



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 8, 2022
7:30 p.m. – Village Hall Council Chambers

PRESENT

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

Staff: Executive Director Steve Wilson and Executive Administrative Assistant Catherine Serbin

Visitors:

ABSENT

None

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

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

A. Roll Call Taken

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on July 11, 2022**
- 2.2 Approval of the Bid Recommendation for Thornwood Tennis Court Resurfacing**
- 2.3 Approval of the Bid Recommendation for Centennial Indoor Tennis Court Resurfacing**
- 2.4 Approval of July 2022 Voucher List**

Prior to a motion for the Consent Agenda, President Murdock advised he will be leaving after the Langdon discussion due to a family related commitment.

Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Duffy seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the August 8, 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

President Murdock acknowledged the Board received a number of correspondence with respect to various topics all of which has been included in

the meeting packet for the record. Commissioner Clarke acknowledged an e-mail sent by GoGreenWilmette and resident Ann Hayden Stevens that had been received after the meeting packet was published. President Murdock stated this will be added to the packet retroactively. Commissioner Anderson disclosed she met with resident Amy Boyer to hear her perspective with respect to Langdon and has read all resident correspondence.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

President Murdock facilitated public comment. The Attendance Sheet will become part of the permanent record.

Alan Golden, 2516 Laurel Lane – Mr. Golden requested public comment always be held after any presentations and thanked the Board for allowing a second public comment session tonight. Furthermore, with respect to the Gillson Park road survey, he believes it to be poorly written and designed. He noted there was no option in the survey that allowed for all the roadways to be kept as is with only the necessary infrastructure work performed. He accused the survey of being misleading and questioned why a cost breakdown had not been included. He also requested a copy of the raw data once the survey is complete.

Mary Shea – Ms. Shea proceeded to read a letter that has since been included in the meeting packet as correspondence.

President Murdock corrected Ms. Shea's earlier comments to the Board in July by advising that in 2021, there were roughly 200 picnic shelter rentals. Of those rentals, 196 were resident rentals as compared to 3 non-resident rentals. Previously, Ms. Shea had stated there were only 18 picnic rentals and this had been discussed while the Board was contemplating additional picnic shelters in Gillson. He noted that while everyone is entitled to their own opinion, it is important that the facts are accurate.

5.0 LANGDON SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT – CONSULTANT PRESENTATION

SmithGroup Consultants provided a high level overview of the project as it currently exists which includes an ADA accessible ramp from the south end of the beach to the northern end, and an optional overlook and stairs addition. This plan was initially proposed due to it being the most accessible, most affordable and providing the highest bluff stabilization. There would be a total of four trees lost in this concept with two being removed due to poor health. Furthermore, the bluff landscape would change as a result of nonnative invasive species being removed. These invasive species are detrimental to the trees as they have a longer root system that absorbs water away from the trees. With respect to the project timeline, the Consultants have obtained the majority of the permits and are prepared to bring this to bid in August. Should the Board continue with Concept C, the construction could begin as early as fall of 2022 and be completed in spring of 2023. The Commissioners held a lengthy discussion in which they analyzed the benefits of Concept C and resident input. Ultimately, the Board decided to pause

the project for now pending alternative options from SmithGroup.

President Murdock exited the meeting at 10:24 p.m.

6.0 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

President Murdock facilitated public comment. The Attendance Sheet will become part of the permanent record.

Alan Golden, 2516 Laurel Lane – Mr. Golden stated he counted eight trees at the top of the bluff and asked for confirmation as to whether these trees would be preserved. The Consultant confirmed those trees would remain undisturbed.

Amy Boyer, 1028 Sheridan Road – Ms. Boyer provided pictures of Langdon to illustrate to the Board the changing water and sand levels. She believes the path in Concept C will not make sense once the sand and natural vegetation return in time as that will stabilize the bluff and provide a less severe slope than exists today. She then spoke about the vegetation and stated she felt the district should hire an arborist to do a full inventory of the bluff so everyone knows what is there today before anything is built.

Dean Lindsay, 808 Chestnut – Mr. Lindsay advised he lives roughly 800 feet from the beach and is speaking on behalf of his neighbors to advocate for a different design approach for Langdon. He believes a concrete path will destroy this valuable asset and the bluff. He would prefer minimal change and a naturalist approach. He also is not in favor of converting the beach to ADA accessibility and accused the plan of being an overdevelopment.

Bob Reicher, 807 Chestnut – Mr. Reicher acknowledged that it is necessary to stabilize the bluff, however, he does not like the concrete path concept. He urged the Board to keep the path as it currently exists and implement stairs to provide beach access. He does not believe the neighborhood would be able to withstand the increase in traffic the proposed concept would bring to Langdon.

Jennifer Chase, 819 Chestnut – Mrs. Chase echoed Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Reicher's comments and urged the Board to keep Langdon as is and natural.

John Schell, 806 Chestnut – Mr. Schell agreed with his neighbor's comments. He urged the Board to keep the bluff as it exists and keep the gravel path west to east with stairs. He concluded his thoughts with less is more.

Beth Beucher, 1420 Sheridan – Ms. Beucher urged the Board to rebuild and restore access to the beach where it was previously. She is not in favor of the plan as it currently exists and strongly advocated for the Board to abandon Concept C and keep Langdon as natural as possible.

7.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wilson reported that the Gillson Comprehensive Survey was sent out and about 50% of the e-mail recipients opened the e-mail. The survey will remain open until August 26th. The Comprehensive and Strategic Plan will kick off later this month with staff. Two months ago, the Board reviewed the Board's Organization and Operations Manual and it is before the Board tonight for consideration as is the lease for ComEd property adjacent to West Park. Lastly, the Parks and Planning Department has requested to dispose of certain equipment.

8.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 *Consideration of the Revised Board Organization and Operations Manual*

Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Duffy seconded a motion to approve the amended Organization and Operations of the Board of Park Commissioners Manual.

Vice President Kosloskus stated she is comfortable with the revisions with the exception of the change to allow any Commissioner the opportunity to add items to the agenda. She requested this section remain as is, allowing any two commissioners to add an item to the agenda. There was no objection to Vice President Kosloskus' request.

Commissioner Clarke withdrew her first motion and moved to approve the amended Organization and Operations of the Board of Park Commissioners Manual, per the Board's discussion. Commissioner Duffy seconded this motion.

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

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

There was a brief conversation regarding the Park District's compliance with the Village Ordinance.

8.1 *Consideration of Lease for ComEd Property Adjacent to West Park*

Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Goebel seconded a motion to approve the recreation lease for ComEd property adjacent to West Park.

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

8.2 *Consideration of Surplus Property Ordinance 2022-O-8*

Commissioner Frazier moved and Commissioner Duffy seconded a motion to approve Surplus Property Ordinance 2022-O-8, An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Certain Surplus Property Owned by the Wilmette Park District, as recommended by the Parks and Planning Department.

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

10.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Duffy moved and Commissioner Frazier seconded a motion to adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 11:02 p.m.

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

Minutes Approved on October 17, 2022.