



Wilmette Park District Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting

*Monday May 3, 2021
6:30 pm – Online¹*

A G E N D A

- I. Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting Called to Order
- II. Communications and Correspondence
- III. Gillson Park Comprehensive Plan – Consultant Presentation
- IV. Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors
- V. New Business
 - A. Gillson Park Comprehensive Plan – Discussion
- VI. Adjournment

¹*This meeting will be held remotely via Zoom. To participate via Zoom on the phone, please call 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID #843 5765 1365 and passcode #694271. If you wish to participate via the Zoom software, please use the same meeting number and passcode. Public Comment will be facilitated on Zoom during the meeting.*

If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations to participate in and/or attend a Wilmette Park District meeting, please notify the Director's Office at 847-256-6100.

Wilmette Park District **Policy for Public Comment**

The Board of Park Commissioners, in its regular or special meetings, is a deliberative body assembled to make decisions on new and pending matters affecting the District. Park Board and Committee meetings are meetings held in public, not a public meeting. The Board invites both oral and written communications from its residents.

To facilitate the conduct of Board/Committee meetings, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A section of each regular meeting is set aside for public comment and will be noted on the agenda as "Recognition of Visitors."
2. During the "Recognition of Visitors" agenda item, audience members should raise their hands and be recognized by the President/Chairperson prior to speaking.
3. When recognized by the President/Chairperson, each audience member should identify themselves and limit speaking to no more than three (3) minutes, unless additional time is granted by the President/Chairperson.
4. Questions are to be directed to the entire Board/Committee.
5. Park Board members may, by addressing the President/Chairperson, interrupt a presenter to obtain clarification and/or further information.
6. A Board/Committee meeting is not a forum for complaints against individual employees. Such matters are handled by directly contacting the Executive Director. Complaints against the Executive Director should be handled by directly contacting the President of the Board of Park Commissioners.
7. During presentation and discussion of agenda items, the President/Chairperson will not recognize speakers in the audience unless the Board/Committee desires additional information from an audience member.
8. When addressing the Board/Committee, all persons permitted to speak shall confine their remarks to the matter at hand and avoid personal remarks, the impugning of motives, and merely contentious statements. If any person indulges in such remarks or otherwise engages in conduct injurious to the civil discourse of the Board/Committee and the meeting, the President/Chairperson may immediately terminate the opportunity to speak. This decision is at the discretion of the President/Chairperson or upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the park board commissioners present.
9. Any person, except a member of the Board, who engages in disorderly conduct during a meeting, may be ejected from the meeting upon motion passed by a majority of the Board present.

From: [Cindy Levine](#)
To: [Gordon Anderson](#); [Julia Goebel](#); [Todd Shissler](#); [Mike Murdock](#); [Cecilia Clarke](#); [Bryan Abbott](#); [Amy Wolfe](#); [Steve Wilson](#)
Cc: [Wendy Zun](#)
Subject: [external] Gillson Park Comprehensive Plan Process: Community Engagement
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:18:05 AM

April 23, 2021

To the Wilmette Park District Board of Park Commissioners and Executive Director Steve Wilson,

As you may know, the League of Women Voters of Wilmette places a particular emphasis on community engagement, education and empowerment with respect to our local government bodies, and has been keenly following our local government bodies as they engage the community in their decision-making. We would like to offer some comments specifically on the Wilmette Park District's Gillson Comprehensive Plan process, and ask that you include this email in your packet for the next meeting of your full board, whether that is a Committee-of-the-Whole or Park Board meeting.

We applaud the Park District for undertaking the process for a Gillson Comprehensive Plan and involving the community in that process, especially with respect to the February 18 open house. We recognize the difficulty of such an undertaking, especially during a pandemic. We were also encouraged when, at the March 8 Park Board meeting, Executive Director Wilson said that videos of meetings, question and answer documents for the questions asked during the Open House, as well as a survey and all materials regarding Gillson Park would be placed on the District's website as well as placed in facilities for people to review.

We suggest that the Park District follow through with those articulated community engagement opportunities and update its Gillson Comprehensive Plan webpage to make it an interactive and up-to-date source for the community to get informed and give meaningful input on the project. We also believe that the community would welcome the Park District developing additional strategies to draw people to that page (perhaps through social media and signage with QR codes in Gillson Park and at other facilities). Finally, we suggest that the Park District widely publicize the next Committee-of-the-Whole or Lakefront Committee meeting at which the consultants present. These collective efforts could ensure ways for the community to stay informed and provide a resource to which interested community members could be directed. We make these

suggestions with the understanding that the “Engage” phase of the plan is coming to a close, and with hopes that the “Envision” phase will include more touchpoints for community involvement while the plan is still being developed, something we consider critical with respect to the park that is often referred to as the “crown jewel” of the Wilmette Park District.

If the Park District strives for engagement with the public early and often, not only with this project but with all other capital projects, it is much more likely that the ultimate plans will be embraced and supported by the community.

Thank you for all your efforts and dedication to our parks, especially during this challenging time.

Very truly yours,
Cindy Levine & Wendy Zun
LWV-Wilmette, Co-Presidents





Memorandum

Date: April 30, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Steve Wilson, Executive Director

Re: Gillson Park Comprehensive Plan

At the last Board of Park Commissioner Meeting in April, Commissioner Abbott asked the board if they would be interested in making the regularly scheduled Lakefront Committee meeting on the first Monday of May, a Committee of the Whole meeting. The reason for the question was because it was anticipated that the consulting team of Lakota Group and Woodhouse Tinucci Architects would be in attendance to present some initial concepts for Gillson Park, based on the input received thus far. By way of doing a Committee of the Whole, all members of the board would be able to participate in the meeting equally.

To that end, attached to this memo you will find the four initial concepts from the consulting team. They will present these concepts at the meeting on Monday evening. Something to keep in mind is that while there are multiple concepts, it is not necessarily an all or nothing proposition between the concepts. Instead, there may be aspects from different concepts that the board and the public would like to integrate together to create a uniquely new concept.

Also at the meeting, there was a request from Commissioner Abbott, approved by Commissioner Anderson, to review the financial model the District uses during the annual budgeting process. Using the model at this point will allow for everyone to see where the District stands coming out of 2020 as the financials are nearly finalized through the audit process. It will also allow for the board to conceptually plan for construction costs of the Lakefront work proposed, but also of the balance of the capital needs for the entire District. Staff will have that model available for the board to review at the meeting.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

CONCEPT A

- EXISTING PARKING: 101 Stalls
- PROPOSED PARKING: 134 Stalls

LEGEND

- TREE AND LAWN LANDSCAPE
- REHABILITATED BLUFF LANDSCAPE
- DUNE LANDSCAPE
- NATIVE MESIC PRAIRIE/WETLAND
- NATIVE ORNAMENTAL ENTRY/ACCENT PLANTINGS
- SHADE GARDEN
- WILDFLOWER GARDEN
- BIRD HABITAT GARDEN
- EXISTING PATHS
- PROPOSED WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
- GRAVEL WALKS
- ASPHALT PAVING
- SPECIALTY PAVERS
- CONCRETE WALKS



CONCEPT B

- EXISTING PARKING: 101 Stalls
- PROPOSED PARKING: 156 Stalls

LEGEND

- TREE AND LAWN LANDSCAPE
- REHABILITATED BLUFF LANDSCAPE
- DUNE LANDSCAPE
- NATIVE MESIC PRAIRIE/WETLAND
- NATIVE ORNAMENTAL ENTRY/ACCENT PLANTINGS
- SHADE GARDEN
- WILDFLOWER GARDEN
- BIRD HABITAT GARDEN
- EXISTING PATHS
- PROPOSED WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
- GRAVEL WALKS
- ASPHALT PAVING
- SPECIALTY PAVERS
- CONCRETE WALKS



CONCEPT C

- EXISTING PARKING: 101 Stalls
- PROPOSED PARKING: 209 Stalls

LEGEND

- TREE AND LAWN LANDSCAPE
- REHABILITATED BLUFF LANDSCAPE
- DUNE LANDSCAPE
- NATIVE MESIC PRAIRIE/WETLAND
- NATIVE ORNAMENTAL ENTRY/ACCENT PLANTINGS
- SHADE GARDEN
- WILDFLOWER GARDEN
- BIRD HABITAT GARDEN
- EXISTING PATHS
- PROPOSED WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
- GRAVEL WALKS
- ASPHALT PAVING
- SPECIALTY PAVERS
- CONCRETE WALKS



- EXISTING PARKING: 101 Stalls
- PROPOSED PARKING: 195 Stalls

