



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 17, 2022
7:30 p.m. – Village Hall Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commissioners: President Michael Murdock (via phone), Vice President Kara Kosloskus, Cecilia Clarke, Julia Goebel, Lindsay Anderson, Patrick Duffy and Allison Frazier

Staff: Executive Director Steve Wilson

ABSENT

None

1.0 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. Roll Call Taken

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 8, 2022**
- 2.2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 22, 2022**
- 2.3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING ON AUGUST 22, 2022**
- 2.4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**
- 2.5 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2022 VOUCHER LIST**

Commissioner Kosloskus moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the October 17, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, 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: Duffy, Anderson, Frazier, Clarke, Goebel, Kosloskus and Murdock. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none;
Motion Carried.

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Commissioner Kosloskus refers visitors to page 2 of the packet which has the policy for public comment. Reminds visitors to give their name and limit their speaking to no more than three minutes.

Walter Keats: Reiterates an email he sent. Comprehensive plan – he doesn't think he should have to go to a website for updates. He would like to see emails regarding this project's updates on a regular basis.

Alan Golden of 2516 Laurel Lane: Says that nothing has been changed on any of the plans. Brings attention to D, sailing beach: 1) expanded drop-off area; no one drops anything off in front of the shack. Adding more concrete in front of shack doesn't help anything. People drop off their stuff where they sit or where their boat is, go to the parking lot and park. 2) Make improvements with the sailing beach shack, Mr. Golden says it should be painted. The shack is in disrepair and could use a facelift.

Mary Shea, Gillson neighbor: Regarding adding amenities to the plans for Gillson Park. Ms. Shea believes the current picnic shelter has served its function very well. She sees people enjoying their picnics under trees, moving tables and away from the barbeque grills. She suggests to make a plan to replace the more than 100 shade trees lost at Gillson Park, according to the 2009 JJR Lakefront Analysis, and abandon the idea of a structure in the picnic area, which would limit the open space people enjoy at this time. Residents would like the park to be maintained in as natural a state as possible. The local public have voiced their preference for preservation of natural spaces and the protection of trees. The picnic shelter is not a revenue generator, and no one is asking for another one.

Tanjia Chevalier, of 789 Michigan Avenue: Expresses concern for the Lakota proposed 5ft. sidewalk on the south side of Harbor Drive. Even though very narrow, the creation of the sidewalk would damage or destroy the vegetation on the south side of Harbor Drive, from the park entrance to the overlook. Additionally, the proposed 5ft. sidewalk would crowd against both the Wilmette Harbor Association property and the Coast Guard, which contains an armory and is marked by no trespassing signs. A 5ft. pedestrian sidewalk is not wide enough. The Michigan Avenue sidewalk is 10ft 2in. The sidewalk going into the beach parking lot is 12ft 10in. At the bottom is the sidewalk going to the beach house and it is 7ft 9in. Sidewalk at Overlook Drive is 11ft. Ms. Chevalier believes the southern pedestrian entrance should be wider than 5 feet. The existing sidewalks do acknowledge foot and bicycle traffic into and within the park. Ms. Chevalier proposes consideration of the alternative pedestrian path that was proposed almost a year ago.

6.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wilson reported that there is an update to park sites for pickle ball. We have engaged the village to better understand any and all regulations that would be zoning or special use. We are waiting for a final document that codifies and memorializes that conversation. We anticipate having that here during the first half of the coming week and we will be able to include it for the Committee of the Whole meeting where we can then have further discussions on potential locations. Also noted is Langdon shoreline project: Smith Group, is anticipating being back at next week's Committee of the Whole meeting as well to present the ideas that came from the direction the Board of Commissioners gave last time they were here. Also in your packet you do have prior concepts from Lakota Group regarding amenities at Gillson Park. And that was outfall of the discussion at the last Committee of the Whole meeting at which the Board of Commissioners said they wanted to look at these. I did remove some of the options they presented back in December, because there has been enough discussion by the Board that we know that's not anything they are looking to pursue, such as relocating the entrance off of Sheridan Road by the harbor, or a switchback that takes trees out on the bluff at Lake Avenue. Those have been pulled out, I left everything else in, so you had a basis of the conversation moving forward. Lastly, on your Agenda, you have a Statement of Work for website design from On Point Insight, LLC, for \$38,500. This is a project that we budgeted to pursue this year. We budgeted \$35,000 for it, so it's right there. We received 9 proposals ranging from \$10,000-\$70,000 in total cost through a pretty rigorous evaluation process. We have come to a conclusion that this is the group that is going to best serve our community by giving us a website that we are hoping improves information sharing with the community, the registration process for families across the board as they go about their daily lives with the Park District. That is everything that is in my written report. I am going to go a little off script and update everyone about Project Parks and Play. We are working with our consultants and our in-house marketing team and our external PR firm on the engagement strategy and all the collateral that goes along with that: mailers to every home, signage within our parks, what the interactive Social Pinpoint website will entail, other ways that people can give us input through, at our facilities and when people are in our facilities, as well as scheduling public input sessions and the communication strategy around all of that. We are hoping sometime next week we will launch 100% of that and start gathering input and engaging with the community. That concludes my report.

Commissioner Kosloskus asks if the names of the participants on the advisory panel for Project Parks and Play is already up on the website. Director Wilson says it is on the Park District's website.

Commissioner Goebel comments on website design project: It was a thoughtful approach, consistent with best practices, and having some professional experience in this area, Commissioner Goebel thought the proposal looked top-notch, and considered all the things that would be needed and then some. The community will be excited about that when the time is right.

7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 *Gillson Park Comprehensive Plan – Additional Amenities Discussion*

Director Wilson explains that a question was asked at the last Committee of the Whole meeting, as to what other smaller optional amenities that have been presented in the past as options. Do we want to consider those now or later? What do we want to say we are no longer going to consider? And what do we want to pursue? He doesn't know if we will have a conversation that brings us to clarity on everything tonight, but the Board wanted to start this conversation, so we want to make sure we pulled out the old information and presented it for everyone to see. The discussions don't have to just be confined to these options, but these are the ones that have been discussed during prior meetings.

Commissioner Kosloskus: Is the intent in this meeting to discuss them one-by-one, or this is the introduction to discuss them in committee? What is the appropriate practice?

Director Wilson: He doesn't think the appropriate practice would be to make decisions the first time [the Board] is having the discussion. But there seemed to be a desire for this conversation to take place sooner than later, so we are bringing it to this meeting.

Commissioner Clarke: Are these the only amenities we are going to consider? There have been some previous ideas bouncing around. Or do we just want to focus on the ones in the packet?

Director Wilson: I don't think you have to [just focus on the amenities discussed in the packet], but these were the conversations that we have had before, by way of the presentations by the consultants. But if there are other things, the board sets direction for our projects. If there are other things that aren't here that the board wishes to get input from fellow board members, by all means.

Commissioner Clarke: In looking over [the amenities in the packet], Commissioner Clarke states that she is always in favor of more restrooms, however, she would be more apt to consider a restroom much further south. This is in part because this is a very expensive place to put a bathroom, as well as, with Lakeview Center being renovated, that will serve as a restroom not far from this location.

Commissioner Clarke would be in favor of another shelter at the bottom of the bluff near the Wallace Bowl. One of her reasons for this would be to provide more covered space for shelter during rain storms.

Commissioner Frazier is not interested in pursuing B) or C). She believes that Lakeview Center is close enough for users, and is already in progress. Her understanding is that getting water out to the area proposed in C) [of the packet] would be nearly impossible.

As far as a shelter, it would be nice to have something, but Commissioner Frazier also believes that Lakeview Center would serve as a shelter during weather conditions.

Commissioner Goebel does not think items B) or C) should advance. She would be open to future talks about additional structures in the south area of the park, near the dog beach, which might include a restroom and/or shelter. Suggests placing a standard port-o-john near the dog beach. Is open to further talk about a shelter for picnics.

Commissioner Duffy: Agrees that there should not be a bathroom constructed. Does not see an issue with putting a shelter at the base of the bluff, but looks for more evidence it is needed. Would be open to discussions regarding additional shelter, and says he would be supportive if the surveys of community members supported it.

Commissioner Anderson: Has additional questions as to whether staff has evaluated the boathouse to see if repairs are needed beyond painting? And for the boardwalk, has staff evaluated what kind of structure might be needed as climate changes and water levels change? Will the existing structure hold up when taking into account possible future changes in conditions?

Director Wilson states that staff has not made any recommendations one way or another. The sailing shack was to be a temporary structure 30-40 years ago and is still in service today. As far as the boardwalks, that was a concept that came from the consultants, and one that he doesn't believe would destabilize any of our beaches. The intent of it from a sustainability initiative to save the dune grasses, to get people to stop trampling through the grasses. As far as shelters, staff has spoken to the need for shelters.

Commissioner Murdock voices his opinion regarding a new bathroom saying he does not think it would be a good use of community resources. If we were to put in another restroom, he thinks it would make the most sense to put it down by the dog beach, much further from existing restrooms. With respect to a shelter, Commissioner Murdock strongly supports another picnic shelter near the Wallace Bowl. However, he does not support another structure in the main part of the park.

Commissioner Anderson says it would be helpful to hear from staff regarding recommendations on the boathouse. Also would be helpful to understand the impact of the boardwalk on the preservation of the beach.

Commissioner Clarke would like the sailing beach members surveyed regarding any work that will take place. Is interested in hearing more about protecting the beach from erosion.

Commissioner Kosloskus concludes that board members agree there should be an analysis from the sailing staff on needs, and then that information can be brought to the public who use the sailing beach. She continues that there is generally positive response to putting in a boardwalk.

Commissioner Duffy asks if everyone can agree that there does not have to be any more conversation regarding bathrooms. No vote is necessary. Regarding the dog beach, there are other amenities that have been brought up in the past [on Lakota report?], such as moving the fence. These discussions are being pushed to a future meeting.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 *Consideration of contract for Website Design Services*

Commissioner Duffy moves to approve the scope of work from On Point Insights, LLC, in the amount of \$38,500 for web development services. Second from Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner Kosloskus asks Director Wilson, as he has recommended On Point Insights, LLC, as our website designer, whether he has spoken to other park districts or spoken to references. Director Wilson states that he has spoken to references and On Point does not have as much experience with park districts as other competitors, however, this group had a much more corporate, innovative way of interacting with our recreation database and putting it out in a more e-commerce way. Director Wilson briefly summarizes why we chose this company versus others, saying that we didn't want to settle for the same thing we already have, and also what other park districts are already doing. He was looking for a company who can make Wilmette Park District stand out, and believes On Point will do that.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Duffy, Anderson, Frazier, Clarke, Goebel, Kosloskus and Murdock. Voting *No*, none. *Absent*, none;
Motion Carried.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn to closed session. Commissioner Clarke moved to adjourn to closed session for the discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the park district, including meetings of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, as well as the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body in accordance with sections 2(c) 5 and 2(c) 6 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Duffy seconded the motion.

By a unanimous voice vote; **Motion Carried.**

Minutes Approved on November 14, 2022.