out that all the synthetic turf is located on the south side of Oak Park.

Joel Heinz, 1127 Highland, has lived 25 years at this address, and said that we are taking grass for granted – it is a living organism with living organisms underneath. We need natural turf that has been proven healthy for immune systems instead of installing synthetic turf which kills what is underneath. Natural turf that has been properly constructed can be as good as synthetic, so people can connect with nature and keep what precious little land open on the south end of Oak Park.

Randy Machelski, 206 Harvard, has lived at this address for 20 years and was there through the last renovation and walks through the park every day. He applauds the Park District for seeing things that need to be done and doing it. He is happy how Altamanu has engaged the neighbors and he attended two of the meetings. He says there are basic things that should not be happening such as a maintenance worker using a 6 foot blade on a 5 foot sidewalk. Fundamental principles need to take place such as swales placed correctly, etc. He urges the Park District to think of the fundamental principles when planning to send a message to the community that when they see something being done wrongly, the Park District is concerned.

Jennifer Rupert, 1135 Highland, has lived at this address 6 months. When she moved here, the green space was a major draw and it felt like her yard as it does for all the neighbors. It gets extremely damaged with the amount of use which was discussed at the latest block party where concerns were voiced.

Frances Figg, 1105 Highland, has lived at this address for 21 years. Remembers the devastation of the remediation and fought hard for support of VOP and Park District; within the first year there were problems already apparent. He would like this Master Plan to be taken care of slowly so not to create problems again. He also attended a softball game under the lights at RCRC and stated, "they can play all night". All of the synthetic fields are on the south side and does not want Barrie Park to become another elementary school or park without green space.

Maggie Leininger, 1157 S. Taylor, stated that concerns have been expressed by environmentalists on the impact of synthetic turf into the environment through the heat and the toxicity released along with the tremendous damage it can do including burns and abrasions. Youth are pushed hard on synthetic turf and they can slip easier and have more stress on their young developing bodies. Other items to be considered is the pollution runners incur and the lack of biodiversity.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of May; Continued Board Meeting Minutes, Annual Meeting Minutes and Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes, May 7, 2015; Regular Board minutes, May 21, 2015; Spring Park Tour Minutes, May 30, 2015; Greening Advisory Committee New Appointment – Cathi Knickrehm; 2016 Budget Guidelines; and the Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2015-06-01. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board of the following information: the pools went through the first of three Ellis audits and received an Exceeds which is the highest mark, Stevenson Park reservoir repairs is moving slowly due to the rain and the District is working with them on an updated schedule with a completion date of August 24, Frank Lipo, Historical Society, has informed us the building of their new home has slowed due to the reversal of grant funds which they are now raising fundraising efforts.

B. Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information): Mitch Bowlin, Finance Manager, presented updates and information to the Board.

C. Revenue/Expense Status Report – None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – None

B. Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance

1. CIP 2016-2020

Commissioner Porreca moved and Commissioner Lentz seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Capital Improvement Plan 2016-2020. The Board was reminded of the presentation of the projects for 2016 and the plans through 2020 that were presented at the June Committee of the Whole Meeting. The Board agreed it was discussed in full at the previous meeting and had no questions. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 4:0.**

2. Barrie Park Master Plan

Altamanu, LLC presented the Barrie Park Master Plan derived from four community meetings including phases, sled hill, the connection via speed table between the sports court with the park, center work, concrete, seating, entrances, shade, drainage, backstops, sports field turf options, tot lot, rain garden, sound barriers, outdoor exercise course, flex space, natural area with boulders and mounds and picnic area. The Board discussed many of the elements. They stated it was good nothing of the plan would take place for another five years when more definitive information on synthetic turf would be available for the Board to decide if it should be a part of the Master Plan. They also agreed that the drainage problems need to be looked at immediately for fixes now that would improve problems until the plan has begun. **This will come before the Board at the Continued Board Meeting on July 9, 2015.**

3. Middle School Fields Project

Executive Director Jan Arnold informed the Board that the design is completed and that the bid packet will be placed in the Wednesday Journal on June 24, a pre-bid meeting will take place at Julien and will be awarded at the Continued Regular Board Meeting on July 9. **This will come before the Board at the Continued Board Meeting on July 9, 2015.**

4. Field Turf Purchase for Middle School Fields Project

Executive Director Jan Arnold informed the Board that the Park District will purchase the turf through the State of Illinois where is is publically bid to provide the lowest cost to the PDOP. She reminded the Board that the synthetic turf infill will be Nike Grind. Field Turf will install the turf including the drainage system. **This will come before the Board at the Continued Board Meeting on July 9, 2015.**

C. Administration and Finance Committee

1. 2014 Audit Report

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that Wolf and Company had struggled with the timeline of getting the completed report to the Park District. Therefore, the Audit presentation will be pushed to the July Committee of the Whole meeting. The Wolf and Company auditor's contract is up this year and the PDOP will be going out with an RFP. **This will come before the Board at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on July 9, 2015.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS – None

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Porreca** – Attended boot camp with Jan and offered the binder of information to anyone should they like to borrow it. The three hour evening was full of information and fulfilled her Open Meetings Act requirement. She has been introduced to FOPCON and informed the Board of the upcoming Uncorked event and garden walk. She also stated it was good to see every park being used with all the programs and camps.

- **Commissioner Wick** – Has started a new job which gives him a view over Austin Gardens. He questioned who is handling the cost of the sidewalks being torn up around our parks and was informed it was a shared cost with the VOP.
- **Commissioner Lentz** – Informed the Board that the Wednesday Journal gave rave reviews to Festival Theatres' To Kill A Mocking Bird; it is an excellent production and is as current and powerful now as it was in 1960. She urged the Board to visit the new facility under construction for the Historical Society and to support the lease extension that will be coming to the Board as their move is now delayed due to their \$400,000 grant being withheld due to the State of Illinois' freezing of monies. They are doing major fundraising, including more tours and events.
- **Commissioner Guarino** – Absent.
- **President Aeschleman** – Attended IGOV meeting this weekend. Teresa Powell from the VOP is moving off as secretary and will be missed. It was great to see the bicycle racks in front of 218 and the baseball regular season is wrapping up.

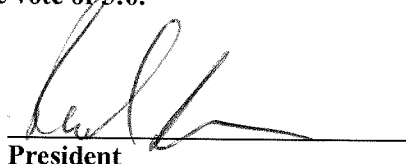
IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

X. CONTINUE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

At 9:12p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Wick to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. **The motion passed a voice vote of 5:0.**


 Secretary
 Board of Park Commissioners

July 16, 2015
 Date


 President
 Board of Park Commissioners

July 16, 2015
 Date