

Minutes  
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Community Park District of La Grange Park  
January 23, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

President Lou Ritten called the meeting to order in room 101 of the Recreation Center, 1501 Barnsdale Road, La Grange Park, IL at 6:32 pm. Commissioners present were Karen Boyd and Lucy Stastny. Commissioner Jeff Kilrea arrived at 6:41 p.m. Commissioner Ted Popernik was 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 thanked everyone in attendance and reiterated the meeting was to discuss preliminary plans based on input given at the previous meeting. He also noted that nothing is set in stone and it will be a five year minimum before all parks are completed. He then re-introduced John Vann, Principal, Landtech Designs who led the remainder of the meeting.

4. BEACH-OAK PARK MASTER PLAN

Mr. Vann stated the concepts presented were designed based on the input from the Board and the community at the previous meeting. Plan A "highlights" include:

- a. A change in the entrance path
- b. A new roof on the shelter
- c. Moving the washroom back into the park
- d. Possible small spray pad
- e. Converting the sand area back into part of the playground
- f. A place for train-spotting
- g. Additional landscape buffering
- h. Possibly converting the woodchip surface to a pour-and-play surface (which is pricy)
- i. Bike racks

Mr. Vann also noted that additional swings would require the removal of something else to meet the safety space requirement. Also, parking spaces were intentionally omitted from the plan and the basketball court location is somewhat unresolved.

Plan B, which involves purchasing adjacent land, “highlights” include:

- a. All the aforementioned components of Plan A
- b. Additional buffering
- c. A half-court basketball court
- d. A picnic area

A question and answer session followed in which the following concepts were addressed:

- Add a boulder, trees, or a berm in the northeast corner of the park for traffic safety concerns.
- The portable toilet screen is thought to be a 3-walled structure with a roof built to look like it belongs in the park.
- Residents expressed concern about even a half-court basketball area becoming too competitive. Another option is to make it a shooting court only.
- Mr. Vann also raised the possibility of adding a single skateboard apparatus that would serve young children to use one and two at a time.
- The idea of a vegetable garden was brought up, but Mr. Vann said the park was not large enough to accommodate one.
- The residents expressed the desire to maintain the “train” theme.
- One resident expressed favor for Plan B, at which point President Ritten noted the Board is looking into grant options to acquire the adjacent property.

RECESS: President Ritten called for a five minute break at the hour of 7:25 p.m.

RECONVENE: President Ritten reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Park District Commissioners present were, Jeff Kilrea, Lucy Stastny and Karen Boyd. Commissioner Ted Popernik was absent. Also present were Park Maintenance Supervisor Martin Healy and Executive Director Roy Cripe.

## 5. MEMORIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

President Ritten started by announcing the schedule of meetings regarding Yena Park, Hanseworth Park, Stone Monroe Park, and Robinhood Park previously set by the Board.

Monday, February 6, 2012 – Yena, Hanesworth, Robinhood and Stone Monroe Parks

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 – Special Interest Groups – All Parks

Monday, March 19, 2012 – Follow-up to February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2012 – Board considers adopting the Master Plan

Mr. Vann said that the only changes to the concepts discussed during the last meeting have taken place in the north part of the park. Again, two possible plans were presented.

Plan A “highlights” include:

- a. Keeping the play areas in their current locations
- b. Removing the gazebo and constructing an open air shelter with bathrooms
- c. Increasing the amount of turf buffer between the parking lot and current gazebo
- d. A spray pad with two nearby shade shelters
- e. Stone sitting walls

Plan B “highlights” include:

- a. Moving the aforementioned spray pad closer to the proposed shelter and relocating the playground
- b. Replacing multi-use game court with more green space around the proposed shelter and playground areas.

A question and answer session followed in which the following were addressed:

- Residents stated they really like the open air shelter idea because it would make the park more enjoyable to use year-round
- Mr. Vann said the water used in the proposed spray park would be recirculated through a filter and pumps like used in a swimming pool. He said that a spray pad adds to park maintenance and that the components of the spray pad are resistant to vandalism. Residents stated they like the spray pad farther from the shelter since the shelter will be used year-round but the spray pad will not
- An alternate path location near the sand volleyball courts was discussed. More study will be given to locating the path behind the sitting wall.
- Relocating the basketball standard in a back-to-back configuration was suggested.
- There are numerous ADA issues to address to meet current federal guidelines.
- Several residents liked the idea of moving the sidewalk along La Grange Road to proceed through the park because it is safer and gives bike riders and pedestrians a better view of the park.
- President Ritten said that the large honey locust trees located in the middle of the “picnic area” have very large needles and might have to be removed.
- Mr. Vann suggested including a bocce ball court and/or permanent “bags” area.

- A resident thanked both the Board and Mr. Vann for the methodical approach to the Master Plan

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Boyd made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kilrea to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote. Commissioner Popernik was absent.