

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Highlights July 14, 2020



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Glen Ellyn patron submitted an inquiry and request to allow for Drone use within the Glen Ellyn Park District property. Executive Director Harris read his request and stated that he would be taking his inquiry under advisement and working on permitting details.

CO-OP PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Project Manager Troia stated that Co-Op Park was last replaced in 1996 and is identified within the Playground Replacement plan to be upgraded in 2021. Although budgeted for 2021, he discussed the funding opportunity that was granted to the District on behalf of Gametime and an IPRA/IPRF statewide initiative that requires the District to act on in 2020. Troia stated that the District received a grant of up to \$40,000 which will relieve the District of 50% of the total cost of the playground equipment.

Troia reviewed that staff held a neighborhood meeting to gather feedback and input on the proposed design and share equipment ideas along with the grant opportunity. Troia reminded the Park Board that the current property is part Park District and part Village of Glen Ellyn with the current playground being situated on Village Property. While initial thoughts were to possibly relocate the playground to a different location within the lot and entirely on Park District property, the District received unanimous feedback from the neighbors stating they would prefer the playground to remain in its existing position.

Director Harris then provided the public comments that were submitted from various neighbors of Co-Op Park reflecting their desire to have the playground remain in its current location. Several reasons including preservation of open space within the Park for other recreational activities, stormwater management and to allow for additional shade that is provided in its current location were presented.

Following these comments, Director Harris stated that staff is appreciative of the constructive feedback and supportive of the current location and similar footprint for the playground. Harris stated the District has reached out to confirm the Village will continue to allow. The Park Board then had a brief discussion and authorized the purchase of the Co-Op playground equipment for \$37,565.64 from Gametime c/o Cunningham Recreation through the Cooperative Purchase.

GLEN ELLYN PARK DISTRICT 2020 BUDGET UPDATE

Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani discussed that at the June 16th Board meeting staff was directed to provide a revised 2020 budget reflecting the financial impact that COVID-19 has had on the Park District. This included forecasting their programs and facilities under the assumption that the District would remain in Phase 4 for the remainder of 2020.

Cinquegrani highlighted various areas of the budgets and the financial impact that has occurred. Cinquegrani reviewed the Administrative sector of the budget discussing property tax receipts, personal property replacement taxes, staffing, employment and unemployment expenses as well as the reduction in registration fees.

Cinquegrani then briefed the Park Board on the loss of revenue due to the cancellation of many spring athletic leagues, Glenbard West and South camps, and general recreational programs that were refunded including the preschool program.

All facilities have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center facility financials were discussed as well as Boathouse rentals. Financials of other facilities were also shared; Main Street Recreation Center, Maryknoll Clubhouse, Platform Tennis, Splash Pad, Spring Avenue Recreation Center and Sunset Pool. Staff presented the losses from the COVID-19 impact as well as some income and savings that have been generated during this time. Projected revenues of the programs that should occur assuming the Park District continues in Phase 4 were provided.

Lastly, Cinquegrani discussed Capital Projects and provided the revenue projections that decreased as well as total expenses that have decreased from the deferral of many Capital Projects. Cinquegrani summarized that financially the Park District continues to be able to meet its current operating needs assuming the State of Illinois remains in Phase 4 of the re-opening.

Executive Director Harris added that 60% of the Districts revenues come from user fees with the Park District representing only 4% of the total tax levy. The District is the lowest park district levy amongst the DuPage County park districts and unlike many businesses including other governmental agencies and non-for-profits, the District is not eligible for stimulus funds or the Cares Act. It was stated that the District has refunded or credited nearly \$1.2 million dollars, reduced full-time staff by 27%, furloughed over 100 part-time staff, deferred or cancelled \$1 million in capital improvements and has still provided services and benefits to the community. The Park Board held a discussion of the financials and thanked staff for their efforts and innovative ideas during this challenging time and for engaging and being stewards for the community.

RESOLUTION 20-02 “A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Project”.

Project Manager Troia stated that in the Spring of 2020 the Park District applied for grant funding to assist with natural area improvements at Maryknoll Park in 2020 through the ComEd Green Region Program. The District has already appropriated funds in the 2020 budget to cover the costs of this project which include two key locations at Maryknoll Park in which to add pollinator enhancements.

The District was recently awarded the grant and as a part of the grant requirement, the District must approve a “Resolution of Authorization” committing to the specific matching fund amount and that the District must comply with the conditions, terms and regulations of the program.

Following a brief discussion, the Park Board approved the presented “Resolution of Authorization” specific to the ComEd Green Region Program grant for improvements to Maryknoll Park.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) DISTRICT UPDATE

Superintendent of Recreation Esposito stated that in accordance with the State of Illinois' Restore Illinois Plan, staff has expanded programming, amenities and services allowed under Phase 4: Revitalization. Esposito then discussed various sectors of the Park District and reviewed the expanded programs and services.

Esposito stated Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center reopened on July, 6th with distanced equipment and a limit of 50 users in the center at a time. Esposito reviewed the current updates to ASFC during this time to maintain social distancing and said usage has increased and classes have been well attended.

With the new guidelines Holes & Knolls are now allowed to host up to 50 people and are using a reservation system with approximately 4200 rounds to date registered. Other activities at Maryknoll Park include the reopening of the splash pad on July 11th utilizing a reservation system that allows up to 50 patrons to attend a 1.5-hour session. Staff monitors activity and sanitation and cleaning takes place between sessions.

The Main Street Recreation Center remains closed to the public but hosts Camp Caravan and Cruisin Adventure camp Monday through Friday with two full time staff on site. The Spring Avenue Recreation center has opened the front desk for in-person customer service and the fitness center is open utilizing a reservation system.

Esposito stated the Boathouse will host some rentals during July adhering to Phase 4 criteria which includes gatherings of 50 or less with physical distancing and face requirements if that cannot be met.

Esposito then discussed the various recreation programs which are currently occurring in the District including Camp Caravan, Cruisin' Adventure Camp, Safety Village Camp and Imagination Station. Esposito said preschool camps were not being offered as staff prioritizes for the Fall Preschool program.

Lastly, Esposito stated under the new guidelines for Phase 4, competitive gameplay and tournaments are now permitted with a capacity limit of no more than 50% facility capacity and 20% seating capacity for spectators for indoor use. Group sizes are limited to 50 with multiple groups allowed if appropriate social distancing can occur between groups. Esposito then discussed the various athletic programs that are being offered; Fall house baseball and softball, travel baseball and softball, various sport camps, Lakers and Midwest Summer training sessions, Glenbard West and South sport camps, and many tennis programs. Esposito also said with the Phase 4 guidelines other amenities to the District have opened including Platform Tennis Courts and hut, all playgrounds and basketball courts, outdoor restrooms, synthetic turf fields are open to groups of 50 or less and all baseball fields.

The Park Board commended staff on their work in bringing these programs to the community during this time.