MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT of La GRANGE PARK

1501 BARNSDALE ROAD, La GRANGE PARK, ILLINOIS

August 8, 2022 - 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Stastny called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Recreation Center,1501 Barnsdale Road, La Grange Park, IL. Present were Commissioners Corte, Zuck and Ogden. Also present were Executive Director Jessica Cannaday, Financial Coordinator Phil Mesi, and Interim Superintendent of Recreation, Zak Kerby. Laura Raimondi was present to record the minutes.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Park District Mission: The Community Park District of La Grange Park shall offer high quality, affordable and accessible park and recreation facilities, programs and services in a financially responsible manner.
3. Open Forum  
   Ten individuals were present for open forum.

Tara Remiasz of Forest Rd. in La Grange Park reiterated her concerns regarding a proposed dog park in Robinhood Park that she had communicated via email to the Commissioner on May 19, 2022. Concerns include increase noise, traffic, proximity to homes, property values, liability, sanitation, loss of the tennis court, better options, and sited issues at the Hinsdale Dog Park.

John Levickas of Forest Road stated that Robinhood was a small park, much too small for a skate park and a dog park. He stated that parking will be an issue and that since he sometimes works from home, he feels the noise from a dog park would be disruptive. Mr. Levickas said that his back yard already floods, and that a skate park made of concrete would exacerbate the issue. He stated that just because he doesn’t participate in park district programs and events, and that the park district doesn’t have his email on file, he shouldn’t not be notified of upcoming projects and proposals. He feels that there was a lack of information available regarding the master plan process.

Christine Boyde stated that she is a 20-year resident of La Grange Park. She expressed her appreciation for the board’s volunteerism. She said that she is disappointed that the park district did not directly reach out to her regarding the potential addition of a dog park in Robinhood and she does not want a dog park next to her home. She also stated that the alley adjacent to Robinhood is a disaster and that snow removal is hit or miss.

Kathy Johnson of East 36th Street said she just found out about the plan yesterday and does not know how others found out about the plan. She appreciates the fact that the board is looking to improve the parks but wants to know why a dog area is being proposed at Robinhood. She said a dog park is a good idea, just not at Robinhood.

Lexi Mejia stated that she, Kristine, and Kathy all live in the same townhouse. She said that dogs in the park present a safety issue and that she is very concerned about the addition of a dog area, especially since she is expecting. She thanked the board for their time.

1. Approval of the August 8, 2022 Agenda   
   Commissioner Ogden made a motion to approve the August 8, 2022 Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Corte. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Absent: Commissioner Ronovsky.
2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
   1. July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes  
      Commissioner Zuck made a motion to approve the July 11, 2022 Regular meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ogden. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Absent: Commissioner Ronovsky.
   2. July 11, 2022 Executive Meeting Minutes  
      Commissioner Corte made a motion to approve the July 11, 2022 Executive Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Zuck. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Absent: Commissioner Ronovsky.
3. Communications/Proclamations/Presentations  
   a. Presentation of the Final Draft of the Comprehensive Master Plan – JSD. Lori Vierow of JSD presented the final master plan and reviewed changes that were requested by the board and staff. She presented a brief overview of the OSLAD Grant Application process.
4. Staff Recognition

Executive Director Cannaday announced that the new Recreation Manager, Jacqueline Newton’s first day was Monday, August 8.

1. Staff Reports
   1. Executive Report – Executive Director Cannaday presented her report. Questions were asked and answered.
   2. Marketing and Operations Report – The Marketing and Operations Report was presented. Commissioner Stastny made recommendations for musicians for the 2023 Music Under the Stars line-up and Commissioner Zuck stated she’d love to see a plant swap in the fall.
   3. Recreation Report – Interim Superintendent of Recreation, Zak Kerby presented his report. Questions were asked and answered.
   4. Parks Report – The parks report was presented. Questions were asked and answered.
   5. Financial Consultant – Financial Consultant, Phil Mesi stated that the district’s finances were favorable and that he and Executive Director Cannaday will explore applying for Cook County’s Bridge Loan.
2. Approve Monthly Disbursements

Commissioner Ogden made a motion to approve the monthly disbursements in the amount of $137,877.62, seconded by Commissioner Zuck. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Absent: Commissioner Ronovsky.

1. Committee Reports
   1. Sustainability
      1. Arbor Advocates Update – Commissioner Zuck stated that they are exploring a potential tree walk in the fall and that the parks department has installed 400+ native plants in the parks this fall.
   2. Long Range Planning Committee
      1. Commissioner Stastny stated that the committee is still looking for an LGP resident interested in participating.
2. Unfinished Business
   1. Adoption of the 2022-2027 Comprehensive Master Plan

A motion to approve and adopt the 2022-2027 Comprehensive Master Plan was made by Commissioner Corte and seconded by Commissioner Ogden.

Commissioner Ogden stated that it is important to understand that the plan is a result of over a year of community outreach and planning and that the park plans presented are concepts that incorporate the amenities residents have asked for through the surveys, focus groups, and engagement meetings. He said that the survey notice with a link to the community survey was mailed to every household in La Grange Park in January. He reiterated that the park concepts are a launching pad and that no project will start without additional feedback, input meetings and support from the community. Commissioner Ogden said that no conceptual park design in the Master Plan is set in stone. President Stastny thanked him for the clarification.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0 by roll call vote. Absent: Commissioner Ronovsky.

1. New Business
   1. Surplus Property – Commissioner Corte made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 002-22 An Ordinance Declaring Surplus Personal Property and Authorizing the Conveyance or Sale Thereof. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zuck and passed unanimously 4-0 by roll call vote. Absent: Commissioner Ronovsky.
   2. Part Time Benefits – Executive Director Cannaday presented modifications to part time benefits.
   3. SEASPAR Fund Budget Amendment – Executive Director Cannaday stated that there may be need for a budget amendment for the Special Recreation Fund with the addition of the permanent part time inclusion aide.
   4. JSD Grant Proposal – Lori Vierow from JSD presented the Grant Writing and Professional Consulting Services proposal to complete the OSLAD Grant Proposal to provide additional funding for improvements at Yena Park. Ms. Vierow stated that the proposal includes taking the conceptual plan from the Master Plan and soliciting feedback from La Grange Park residents to refine the plan. After additional engagement meetings and exercises, she said that JSD would finalize the plan and complete the OSLAD Application. According to Ms. Vierow, initial estimates for park improvements are between $800,000 and $1.2 million. OSLAD matching grant funding is a maximum of $600,000. The board discussed how receiving grant funding would allow them to complete updates to both Yena and Beach Oak Park. Ms. Vierow commented that the likelihood of receiving grant funding is better at Yena since it is a larger park with more amenities. If the park district received the grant, they would move to construction documents and begin bidding the project. President Stastny asked what would happen if grant funding was frozen again. Ms. Vierow said while very unlikely, based on history, anything can happen. If the grant is not received, the park district could work to further refine plans for Beach Oak and Yena Parks to fit within the allocated funding and address needs at both locations. Ms. Vierow also stated that if the park district doesn’t need JSD to present at a board meeting or at the capital, the fees will be reduced.

Commissioner Zuck made a motion to accept the grant writing proposal from JSD in the amount of $19,500, seconded by Commissioner Corte. The motion passed unanimously 4-0 by roll call vote. Absent: Commissioner Ronovsky.

1. Adjourn to Executive Session – There was no executive session
2. Reconvene Open Session
3. Potential Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session
4. Next Regular Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2022, 6:30pm
5. Adjournment  
   at 7:35pm, Commissioner Ogden made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Corte. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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Secretary

Approved September 12, 2022