

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
July 14, 2020
185 Spring Avenue**

I. Call to Order

Board Secretary, Kimberly Dikker, announced that all Commissioners were participating in the July 14, 2020 Regular meeting remotely via Zoom and all verified that they were able to hear the discussion clearly. President Ward then called the remote Zoom meeting to order at 7:07p.m.

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Upon roll call, those answering present were Commissioners Stortz, Durham, Bischoff, and President Ward. Commissioner Nephew arrived at the Zoom meeting at 7:14p.m. and Commissioner Cornell at 8:17p.m. Commissioner Weber was absent.

Staff members attending via Zoom but located at the Spring Avenue Recreation Center were Executive Director Harris, Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani, Parks Project Manager Troia, and Superintendent of Recreation Esposito. Executive Assistant/Board Secretary Dikker was participating remotely.

Guests in attendance included Don St. Clair of the Citizens' Finance Committee and community members Chuck Price, Nowell Arnold, Drew Arnold, Rachna Chaudhari, Robert Rosecrans, Jeff Dometita, Lorna VanTiem and Farah Ghouse.

III. Changes to the Agenda

Executive Director Harris stated that New Business would be discussed first to accommodate the public participants that are attending the meeting many of whom have submitted comments regarding Co-Op Park. One item was added to the agenda under New Business, Resolution 20-02 "A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Project" as it is time sensitive.

IV. Public Participation

Chuck Price, 791 Fairview Ave. in Glen Ellyn, 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.

V. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Nephew moved, seconded by Commissioner Stortz, to approve the Consent Agenda including the Voucher List of Bills totaling \$221,682.21 and the minutes from the June 16, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Nephew, Stortz, Durham, Bischoff, and President

Ward
Nay: None

Motion Carried.

VI. New Business

A. Co-op Park Playground Equipment Purchase

Executive Director Harris welcomed those in attendance at tonight's meeting that are here to listen to discussion of the Co-Op Park Playground equipment purchase and some of whom have submitted comments regarding the proposed improvements.

Project Manager Troia stated that Co-Op Park playground equipment was last replaced in 1996 and is identified within the Playground Replacement plan and is scheduled to be upgraded in 2021. In advance of the project, a potential funding opportunity for 50% of the playground equipment became available. After applying, the District on behalf of Gametime and an IPRA/IPRF statewide initiative, was awarded the grant. One requirement was that the District purchase the equipment in 2020. The grant was for up to \$40,000 which will relieve the District of 50% of the total cost of the playground equipment.

As part of the planning process, the District recently engaged the community by hosting a neighborhood meeting to gather feedback and input on the proposed design and share the equipment ideas along with the grant opportunity. Troia reminded the Park Board that the current property is part Park District and Village of Glen Ellyn with the current playground being located on Village property. While initial thoughts were to possibly relocate the playground to a different location within the lot, closer to the road and entirely on Park District property, the District received much feedback. The neighbors unanimously preferred maintaining the playground in its existing location due to several reasons including shade, preservation of open space and stormwater management.

Commissioner Stortz moved, seconded by Commissioner Bischoff to authorize the purchase of the Co-Op playground equipment for \$37,565.64 from Gametime c/o Cunningham Recreation through the Cooperative Purchase.

Director Harris then provided public comments that were submitted from various neighbors of Co-Op Park:

Rachna Chaudhari, 525 Wilson Ave. in Glen Ellyn stated that while supportive of the playground she is concerned that if moved there would be flooding issues and adverse effects to the homes. She stated the open space is used for sports and picnics and the surrounding mature trees provide shade for the current playground location.

Saif Ghouse, 90 S. Parkside in Glen Ellyn is concerned of the aesthetic view from his property. He stated that the grass area serves as storm water retention and is used for planned and unplanned leisure activities. He would like to see the playground remain in the same location and at the same size.

Farah Ghouse, 90 S. Parkside in Glen Ellyn stated she attended the public meeting and is excited as the kids will benefit from the new playground. Ms. Ghouse said her backyard faces the field of the playground and it is used for many activities, it is a wetland and would like the playground to remain in its current location to allow for maximum usage of Co-Op Park. She thanked the District for hosting the residents' input.

Avinash Mehandra, 525 Wilson Ave. in Glen Ellyn lives by Co-Op Park and is concerned if the location of the playground is moved. They prefer the open space, ability to have multiple groups and said it serves as a water retention area. The current location also provides shade for the playground.

Following these comments, Director Harris stated that staff is appreciative of the constructive feedback, supportive with the current location and agrees with maintaining a similar footprint for the playground. As mentioned previously, the playground is on Village property and the District has reached out to confirm the Village will continue to allow.

The Park Board then discussed Co-Op Park inquiring on the installation costs, financial impact, and were pleased that staff holds neighborhood meetings to gather feedback. Following discussion, the motion was restated that Commissioner Stortz moved, seconded by Commissioner Bischoff to authorize the purchase of the Co-Op Park playground equipment for \$37,565.64 from Gametime c/o Cunningham Recreation through the Cooperative Purchase.

Roll Call: *Aye:* *Commissioners Stortz, Bischoff, Nephew, Durham, and President Ward*
 Nay: *None*

Motion Carried.

B. 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. The updated budget included forecasting 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. Property tax receipts that were received have come in \$90,000 higher than budget. Staffing was also addressed as two vacant full-time positions will not be filled in 2020 and there has been a reduced amount of seasonal and part time staff. Other employment expenses that resulted in savings were addressed as well as the reduction in registration fees which were approximately \$70,000.

Cinquegrani then addressed the impact on various programs within the District; cancellation of spring sport leagues, Glenbard West and South camps, general recreation sessions along with the Preschool program. All of which negatively impacted revenue.

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. In summary, the Park District financially continues to be able to meet its current operating needs assuming the State of Illinois remains in Phase 4 of the re-opening. Staff will be reaching out to the Citizens' Finance Committee for further review and recommends a 'Strategic Planning Meeting' with the Board to discuss the long-range capital projects for the District. Cinquegrani also stated that while normally our budget planning process starts soon the District is going to delay planning until September to allow for more insight into the current situation.

Executive Director Harris added that 60% of the District's 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. Unlike many businesses including other governmental agencies and non-for-profits, the District is not eligible for stimulus funds or the Cares Act. We have refunded or credited nearly \$1.2 million dollars, reduced full-time staff by 16% to 27 employees, furloughed over 100 part-time staff, deferred or cancelled \$1+ million in capital improvements and still continued to provide services and benefits to the community. In addition to recreational programs, parks and facilities, those efforts also included supporting downtown restaurants, local private fitness providers, and staging food drives and blood drives. The Park Board followed with comments including President Ward stating that many in the community probably do not realize that a large portion of revenues comes from user fees. Ward and Stortz commended staff on all they have done during this time. Commissioner Nephew stated that while disappointed that programs could not occur, she is pleased that the District with its financial discipline has been able to weather this challenging time and commended staff for their innovative ideas. Commissioner Bischoff concluded in saying he has great pride in the District for being stewards in their community.

C. 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 where pollinator enhancements will be implemented.

The District was recently awarded the grant and as a part of the 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 Board discussion Commissioner Nephew motioned, seconded by Commissioner Stortz to approve the presented “Resolution of Authorization” specific to the ComEd Green Region Program grant for improvements to Maryknoll Park.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Nephew, Stortz, Cornell, Durham, Bischoff, and President Ward
Nay: None

VII. Unfinished Business

A. 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 stated the facility has experienced increased usage and group fitness classes continue to be well attended. The newly installed outdoor fitness area is being utilized daily by the personal trainers as well as the public. Cardio equipment has been spread throughout the facility to maintain social distancing, camps have been expanded and the WDSRA Rec n Roll program will return on July 20th.

Holes & Knolls reopened during Phase 3 and now under the new guidelines up to 50 people are now allowed within the course(s) and facility at a given time. The reservation system has worked well, and rounds have been steady with approximately 4200 totals to date.

The splash pad reopened on July 11th with a new reservation system in place set up to allow 50 patrons to attend 1.5-hour sessions. Sanitation and cleaning takes place between sessions and staff is staged to monitor activity.

The Main Street Recreation Center remains closed to the general public but hosts Camp Caravan and Cruisin Adventure camp Monday through Friday with two full time staff on site providing oversight. Anima continues to utilize their office space. 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.

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 currently occurring. Camp Caravan has had great success and parents have been very appreciative. Cruisin Adventure Camp has replaced the previous Turf n Surf Camp and has been very well received with registration filling up in 20 minutes. Other camps include Safety Village at Spring Avenue Recreation Center and Imagination Station at Newton Park. Various other general recreation camps have occurred as well. Preschool Camps have not been offered as staff prioritizes and plans 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 could 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 all 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.

VIII. Staff Reports

Executive Director Harris thanked Nowell Arnold and his son Drew for attending the meeting stating that Drew was working to earn his Boy Scout Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

Harris then recognized that this was Superintendent of Recreation Esposito's last Board Meeting. Harris said they would bring Esposito back for a proper recognition at a later date. Harris provided that Esposito has been in the Parks and Recreation field for 40 years with 26 years served at the Glen Ellyn Park District. She worked for the Village of Villa Park, Hazel Crest Park District for a short term and then worked within the Chicago Park District prior to coming to Glen Ellyn in 1994. She was a tremendous asset for the District as her efforts over the years are displayed in the outstanding recreation programs, the tremendous athletic offerings, and the many improvements to the District during her years. Those include renovation of MSRC, improvements and expansion to Sunset Pool, acquisition and development of Maryknoll Park, acquisition and renovation of SARC, planning, construction, and operation of ASFC, Newton Park and Village green improvements and finally, Ackerman Park renovation. Throughout, Kathleen was a respected representative of the District and always positive and optimistic. While we wish her well, she will be missed.

Esposito discussed the many changes and achievements over the years and how recreation and athletics have changed during this time. She stated she will miss the many events, staff and community members she was blessed to meet and work with over the years but looks forward to her next adventure in retirement.

IX. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Durham thanked Superintendent of Finance and Personnel Cinquegrani for his work and staffs on providing updated numbers to the 2020 Budget. Durham then stated that Superintendent Esposito would be missed and appreciated her hard work over the years. Commissioner Nephew is enjoying the outdoor fitness classes at Ackerman and says her kids love the tennis program. She wishes Esposito much success in her next venture. Commissioner Stortz commended staff as his family recently visited Holes and Knolls and a son attended a birthday party at ASFC. Stortz stated Esposito has always shown such positivity over the years in engaging with the community. Commissioner Bischoff appreciates the dialogue and updates to the 2020 Budget. He has enjoyed working with Esposito on a few projects and thanked her for her service over the years. Commissioner Cornell stated Esposito has been a wonderful liaison with the community and is sad to see her leave but wishes her much happiness.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Bischoff moved, seconded by Commissioner Durham to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Bischoff, Durham, Cornell, Stortz, Nephew, and President Ward
Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary