



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the
Board of Park Commissioners

Monday, December 14, 2020
Virtual Meeting via "Zoom"

Present

Commissioners: President Gordon Anderson, Vice President Julia Goebel, Bryan Abbott, Cecilia Clarke, Mike Murdock, Todd Shissler, Amy Wolfe
Secretary/Executive Director: Steve Wilson

Staff: Emily Guynn, Kristi Solberg, Sheila Foy, Libby Baker

Visitors: Andy Tinucci from Woodhouse Tinucci Architects, Scott Freres, Deb Sayman, Tom Martin, and Kevin Clarke from The Lakota Group, Susie LaBelle, Allie Frazier, Gary Knight, Kent Nusekabel, Charlie Hargrave, Pam Lurie, Andrew Levy, Isaac Gaetz, Patrick Duffy, Walter Keats

Absent

None

I. Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation

President Anderson called the Truth in Taxation public hearing to order at 7:31 p.m., and asked Director Wilson to present the details of the tax levy.

A. 2020 Proposed Tax Levy

Director Wilson presented and explained the reasons for the levy and the proposed decrease.

The tax levy is comprised of different types of taxes: tax capped amounts, non-tax-capped amounts and amounts derived from funding ordinances such as debt issuance.

All totaled, the 2020 levy is \$7,773,418, a decrease of \$765,640, or 9% from the 2019 extended levy.

President Anderson asked for commissioner and public comment.

Commissioner Abbott reiterated that park district taxes are going down, in part due to the aggressive pay off of debt. Commissioner Goebel recognized board and staff efforts to provide the programs offered and reduce taxes, because of the sound financial decisions being made. Commissioner Murdock noted that with much of the budget composed of program fee income, including that of non-residents, the burden on the taxpayers is kept low. He concluded by saying the park district represent a tremendous value to the community.

Commissioner Murdock moved and Commissioner Goebel seconded a motion to adjourn the Truth in Taxation public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

By a roll call vote, voting *Yes*, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

II. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

A. Roll call taken

III. Approval of Minutes

A. October 26, 2020 Special Board Meeting

Commissioner Shissler moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the October 26, 2020 special board meeting.

On Page 1, Item III, first paragraph, “annually” was added after “\$75,000”.

By a roll call vote, voting *Yes*, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.** The minutes were approved as amended.

B. November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Wolfe seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the November 9, 2020 regular meeting.

By a roll call vote, voting *Yes*, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

C. November 16, 2020 Special Board Meeting

Commissioner Abbott moved and Commissioner Shissler seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the November 16, 2020 special board meeting.

By a roll call vote, voting *Yes*, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

IV. Communications and Correspondence

No correspondence was included in the packet. Director Wilson commented that an email was received after the packet and was sent directly to each board member.

V. Lakefront Comprehensive Plan – Consultant Presentation

Mr. Scott Freres of The Lakota Group recognized the audience and introduced his team. He explained the purpose of the presentation was to provide an

update on the process, and seek input from the board. He reviewed the three stages of the timeline; analyze, engage and envision.

Referencing the information included in the board packet, Mr. Freres and his team shared an analysis focusing on five categories of existing conditions; park context, circulation conditions, landscape conditions, utilities, infrastructure and storm water conditions, and special conditions. Each category was reviewed in detail and preliminary observations, opportunities and ideas were suggested.

Following the presentation, Mr. Freres explained the next steps and the associated timeframes, specifically focusing on the community engagement process. The board shared their thoughts and Mr. Freres responded to questions.

Commissioner Abbott thanked the team and recognized their thoroughness. He commented on the significant number of bullet points identified, categorizing them as needs, goal, and ideas.

Commissioner Anderson said he feels it is too early to comment and address specific areas before the board hears from the community. Commissioner Goebel expressed that the information presented captured the spirit of the walk through. She encouraged the team and board to explore restrooms at the south end of the park. She also offered suggestions for identifying specific resident groups for the community engagement process in order to obtain a variety of perspectives. Commissioner Shissler commented on the importance of identifying, locating and removing invasive plant material. Commissioner Murdock restated his opinion that it is not logical for the Wallace Bowl and Lakeview Center to be excluded from this master plan update. He also commented that the circulation is not intuitive and emphasized his preference for less pavement and less vehicular traffic.

The focus of the discussion then switched to the Lakeview Center and Wallace Bowl. Commissioner Shissler expressed his agreement with Commissioner Murdock's comments about the Wallace Bowl and Lakeview Center. Commissioner Abbott suggested that the master plan might consider the Wallace Bowl and Lakeview Center as they fit in with the park, but the interior of the Lakeview Center would be addressed separately by the Lakefront Committee. In response to a question from Commissioner Goebel about these areas, Mr. Freres explained that they would be addressed in the master plan from a signage, access, circulation and landscape perspective. Commissioner Clarke stated that the priority of the master plan update should be circulation and infrastructure.

Commissioner Murdock shared his vision for the Wallace Bowl and Lakeview Center and commented on the positive impact they could have if improvements were considered. Commissioner Abbott said he would like to stay on the current course with the Lakeview Center, but inquired about consideration for the

Wallace Bowl. Ultimately he expressed staying on course as planned. Commissioner Anderson reminded the board of the original focus of the plan, which was to address what was most important and to keep costs low. He added that the Lakeview Center and Wallace Bowl are good conversations to have, but not at this time. Commissioner Wolfe concurred, expressing interest in looking at the roads and sewers, with a focus on pedestrian and bike pathways. She also mentioned her interest in creating a landscape plan.

Commissioner Abbott shared his interest addressing winter activities, parking at the Lakeview Center, and storm water management.

Following discussion, Commissioner Anderson suggested that all board members share their comments and priorities with Commissioner Abbott so the Lakefront Committee can address and share them with the consultants.

VI. Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors

Director Wilson facilitated public comment. The Attendance Record will become part of the permanent record.

Isaac Gaetz addressed and thanked the board. He commented on the proposal for disc golf that he gave the Lakefront Committee.

Andrew Levy, 1025 Seneca Rd., suggested that the board talk with the village when considering bike and walk pathways, in order to synthesize with their active transportation plan.

Alli Frazier identified herself as a board candidate.

Charlie Hargrave, 2540 Laurel Ln., said he was impressed by the presentation and hopes the board solicits community engagement. He also commented on the location of the irrigation pumping system at Community Playfields, saying it was bad and should be made to blend in better.

Patrick Duffy identified himself as a board candidate.

Kent Nusekabel, 2530 Laurel Ln., said he enjoyed the presentation and he would like the development of the three parks put on hold.

VII. Approval of Voucher List

The voucher list was not included in the packet. This item was tabled and a special meeting was held on December 18, 2020 to approve the voucher list.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Director Wilson reported on the following topics:

- 2021 Election
 - Filing of nomination papers began today

- 8 people filed, 7 were simultaneous
- Lottery for ballot order will take place at 9:00 a.m. on December 22
- Golf concession agreement
 - One year amendment was added
 - Agreement Includes payment terms

IX. Committee Reports

A. Lakefront Committee:

Commissioner Abbott reported on the following topics:

- The committee met last Monday
- A proposal was received for creating a disc golf course to Gillson Park
- Work is beginning on developing a contract with SmithGroup for shoreline protection work at Langdon
- Recruitment will begin soon for a new lakefront manager

B. Parks & Recreation Committee:

Commissioner Murdock reported on the following topics:

- Many residents have expressed interest in master planning at some parks; acknowledged the benefits and significant cost
- The committee met prior to the board meeting
- Discussed Community Playfields
 - Still waiting on additional information from District 39 on their bathroom facilities, and the terms under which they may be available
 - The committee does not want to decide on a location until that information is determined
 - Consensus had been reached by the board for a continuous path. New plans for a continuous fitness path were presented and reviewed
- Received a report on the garden plot program
 - Currently there is a Long wait list
 - Staff has been asked to look at the fee, use policies, and possible additional locations
- Discussed potential dog park locations
 - Staff have been asked staff to look at Centennial Park, Community Playfields and Howard Park
 - Identified .25 acres as a minimum size
- Staff is doing a great job continuing activities during COVID
 - Pop up sport activities have been created
 - Mid-season paddle league is being planned

Regarding the bathrooms at Community Playfields, Commissioner Anderson suggested moving forward with discussions while waiting to hear from the school district. Board members shared their opinions that it would be better to wait until all the pertinent information has been gathered.

C. Golf Operations Committee:

Commissioner Wolfe reported on the following topics:

- The committee met November 23
- At that time the course was still busy
- Approximately 2,700 rounds were played in November, which is significantly higher than previous Novembers
- 41,000 rounds played is the average for the year
- Path project is underway
- Course is being winterized
- Drain tiles were installed

D. Financial Planning & Policy Committee:

Commissioner Goebel reported on the following topics:

- The committee met November 16
- Reviewed October income statements and projections
- Discussed capital spending for 2020 and 2021
- Reviewed tax levy by fund and decided to keep the rate unchanged
- The committee will not meet in December

i. Tax Levy Ordinance 2020-O-4

Commissioner Goebel moved and Commissioner Abbott seconded a motion to approve Move to approve Ordinance 2020-O-4, *An Ordinance Providing For The Levy And Assessment Of Taxes For The Wilmette Park District, Cook County, Illinois For The Calendar Year Beginning January 1, 2020 And Ending December 31, 2020*

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting No, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

ii. Tax Reduction Resolution 2020-R-4

Commissioner Goebel moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2020-R-4, *A Resolution Directing The Manner Of Any Reduction Of The Aggregate Extension Of The 2020 Tax Levy Of The Wilmette Park District, Cook County, Illinois In Order To Comply With The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law* as recommended by the Financial Planning and Policy Committee.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting No, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

X. Unfinished Business

None

XI. New Business

A. Consideration of 2021 Board of Park Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Murdock suggested moving the October meeting to a Monday for consistency, and requested moving the April meeting to the 5th. Following discussion, the board agreed not to include committee meetings in the meeting schedule approval.

Commissioner Goebel moved and Commissioner Abbott seconded a motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule as amended, with the October meeting date switched from the 14th to the 18th.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

B. Consideration of First Amendment to Food and Beverage Concession License Agreement Between A Carte” Grill, Inc. and Wilmette Park District

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Murdock seconded a motion to approve the First Amendment to Food and Beverage Concession License Agreement Between A Carte” Grill, Inc. and Wilmette Park District.

Commissioner Wolfe clarified that the current agreement is due to expire, but due to COVID, staff has recommended that the agreement be extended for one year.

Commissioner Murdock commented that the committee had recommended the agreement include a provision that the district is not obligated to rent from A La Carte, given the size of the park district’s investment in the facility. He noted that the provision was not included and would like to see it in future agreements. He also inquired about the fee change and Director Wilson replied that the monthly rates have not changed.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Murdock seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Abbott, Clarke, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

Secretary

President

Minutes Approved on _____