

Minutes
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Community Park District of La Grange Park
February 6, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

President Lou Ritten called the meeting to order in the lower level meeting room at Plymouth Place, 315 N. La Grange Road, La Grange Park, IL at 6:35 pm. Commissioners present were Karen Boyd and Lucy Stastny. Commissioners Ted Popernik and Jeff Kilrea were absent. Also present were Park Maintenance Supervisor Martin Healy and Executive Director Roy Cripe.

Members of the audience signed an attendance sheet.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. WELCOME

President Ritten welcomed all present, introduced Board and Staff members present, and gave a brief history of Board activity that brings us to tonight's meeting. He introduced Landscape Architect John Vann, Principal, Landtech Designs, who lead the remainder of the meeting.

4. STONE-MONROE PARK MASTER PLAN

John Vann presented his qualifications and briefly described the park amenities and its purpose as a neighborhood park. Mr. Vann said that this was the first draft of a long range concept plan that will undergo change as a result of tonight's meeting. The second draft will include cost estimates.

Mr. Vann asked those present what they like about the park. Responses made follow:

- a. The carpet on the tennis court is appreciated for its slow play
- b. The shelter has good visibility for the whole playground
- c. The playground equipment is nice and in good condition

Mr. Vann asked those present what they do not like about the park. Responses made follow:

- a. The park is too small
- b. It is the only park on the west side of LaGrange Road
- c. The carpet on the tennis court does not allow moisture to drain
- d. There is no good place for equipment storage
- e. The port-a-potty is an eyesore
- f. It feels "urban" with all the fencing
- g. There is bad drainage in general
- h. There is a lack of color in the landscaping
- i. There is only 1 entry to the tennis courts
- j. The benches are old and there are more benches needed
- k. There is no seating for people to watch softball games

When there were no additional comments or questions, the discussion turned to Robinhood Park

5. ROBINHOOD PARK MASTER PLAN

John Vann presented a brief description of Robinhood Park and stated its purpose as a neighborhood park. Mr. Vann asked those present what they like about the park.

Responses made follow:

- a. The size of the park

Mr. Vann then asked those present what they do not like about the park. Responses made follow:

- a. Accessing some parts of the park are difficult
- b. There are very few parking spaces
- c. The tennis courts are far from parking and the bathroom and are very close to power lines
- d. The shelter needs a new roof
- e. The playground skews toward older children
- f. There are no basketball courts

At this point, President Ritten said that the Board may try to limit competitive areas for basketball to try and minimize problems.

When there were no additional questions or comments, the discussion turned to Yena Park.

6. YENA PARK MASTER PLAN

John Vann presented a brief description of Yena Park and stated its purpose as a community park.

Mr. Vann asked those present what they like about the park. Responses made follow:

- a. The sand volleyball court is used a lot in the summer.
- b. The facility is used by Brook Park School
- c. It is a visually pleasing park
- d. The park is well used for multiple purposes throughout the year.

Mr. Vann then asked those present what they do not like about the park. Responses made follow:

- a. The park is lacking a sidewalk all the way around. Would it be possible for the Board to share the cost with the Village of La Grange Park, similar to what homeowners are able to do?
- b. There is a lot of fencing, but it is needed for safety
- c. Children climbing the baseball backstops can be a problem
- d. The courts are not getting as much use as they used to

When there were no additional questions or comments, the discussion turned to the next park.

7. HANESWORTH PARK MASTER PLAN

John Vann presented a brief description of Hanesworth Park and stated its purpose as a community park.

Mr. Vann asked those present what they like about the park. Responses made follow:

- a. It is a good baseball facility

Mr. Vann asked those present what they do not like about the park. Responses made follow:

- a. The sidewalk design around the park is a safety issue
- b. The concession stand has bathrooms but they are only open during baseball games

A suggestion was made to use the area behind the Recreation Center as a Safety Village for young children.

A suggestion was also made to put "route markers/mileage markers" along paths at all parks.

President Ritten asked for thoughts about creating fewer well-maintained tennis courts within the Village. There were no objections raised.

President Ritten stated there are numerous ADA issues that must be addressed before we can begin to choose from the "wish-list" of ideas. The Board does not just want to react to current fads, but would like to create spaces that will be well-used by many for years to come. President Ritten stated that the entire Master Plan process will be open and transparent and the public will have numerous opportunities to comment on the plan and provide input. The goal of the Board is to make each park within the Village unique.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Boyd made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stastny, to adjourn at 8:20pm. There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote. Commissioners Popernik and Kilrea were absent.