



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT Centennial Committee Meeting Minutes

*Monday, February 14, 2022
6:30 p.m. – Village Hall Training Room*

Present

Commissioners/Committee: Chair Mike Murdock, Patrick Duffy, Allison Frazier

Staff: Superintendent Kristi Solberg and Superintendent Emily Guynn

Additional Staff: Superintendent of Human Resources and Risk Management, Liz Cox and Centennial Recreation Complex Manager Jason Stanislaw

Visitors: Steve Dover, Marsha Dover, Paul Hahn, Carol Hahn, Patrick O’Gara, Judith O’Gara, Jessica Martinez, Mary Shea, Mary Jean Mendizabal, Meredith Park, Claire Sullivan, Chris Basingame, Cecilia Dunn, Piper Rothschild, Arun Salmon and Walter Keats

Absent

None

I. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. January 10, 2022

Commissioner Duffy moved and Commissioner Frazier seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022 Centennial Committee meeting.

By unanimous voice vote; **motion carried.**

III. Communications and Correspondence

Commissioner Murdock noted that all communication and correspondence received was with respect to the West Park Master Plan. Superintendent Guynn advised of an e-mail received later in the day from resident Cecilia Dunn that did not make it into the original packet.

IV. Public Comment

Commissioner Murdock facilitated public comment. The Attendance Record will become part of the permanent record.

Patrick O’Gara, 740 Laramie – Mr. O’Gara stated there are serious legality issues with the current operation of the courts. He has been advised by the Village of Wilmette that the courts are not authorized to be operated outside the hours of 8AM-10PM. Mr. O’Gara believes allowing the courts to be operated until 11PM is illegal and in violation of Village Ordinance. He also expressed concerns over the possible noise disturbance pickleball courts at West Park would cause, noted the Board weighted noise disturbance concerns heavily when considering whether to build a

skate park and asked the Board follow the same precedent. He urged the Park District to immediately withdraw their application with the Village and more carefully consider these issues and other concerns residents have raised such as child safety and loss of green space.

Claire Sullivan, 735 Laramie – Mrs. Sullivan stated she is one of homeowners who will be most directly affected by the Park District's proposal due to her proximity to the courts. Her main concern is the noise pickleball would produce as she suffers from migraine headaches. She fears the courts will ruin her quality of life and is adamantly opposed to this proposal.

Penny Dunn, 3408 Wilmette – Ms. Dunn stated she lives in the neighborhood near West Park and is 9½ years old. She enjoys playing at West Park with her friends and her family. It is the only playground near her house. She fears the increased courts will produce additional noise and lights that will hurt the neighbors who live close by. She loves nature and is deeply concerned about the removal of trees for courts. Additionally, she fears moving the playground near Lake Avenue will make the playground unsafe. She proposed the Board consider Centennial as an alternative to West Park for pickleball courts and hopes the Park District can find a place to build more courts without destroying nature.

Mary Jean Mendizabal, 500 Leamington – Mrs. Mendizabal stated this is the only park west of Wilmette. Currently, her children can walk to the park. She is also a paddle player and understands the demand for increased courts. However, the noise of play is obnoxious and can be heard throughout her neighborhood. She urged the Committee to find a location in east Wilmette suitable for additional courts as to not cause further disruption to the neighborhood.

V. Unfinished Business

A. West Park Master Plan – *Verbal Update*

Superintendent Solberg reported that staff held the first public meeting regarding the playground renovation on Wednesday, February 9th at the Community Recreation Center. Staff plans to host a follow up meeting similar to the process for the Maple Park playground renovation. A survey has also been sent out to residents and there are currently 250 responses. Upland Design is working with staff on some concepts to be presented in March. Additionally, staff will appear before the Village Zoning Board on March 16th to request a special use permit.

Commissioner Murdock acknowledged that staff has conducted a photometric study and asked if there is any other information being gathered at this point beside the parking study. Superintendent Solberg advised that staff is working on a dual photometric study. Prior to applying for the special use permit, staff conducted a photometric study solely for pickleball. There has since been a request to conduct a photometric study for both pickleball and platform tennis. Commissioner Murdock thanked Superintendent Solberg for her report.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Managers' Reports

Jason Stanislaw, the Centennial Recreation Complex General Manager, Reported:

- The Centennial Recreation Complex was built in 1972 and this year marks its 50th anniversary. Staff has been planning a series of promotions and events to celebrate such as a Disco Party on the Pool Deck, a local cover band music festival called Keep Your Day Music Fest, a rebirth of the Wilmette Open Tennis Tournament, a Labor Day Luau at the pool, throwback-pricing days and 50th anniversary branded merchandise.
- There have been prime sledding conditions over the past week at the hill behind Centennial.
- Staff is redeveloping the hockey camp to help bridge the transition from Learn to Stake/WHA House League to travel hockey.
- Plans are underway for the spring Ice Show with performances scheduled for May 13, 14 and 15.
- A job fair to spur hiring of summer pool staff is scheduled for February 26th at Mallinckrodt.
- The Learn to Swim schedule will be earlier in the day than prior seasons to create increased public swim hours on weekends.
- Indoor pickleball begins February 17th utilizing temporary lines on the indoor tennis courts in the early morning. Doug Hawthorne is spearheading the start of that activity.
- The week of February 21 marks the end of the regular league season. Playoffs to follow in March.
- The American Platform Tennis Association has agreed to accept a single grant application on behalf of the Wilmette Park District.

Commissioner Murdock asked what the plans are for a vendor at the pool and ice rink. Manager Stanislaw advised that those conversations have started internally and staff anticipates an RFP to be sent out soon.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2022.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Duffy moved and Commissioner Frazier seconded a motion to adjourn the Centennial Committee meeting at 6:55 p.m.

By voice vote; **motion carried.**

Minutes Approved on March 14, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine A. Serbin

Catherine Serbin
Executive Administrative Assistant