

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2016
185 Spring Avenue**

I. Call to Order

President Kinzler called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Upon roll call, those answering present were Commissioners Creech, Nephew, Weber, Wilson and President Kinzler. Commissioner Pierce arrived at 7:10 p.m. and Commissioner Cornell arrived at 7:22 p.m.

Staff members present were Executive Director Harris, Superintendent of Recreation Esposito, Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani, and Superintendent of Parks & Planning Hopkins, Marketing & Communications Supervisor O’Kray and Executive Assistant Dikker.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

President Kinzler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Changes to the Agenda

None.

V. Public Participation

None.

VI. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Nephew, to approve the Consent Agenda including the Voucher List of Bills totaling \$483,032.77 and the November 15, 2016 Regular Meeting minutes.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Creech, Nephew, Weber, Wilson, and President Kinzler
Nay: None.*

Motion Carried.

VII. Public Hearing for the 2017 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance

President Kinzler opened the public hearing for the 2017 budget and appropriation ordinance. Members of the public spoke in regards to the item of athletic field lights at Upper Newton Park.

Chuck Rahill, 760 Fairview Ave. in Glen Ellyn stated that he would support the funds allocated funded for the lights at upper Newton Park to be directed to the funding of the proposed additional Platform Tennis Courts as he feels this is better for the community.

John Kenwood, 120 Exmoor Ave. in Glen Ellyn stated that he also would be in favor of the money being directed to Platform Tennis as opposed to the proposed lights project at Upper Newton Park field. Kenwood read from an email that he was going to send to the Park Board of Commissioners. Kenwood stated that in regards to the presentation that was given by the Neighborhood lights opposition group at the previous Park Board meeting in November he was pleased with the data and research the group provided discussing the lack of need for the athletic lights at upper Newton Park field. Kenwood said he does not believe the Park District has shown or proven the need for the proposed lights. He does not think the Park District understands the impact the artificial turf has had on the neighborhood surrounding Newton Park. Kenwood does not feel this is a wise investment and believes there are alternatives to be researched and utilized. Kenwood would like more data demonstrating the need for the lights from the various user groups and less innuendo. Kenwood stated that the lights at upper Newton field would not eliminate the use of Village Green for football practice. Kenwood would like to see more facts and data showing a need for lights as they are the ones most impacted by the lights and would like to see less innuendo from the Park District. He believes there are too many unknowns on the impact of the increased use of the Park and would like more time to be allotted for the Park District to analyze the issues and evaluate the solutions to those issues that have been put in place. Kenwood would like more time to improve the parking plan and analyze the enrollment issues of various sports and children overall within the District. He would like the District to not move forward with the lights project until this data can be better analyzed as there is not a need to do this immediately and the business case is not financially responsible at this time. In closing Kenwood said he has a great admiration for the Park District and their dedication to the community but does hope the Park Board postpones this project until further analyzed.

Chuck Rahill, 760 Fairview Ave. in Glen Ellyn agreed with Kenwood. Rahill said safety is his number one concern and needs to be addressed before anything. He stated he has had property damage from vehicles and is wary of his children's safety in his yard due to Fairview traffic on the weekends. He is concerned of the drop-off on Fairview Avenue and does not understand why they do not utilize the parking lots. He is concerned of the darkness in the area and believes the safety concerns need to be addressed prior to voting on this project.

Bill Cesario, 357 Ridgewood in Glen Ellyn stated that he is in favor of the lights at Newton Park and feels it would be a positive for the Park. He sees the positive nature of expanding the use of the Park. Cesario believes coaching of parents is needed by the user groups to direct them of the proper places to park and would help eliminate the parking issues currently being experienced.

Tim Loch, 678 Fairview in Glen Ellyn expressed his opposition to the lights at Newton Park and feels that Newton Park is headed to become an athletic hub like Village Green or Ackerman

Park. He believes Newton does not have the buffer needed like those of Village Green or Ackerman to sustain that type of facility. He believes the traffic problem needs to be addressed before moving forward with this project.

Michael Ward, 164 N. Milton Ave. in Glen Ellyn lives on a cul de sac near Newton Park. He stated that although he would have liked more notice of the artificial turf project he was in favor of the project and believed it was a nice addition to the Park but regrets his decision due to the increase in traffic and congestion of the area. He stated the Park District was aware of the parking issues and needs to take care of those issues. As regards to scheduling or utilization of the fields, Ward believes the Park District is not utilizing the necessary tools to take advantage of its fields and does not understand how they can move forward on a project without exact data. He believes if the Park District cannot quantify the need he does not understand how the Park Board can appropriate the money for this project, especially with the existing safety issue at hand.

Kevin Cooke, 22W133 Sheffield Ct. in Glen Ellyn stated he is in favor of the lights and discussed the meeting from November and their reaction to directing their user groups to proper use of the parking facilities available. He believes this process has brought to light the issues at hand and the need for the user groups to help with the parking committee set in place to guide patrons and help with the parking and traffic issues. Cooke discussed the numbers of the Football programs and the past use at Village Green fields this past season. Cooke sees the necessity to mandate the users to adhere to the parking standards and be better neighbors.

John Farrell, 157 Nicoll Ave. in Glen Ellyn stated that he has three points to address. First he researched and stated that he does not feel there is a need for this project and does not see data to support this need. Farrell stated that secondly, this is a want and a very expensive want and does not see the fiscal responsibility in moving forward with this project. Lastly, he stated the largest issue is the safety of this project and he has seen this issue get progressively worse. He believes the District should defer this project until a plan is in place and the police commitment has been presented to alleviate the safety concerns.

Alex Durham, 151 Carleton Ave. in Glen Ellyn reiterated those who have spoken earlier in opposition to the lights. He would like to refer to the 2012 Community survey and stated that green space was the number one need of the community and youth football fields were at the bottom of the list. He stated that this does not appear to be a need and would like his tax dollars to be used for the best purpose and does not believe the lights at upper Newton field are the best purpose.

Ben Stortz, 150 Exmoor Ave. in Glen Ellyn thanked the Board and Executive Director Harris in this process. Stortz wanted to stress that there is no rush to proceed with this project as there is not an urgent need for this. He believes discussions of issues of this magnitude should be considered prior to engaging in this project. He believes safety should be a priority for this project and feels that Ackerman and Village Green are better options and offer better access. Stortz said the District needs to address the improvements first. Stortz would like a traffic study

to be done or be considered. Stortz was surprised to find declining enrollment in various sports utilizing the field and does not understand the need to rush into this project. He believes this is a want versus a need and feels we must better utilize our existing facilities and is concerned of the future of Newton Park. He would like the Board to delay this decision to address the concerns and evaluate the data to make an informed decision.

Following the public comments, Commissioner Weber moved, seconded by Commissioner Creech, to close the public hearing for the 2017 budget and appropriation ordinance.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Weber, Creech, Cornell, Pierce, Nephew, Wilson and President Kinzler.

Nay: None.

Motion Carried.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$4,160,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2016, of the Park District, for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof.

The President called the meeting to order and directed the Secretary to call the roll. Upon the roll being called, Jay Kinzler, the President, and the following Park Commissioners were physically present at said location.

The President announced that a proposal had been received from BOSCO, Inc., a division of BOK Financial Corp., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the purchase of \$4,070,000 non-referendum general obligation park bonds to be issued by the District pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Park District Code for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto and for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District, and that the Board of Park Commissioners would consider the adoption of an ordinance providing for the issue of said bonds and the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest thereon. The President also summarized the pertinent terms of said proposal and said bonds, including the length of maturity, rates of interest, purchase price and tax levy for said bonds.

Whereupon Park Commissioner Nephew presented and the Secretary read by title an ordinance as follows, a copy of which was provided to each Park Commissioner prior to said meeting and to everyone in attendance at said meeting who requested a copy.

Park Commissioner Nephew moved and Park Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion that said Ordinance as presented and read by title be adopted.

After a full discussion thereof, the President directed that the roll call be called for a vote upon the motion to adopt said Ordinance.

Upon roll being called, the following Park Commissioners voted AYE: Commissioners Nephew, Pierce, Cornell, Creech, Weber and Wilson.

The following Park Commissioners voted NAY: President Kinzler

Whereupon the President declared the motion carried and said ordinance adopted, approved and signed in the same in open meeting and directed the Secretary to record the same in full in the records of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Glen Ellyn Park District, DuPage County, Illinois, which was done.

B. Approval of the 2017 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance 16-03

Commissioner Nephew moved, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, to approve the 2017 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance.

Commissioner Cornell then made a subsidiary motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to remove the lights at upper Newton Park from the budget for discussion. The Board then discussed this project in detail. Commissioner Cornell recognizes that the lights would be beneficial to some user groups but is concerned of the safety issue and would like to see the improvements in safety be put in place prior to enacting this project. Commissioner Wilson stated she is against the lights as she believes they would greatly impact the neighborhood from a safety, traffic and overall character. Wilson spoke of Memorial Park and her stance against the turf and does not see the need. President Kinzler agreed safety is an issue and wants to address the safety concerns. Kinzler stated that the District would like to make facilities better and provide the best product gain the most use out of its facilities. Kinzler said his goal is to get greater use out of these facilities and to get better use of the turf field. Kinzler wants to represent the entire community. Commissioner Nephew encouraged Board members to discuss this item separately so that consensus of the budget can be supported.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Cornell, Wilson, Nephew, and Creech

Nay: Commissioners Pierce, Weber and President Kinzler

Motion Carried to remove Newton lights from the budget and for further discussion

Commissioner Kinzler then made a second subsidiary motion to remove the addition of another employee from the budget for further discussion, seconded by Commissioner Creech.

Commissioner Cornell stated it was worthy of a separate discussion.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Nephew, Pierce, Cornell, Nephew, Wilson and Nephew
Nay: Commissioners Weber*

Motion Carried to remove the addition of another employee from the budget and for further discussion

Commissioner Cornell then made a third subsidiary motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilson to remove the additional expenditure for platform tennis from the budget for further discussion. Commissioner Cornell felt this is an expensive item that serves a small amount of people and is not comfortable with this expenditure of taxpayer dollars. Commissioner Wilson shares the sentiment and wishes for those dollars to go towards something that benefits the entire community. President Kinzler stated he would share that sentiment if it was not for the fact of the significant amount of money the Club is contributing to this effort and the payback over the next five years from the users. Kinzler sees it as a valuable asset for the community.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Cornell, Wilson, Creech, and Nephew
Nay: Commissioners Pierce, Weber and President Kinzler*

Motion Carried to remove the expansion of platform tennis courts from the budget and for further discussion

The Board then returned to the original motion to approve the 2017 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance having removed the projects - the lights at upper Newton field, the addition of another full time employee and the expansion of the platform tennis courts all which will be discussed separately.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Pierce, Creech, Cornell, Nephew, Weber, Wilson and President Kinzler
Nay: None*

Motion Carried

Commissioner Creech then moved, seconded by Commissioner Weber, to reinstate the new full time recreation supervisor into the 2017 Budget.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Creech, Weber, Cornell, Pierce, Nephew, and Wilson
Nay: President Kinzler*

Motion Carried

Commissioner Weber then moved, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, to reinstate the Newton Park athletic lights into the 2017 Budget as originally presented.

Commissioner Nephew then moved to amend the motion to include accountability of the user groups and the District to address the concerns of the issues of the neighborhood of Newton Park. The Board expressed concerns with the amendment and its effect on the original motion.

After further discussion and confusion of the amendment, Commissioner Nephew withdrew her amendment.

Commissioner Weber then made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, to table the reinstatement of the athletic lights at Newton Park until later in the meeting to allow for discussion of addressing concerns of the athletic lights.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Weber, Pierce, Cornell, Creech, Wilson, Nephew and President Kinzler.

Nay: None

Motion Carried

Commissioner Nephew then made a motion, seconded by President Kinzler, that the Park District completes its due diligence and best effort to implement the rules that will improve safety and parking concerns as determined by the Newton field parking committee comprised of Newton Park neighbors, various user groups, and staff.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioner Nephew, President Kinzler, Commissioners Cornell, Pierce, Creech, Weber, and Wilson.

Nay: None

Motion Carried

Commissioner Nephew then made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Creech, to take from the table the motion reinstating Newton Park athletic lights into the 2017 Budget as originally presented.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioner Nephew, Creech, Pierce, Weber and President Kinzler

Nay: Commissioners Cornell and Wilson

Motion Carried

The Park Board then considered the original motion (motion by Commissioner Weber, second by Commissioner Pierce) to reinstate the Newton Park athletic lights into the 2017 Budget as originally presented.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioner Weber, Pierce, Creech, Nephew, and President Kinzler

Nay: Commissioners Cornell and Wilson

Motion Carried

Commissioner Pierce then moved, seconded by Commissioner Weber, to reinstate the expansion of the Platform Tennis courts to the 2017 Budget. Commissioner Creech stated she is now in support of this as she has seen the Glen Ellyn Platform Tennis Club increase their funding of the project and their effort for greater inclusion of play. Commissioner Nephew also stated her support as she has seen the importance of the sport to the adult community during the winter time and with the greater emphasis on time available for women and others in the

community to play. Commissioner Pierce stated that this expansion will allow for more people to play in the evening.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioner Pierce, Weber, Creech, Nephew, and President Kinzler
Nay: Commissioners Cornell and Wilson*

Motion Carried

Commissioner Pierce then moved, seconded by Commissioner Creech, to approve the 2017 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance 16-03 as previously presented and published in the December 13, 2016 Board Packet.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioner Pierce, Creech, Cornell, Nephew, Weber and President Kinzler
Nay: Commissioners Wilson*

Motion Carried

IX. Staff Reports

A. Finance Report

Superintendent of Finance and Personnel presented the December Finance Report.

Superintendent of Recreation Esposito stated that December was a busy month with the Polar Express, Breakfast with Santa and Santa visits with over 80 homes visited. There will be a safety village at night along with preschool parties coming up. Ackerman will be hosting a gymnastics tumbling meet this weekend as well. Executive Director Harris stated that the skating has been challenging with the snowfall but is hopeful it will be available at Newton Park soon.

X. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Weber stated that 12 members of the Weber family participated in the Turkey Trot and had a wonderful time as it is one of their favorite events. Commissioner Nephew stated her daughter won 1st prize for the best Gingerbread House modeled after a replica of Lake Ellyn Boathouse. Commissioner Pierce stated her children enjoyed sledding at Newton Park and hopes Ackerman is prepared for open gym next week during Winter Break from school. Commissioner Cornell thanked the volunteers and staff for their dedication and the Community for their support and wished Happy Holidays to all.

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Nephew to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:12 p.m.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Creech, Nephew, Cornell, Pierce, Weber, Wilson, and President Kinzler.
Nay: None.*

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary

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