



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

Monday, August 12, 2019
Village Hall Council Chambers

Attendees Present

Commissioners: President Amy Wolfe, Vice President Gordon Anderson, Bryan Abbott, Cecilia Clarke, Julia Goebel, Mike Murdock

Secretary/Executive Director Steve Wilson
Staff: Steve Holloway, Emily Guynn, Libby Baker

Attendees Absent

Commissioner Todd Shissler

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

A. Roll call taken

II. Approval of Minutes

A. July 8, 2019 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the July 8, 2019 Regular Meeting.

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

III. Communications and Correspondence

President Wolfe commented that several emails regarding the trees were received, and are part of the packet.

IV. Recognition of Visitors

The Attendance Sheet will become part of the permanent record.

Sophie Candido, 1221 Colgate & Kathleen Sullivan, 1225 Colgate expressed they are a collective voice for the Thornwood neighbors. They reiterated their priorities for Thornwood Park: save the trees, return the park to its original design - no public bathrooms, no new amenities, and no public bathrooms, have function returned as soon as possible, use a portable generator, locate the vault as close to the street as possible, and include language in the Memo of Understanding giving the public more time for input.

Stash Rosenthal, 430 Beverly Dr. shared his concerns for safety at the pool, noting the chain link fence provides no quick way for escape in an emergency.

Jan Barshis, 1500 Sheridan Rd. asked the board to reconsider the costly stormwater plan noting there is a more reasonable plan; the trees are already sequestering water.

Jeff Sacks, 2412 Meadow Dr. questioned the need for additional field space at Community Playfields, noting that he has never seen the fields fully utilized and asked where the demand is.

Karen Bowen and her children, 2508 Thornwood stated that she feels the park district has the responsibility to protect and care for the parks, feels the size and age of the trees makes them irreplaceable and would prefer a plan that does not destroy the trees. Ms. Bowen played a brief video made by her daughters.

Derek Castell, 2447 Pomona Ln. explained that his family purchased the house because of the trees and is opposed to the proposed plan.

Van Economou, 601 Hunter Rd. spoke in defense of the trees and the benefits they provide. He also questioned the need for more fields as well as the proposed plan when there is a lower cost option.

Edie Rowell, 2710 Hawthorne spoke on behalf of the Little Garden club. She thanked the board for saving Centennial and considering all options at the other locations. Ms. Rowell would like the current grove at Community Playfields preserved.

Carol Moschandreass, 1616 Sheridan Rd. feels the board is making a mistake and that the trees are irreplaceable. She stated the benefits of the trees and added that cutting the trees increases the water management problem.

Linda Stremmel, 57 Crescent Pl. commented that many business and organizations are trying to plant trees so she does not think this plan makes any sense.

Aadi Shah, 2427 Pomona Ln. expressed that the favorite part of their house is the trees and added that the trees are the solution and should not be cut.

Paul Sortal, 2100 Birchwood commented that trees take a long time to grow, and should be left for the generations to come.

Alisse & Heath Mawrence, 333 Hager Ln. spoke on behalf of the trees, noting once they are gone they can't be replaced. Heath added that the trees provided comfort when he was nervous to go to school and that trees should be treated with respect.

Charlotte Adelman, 232 Lawndale stated we are facing a crisis of global warming and cited an article saying practical actions need to be taken such as planting trees urged board to adopt a modified "Z" plan.

Brij Shah, 2427 Pomona Ln. stated there are always kids playing games around the trees. He feels this decision will have a big impact. He added that he thinks the Village and Park District should be an example to other communities and requested that the trees not be destroyed.

Faye Jacobs, 2407 Pomona Ln. thanked the board for considering an alternate plan for Community Playfields. She noted that she planted several trees and bench at perfect angle to view the trees. She urged the board put the playfields back to original state, and asked them to vote to save trees and choose a cheaper plan.

Martha Hellander, 2517 Thornwood Ave. explained she had originally been concerned about Thornwood but is now worried about the cottonwood trees. She spoke about the beauty of the trees and the misconceptions and invited the board to visit the trees to have a better vision for the trees.

Rick Prohov, 2435 Pomona Ln. spoke on behalf of the petitioners and commented that it is the board's role to discern what the people want, and many people are saying "no" to taking down trees. He urged the board not to make a mistake

Stephan Schwartz, 2446 Iroquois expressed that cutting down the trees will remove a source of shelter for birds and insects and the artificial turf will change the microclimate. Mr. Schwartz also referenced the Village's Tree City USA status and the park district logo noting if these things mean anything then the trees should not be cut down.

Praj Shah, 2427 Pomona Ln. loves what Wilmette has to offer and doesn't take the gift of nature for granted. She asked the board if soccer is more important than nature.

Ellen K., 2627 Marian Ln. spoke on behalf of the trees that give shade and clean our air.

Ted Prohov, 1509 Wilmette Ave. read the Dr. Seuss poem "The Lorax".

Chuck Leath, 2029 Highland Ave. commented that his family moved to Wilmette 40 years ago for the beauty and we hopes a solution can be found to save the trees.

Katie Fox, 743 Leyden Ln. explained she is a teacher in Wilmette and feels this experience can teach the children who will be watching this carefully.

V. Approval of Voucher List

Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Murdock seconded a motion to approve the Voucher List in the amount of **\$1,633,338.47**, a copy of which is to be attached to and become a permanent part of the minutes of this meeting.

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

VI. Executive Director's Report

Director Wilson reported on the following topics:

- Camp ended August 9 and two-week extension camps have begun
- A special meeting to discuss the stormwater project is scheduled for August 19. The Village's attorney has created draft memo of understanding, which has been sent to our legal counsel.
- Board will be asked to approved a request from Canal Shores
- Closed session is on the agenda for the review of minutes

VII. Committee Reports

A. Lakefront Committee:

Commissioner Abbott reported on the following topics:

- The Lakefront Committee met July 29
- Construction project is now complete
- An email was received thanking and commending staff for their response during a recent weather event
- RFP's for shoreline protection and comprehensive planning will be developed
- The beach house project was highlighted in a recent news article

B. Parks & Recreation Committee:

Commissioner Murdock reported on the following topics:

- The Parks and Recreation Committee met prior to the board meeting
- Staff have been asked to evaluate the need for permanent bathrooms in the parks
- Centennial has been added as a location for ASR. 280 children have now been accommodated
- 170 "Sizzlin September" passes have been sold
- Pirate Tennis camp had 320 participants, a 10% increase over 2018
- Paddle league has 21 men's teams, 3 on Sunday, and 8 women's teams

i. Consideration of Canal Shores Request for Landscape Improvements

Commissioner Murdock moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion to approve a recommendation to direct staff to forward the Canal Shores landscape request to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

Commissioner Murdock reported that the Committee had no concerns with the request and suggested that future requests could be handled by staff. The Board concurred.

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

C. Golf Operations Committee:

Commissioner Goebel reported on the following topics:

- The Golf Operations Committee met August 6
- Revenue is consistent with July 2018
- With the addition of a new program director, programming is expanding
- Preliminary budget discussions have started

D. Financial Planning & Policy Committee:

Commissioner Anderson reported on the following topics:

- The Financial Planning & Policy Committee met July 22
- Wage and revenue assumptions were discussed in preparation for the budget season. Staff will give a proposal for salary/wages versus medical expenses
- Committee will be discussing results of compensation study on August 19

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Storm Water Update

President Wolfe requested that if board members contact Director Wilson as soon as possible if they have questions, or would like any additional information to prepare for the August 19 special meeting.

IX. New Business

None

X. Adjourn to Closed Session

Commissioner Goebel moved and Commissioner Murdock seconded a motion to adjourn to Closed Session to discuss the minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes, in accordance with Section 2(c)21 of the Open Meetings Act.

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

XI. Reconvene Regular Board Meeting

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Abbott seconded a motion to reconvene the Regular Board Meeting at 9:22 p.m.

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

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Goebel seconded a motion to approve the release from confidentiality the closed session minutes of August 29, 2011.

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

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Goebel seconded a motion to approve the release from confidentiality the closed session minutes of March 11, 2019.

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

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Goebel seconded a motion to approve the destruction of the audio recording of the closed session meeting of November 13, 2017.

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

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, President Wolfe adjourned the Regular meeting at 9:23 p.m.


Secretary


President

Minutes Approved on October 15, 2019