



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

*Thursday, October 15, 2020*  
*Virtual Meeting via "Zoom"*

**Present**

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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: Richard Pinner, Rick Prohov, Brij Shah, Alan Golden, Sophie Candido, Kent Nusekabel, Carol Rogulski, Kara Kosloskus, Caroline Kosloskus, Mary Lawlor, Walter Keats, Van Economou, Charlie Hargrave, Jonathan Hager, Barbara Keer, Pam Lurie, Neil Ferrari, Tom Rychlik from Gewalt Hamilton Associates

**Absent**

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None

President Anderson acknowledged the "Calendar of Events" included in the packet, noting the impressive list of events. He credited staff for being able to adjust events to meet current restrictions and guidelines.

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

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The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

**A.** Roll call taken

**II. Approval of Minutes**

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**A. January 29, 2020 Committee of the Whole**

Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Abbott seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the January 29, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting.

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

**B. May 11, 2020 Annual Meeting**

Commissioner Shissler moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the May 11, 2020 Annual meeting.

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

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Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Shissler seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the June 8, 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.**

**D. July 13, 2020 Regular Meeting**

The July 13, 2020 minutes were not included in the packet therefore the item was tabled. The May 29, 2020 Committee of the Whole minutes were included, but not listed on the agenda, and therefore not approved.

**E. August 10, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Shissler seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the August 10, 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.**

**F. September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Shissler moved and Commissioner Abbott seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended for the September 14, 2020 regular meeting.

Page 1, item II. B. was revised to reflect the correct dollar amount of the target fund balance. Page 7, paragraph 7 was changed to better reflect Commissioner Anderson's comments on the golf cart path analysis.

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

**III. Communications and Correspondence**

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President Anderson commented on the letters in the packet from the "Wilmette Park Friends" and Mary Shea. The "Friends letter included a review of the facts to date, and a list of requested actions. Mary's letter was a request for a memorial tree to be planted. Commissioner Anderson also note that a letter was received from Kathy Hargrave right before the meeting, and will be included in the November packet. The Lakefront Committee will consider Ms. Shea's request.

**IV. Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors**

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Kent Nusekabel, 2530 Laurel Ln. expressed his concern about how the rest of the process will take place for the projects at the Community Playfields, and he would like to understand how decisions will be made moving forward.

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Walter Keats told the board they will be receiving additional emails with more analysis about the proposed amenities at Community Playfields. He said it appears the bathrooms are going to be built, and if so, he would prefer Option B as the location, and Option A as the second choice.

Alan Golden 2516 Laurel Ln. questioned who would run in the park at night. He noted that the village already has 166 miles of lit sidewalk so there isn't a shortage of lit surface to run. He told the board to keep in mind that no one wants the path or lights.

Neil Ferrari, 2546 Laurel Ln., a 39 year resident, expressed his feeling that the board isn't interested in a master plan and landscape plan for Community Playfields. He stated the park district should clearly state the priority for all park projects. Mr. Ferrari also said he feels it is obvious the restrooms will happen, and based on a central location and ease of access, Option B meets the criteria.

Carol Rogulski, 2533 Marian Ln. expressed her concern about adding an impervious surface to the park and said she doesn't feel a path is necessary. Ms. Rogulski also asked how the restrooms would be secured.

Kara Kosloskus, 407 Alpine said she and others would greatly benefit from a lit path with a safe surface and distance markings.

Van Economou, 601 Hunter expressed his concerns with the funding allocated in the intergovernmental agreement. He also said he feels it is ironic that a hard surface path is being considered when the storm water surcharge homeowners pay is based on the amount of impervious surface on their property.

John Hager, 2525 Marian Ln. said it is not a good idea to put in a walking track with a hard surface, adding that there is no demonstrated need and is a huge expenditure with no cost benefit. Mr. Hager also expressed his feeling that it is simply a transfer of taxpayer money and is irresponsible spending.

Brij Shah, 2427 Pomona Ln. shared his agreement with his neighbors, and asked the board to focus on beautifying the park. He also requested if bathrooms are installed that they are done aesthetically, and not located in the middle of park.

Richard Pinner, 2443 Pomona Ln. expressed concern with feeling of frivolous spending and his opinion that decisions are being made with an apparent lack of care and disregard for the residents. He asked for sincere consideration to the location and placement of the restroom in either Options A or B. He also asked the board not to add lighting and a hard surface path.

Rick Prohov, 2435 Pomona Ln. said he has not been able to find the video recordings of the meetings, and that without minutes the community is not able to learn how decisions have been made. Mr. Prohov's connection to the meeting was interrupted and he was not able to finish his comments.

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Caroline Kosloskus, 407 Alpine said she is a Wilmette Jr. High student, and she and many others walk to and from school through the park. She said they walk in the dark, and she would feel safer walking through a lit park.

**V. Storm Water Project Update – Village Presentation**

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Darren Olson from Christopher B. Burke Engineering presented details on the final designs for Hibbard Park, and provided a summary of the revisions that have been made based on feedback from the park board. He also gave an explanation of the temporary and permanent easements required.

Mr. Olson responded to questions and concluded his presentation saying they hope to award a contract in November.

Tom Rychlik from Gewalt Hamilton Associates responded to questions regarding the athletic fields.

**VI. Approval of Voucher List**

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Following questions, Commissioner Goebel moved and Commissioner Murdock seconded a motion to approve the Voucher List in the amount of **\$1,303,944.28**, 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, Murdock, Shissler, Wolfe, Goebel, and Anderson. Voting No, none. Absent, none; **motion carried.**

**VII. Executive Director's Report**

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**Director Wilson reported on the following topics:**

- Bids were received for the golf cart path project
- Gewalt Hamilton Associates has worked to get the bid numbers for the golf cart path project in line with the budget.
- According to Piper Sandler, the 20 year private placement was not well received by financial institutions
- A special meeting may be needed to continue the discussion on financing options
- Staff continues to work on budgets
- The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is presented for approval

**VIII. Committee Reports**

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**A. Lakefront Committee:****Commissioner Abbott reported on the following topics:**

- The board was thanked for participating in two Committee of the Whole meetings
- Seasonal operations have concluded and the fence is down at the south beach
- At the October 8 COW meeting, the board agreed to have the master planners consider ideas for enhancements at Gillson, and several ideas were presented for Langdon that will be disused further

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- At the October 15 COW meeting, possible enhancements were discussed and the master planners will provide information at the next committee meeting

**B. Golf Operations Committee:**

**Commissioner Wolfe reported on the following topics:**

- The committee met September 28
- A large tree fell near the clubhouse; damage was minimal
- Staff has been using grass from the sod nursery to make course repairs
- Rounds are up 30% from last year
- 25% increase in youth memberships
- Several outings have been held
- Course hosted high school conference championship
- Average rounds played per day in August - 266

**C. Financial Planning & Policy Committee:**

**Commissioner Goebel reported on the following topics:**

- The committee met September 21
- Reviewed CAFR
- Reviewed debt servicing options for the cart path project
- Examined capital spending, and noted that most has been deferred
- Department budget reviews begin next week
- Legal and compliance policies will be reviewed in 2021
- An anti-racism policy will be presented soon for review and approval

Commissioner Anderson mentioned the impact letter in the report dated August 11, 2020, and the reference to the impact of COVID on our operations. Director Wilson responded that this was included as a note of caution, and added that the park district received the highest, cleanest opinion.

Commissioner Murdock asked about the audit and debt funds being over budget. Commissioner Anderson explained that this was only due to the timing of payment for the audit and the timing of the bond issuance.

Commissioner Wolfe inquired about the projected savings in unemployment claims, unrelated to COVID. Superintendent Foy explained that the district recently received information that federal funds will be received that will cover some of the costs.

Commissioner Anderson requested that capital spending be reviewed again by the Financial Planning and Policy Committee as he does not feel all the money budgeted will be spent.

**i. Acceptance of the December 31, 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)**

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Commissioner Goebel moved and Commissioner Abbott seconded a motion to accept the December 31, 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as recommended by the Financial Planning & Policy Committee.

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

**D. Parks & Recreation Committee:****Commissioner Murdock reported on the following topics:**

- The committee met October 7
- Discussion focused on Community Playfields
  - Residents feel the process should be slowed down
  - Process and steps taken to date were explained
  - Staff presented options for bathroom locations, lighting design, fitness path locations and surface material, and fitness equipment
  - A possible shelter was also suggested
  - Staff were asked to talk with the school district about access to the bathrooms at Wilmette Jr. High
  - Discussion will continue at the November committee meeting

Commissioner Abbott expressed his views on the proposed amenities saying he would not be interested in a hard surface path, would support a less obtrusive location for the bathrooms, and would like to see additional lighting options.

Commissioner Shissler expressed his views saying he supports bathrooms, low level lights, and that a cinder path with markings would be okay.

Commissioner Anderson said a low profile bathroom with a shelter is preferable for cost and aesthetic reasons, and said the middle of the park makes the most sense, but requested clarification. He expressed support of low lighting for use of the park during normal hours. Commissioner Anderson suggested that all items be considered together, at the same time, during the same meeting.

Commissioner Goebel agreed that all the items should be reviewed at the same time to get a sense of how they work together. She expressed support of a soft surface and path lighting.

Commissioner Clarke asked about possible privacy screening along the property lines, and expressed her preference for a soft surface.

- Would like for committee to have recommendations for the board next month
- Additional access point at Keay has been well received
- Based on a recent request for a neighborhood park, metrics for the number of parks were reviewed

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- Staff were asked to determine if any areas of the community are underserved
  - Discussed that it may not be the best time to purchase land and build a new park
- Received Manager's reports

Commissioner Murdock concluded his report by reflecting on some of the comments that were made tonight and in previous meetings and emails, in regards to how the park district is spending the money from the village. He said he doesn't feel that the comments are an accurate representation. Commissioner Murdock explained how the compensation was determined, and said he feels it would be irresponsible of the of the park district not to seek compensation from the village, especially since easements are being granted. He also reminded everyone that the partnership is providing the community the maximum benefit of water management and saving the community a lot of money.

#### **IX. Unfinished Business**

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None

#### **X. New Business**

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##### **A. Consideration of Hibbard Park Storm Water Project Easements**

Commissioner Shissler moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion to approve the permanent and temporary easements for the Hibbard Park Storm Water Project.

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

#### **XI. Adjournment**

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There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Shissler moved and Commissioner Abbott seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 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.**

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Secretary

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President

Minutes Approved on \_\_\_\_\_