Call to Order
President Taylor called the Workshop Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call of Commissioners
Upon roll call those answering present were Commissioners Hess, Aubrey, Jourdan, Minogue, Schoen and President Taylor.

Staff members present were Executive Director Atwell, Superintendent of Recreation Esposito, Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Woods, Executive Assistant Sesto and Superintendent of Parks Scarmardo.

Changes to the Agenda
None

Public Participation
Ms. Melissa Creech, 697 St. Charles Road, asked if the Park District would be using the newly acquired property along Lenox Road and the area to the north and west of Lenox Road for athletic fields.

President Taylor stated that decision had not been made but could be considered for recreation purposes in the future.

Ms. Creech said at the public information meeting held on April 10 it was asked if there were any current legal impairments that would prevent the project from going through and were there any liens, jurisdictions, stormwater or wetlands or easement disputes on the property. Three Park District representatives at that meeting said no. Ms. Creech asked why the public was told that there were not wetland disputes.

President Taylor commented that the wetland concern is related to building the facility in Ackerman Park and is not related to the stormwater project. If in fact the area is delineated as wetlands the issue would be related to the facility and not the stormwater project.

Ms. Connie Schmidt, 3 S 501 Landon Drive, Warrenville, was representing the Sierra Club and the River Prairie Group. The Sierra Club has stayed out of the situation until now because they have been hoping that the city of Glen Ellyn and the Park District would be able to come to a compromise that would please the citizens. She contacted the IEPA and they are aware the Sierra Club is concerned with what is going on in Glen Ellyn. She hoped there was some kind of a compromise that could be worked out so that everyone can work together.

Mr. David Creech, 697 St. Charles Road, said they have been told several times that the need for soccer fields is obvious and that there is no need for an independent usage study. He received the meeting minutes of the Glen Ellyn house and travel leagues for the past three years and the minutes make no mention of any need for new fields. He asked why the Park District is building the fields when the soccer boards don’t need them, the Park District hasn’t commissioned any usage study to demonstrate the need for them and the community has shown that they don’t support Ackerman woods for the fields.

President Taylor commented that it is an opportunity for the Park District to gain another field.
Ms. Marilyn Wiedeman, 373 Oak Street, questioned if the Board had asked the children affected by the soccer program which they would prefer, the woods or a soccer field.

Superintendent Esposito commented that the children had not been asked.

Ms. Wiedeman asked if the Park District told the Village during the planning process that it would require the removal of 342 trees.

Director Atwell commented that the Village hired the engineer to design where the fields would be placed.

Ms. Wiedeman questioned if knowing now that there are black walnuts in the woods makes the area more valuable and asked if Commissioner Minogue would like to comment on that.

Commissioner Minogue commented that she was not sure that black walnuts were protected trees.

Ms. Wiedeman questioned whether the Board had addressed the results of the eradication of habitat on the amount of animals that will be displaced, the lawsuits that might occur and whether money was being put aside for animal eradication or protection. Ms. Wiedeman also asked what the Board perceived to be the relationship between public input and preferences and their own process of decision making.

President Taylor commented that it is not an easy process to try and make decisions which they believe are benefitting the majority of residents of the community. When there are issues that are brought to them by the public it all goes into making that decision.

Ms. Wiedeman asked what the Board considered the responsibility of the Park District insofar as the preservation of the natural environment.

President Taylor commented that the Park District’s mission statement is to foster recreational opportunities and also mentions open space. The Park District does have facilities that are great examples of open space such as Lake Ellyn Park, Churchill Park, Gault Bird Sanctuary and Perry Nature Preserve. Those are examples of open space maintained by the Park District. It is a balance of that and recreational opportunities.

Commissioner Hess reminded the audience that they are in a formal Board session and operating under Roberts Rules of Order. The President is residing over the meeting and he felt questions directed to Board members was inappropriate unless redirected by the President of the Board.

Ms. Kathleen Gaiden, 934 Forest Avenue, said she would be directly affected by the project because the retention area that is just north of Walgreens was put there because her neighborhood was very flooded. She sat in on a Village meetings approximately 10 years ago when they were talking about developing the corner and one of the issues that came up was where was the water going to go. The Village agreed as a compromise to place a retention area on part of the lot to be developed. She strongly objected to the Village going back on its promise to keep the water out of her and her neighbor’s backyard.

Mr. Allen Gaiden, 934 Forest Avenue, said all the water that is going to run overland from the Walgreens complex to the retention pond is going to go through his property. That will degrade the value of his and his neighbor’s properties and he didn’t think that had been taken into consideration. He suggested considering other options such as cisterns.

President Taylor recommended Mr. Gaiden made his concerns known to the Village.
Ms. Barbara Aryo, 930 Forest Avenue, shared Mr. & Mrs. Gaiden’s concerns about the stormwater detention area that would be in Ackerman Park instead of where it is on Main Street. Her property becomes part of the stormwater detention area for the County and Village and she did not appreciate that.

Mr. Bruce Henrichson, 930 Forest Avenue, agreed with his wife Barbara and the Gaiden’s and wanted the Board to know that he objected to what is going on.

Ms. Katie Schnebeg, 1006 Thunderbird Lane, asked if there was any legal reason the Park District couldn’t form a new intergovernmental agreement with the Village that would protect Ackerman woods.

President Taylor commented that the Board was not being represented by legal counsel at the meeting so would not answer any legal questions. There is an agreement in place and there was a possibility things could be worked out. That was why the Board was taking all their comments into consideration.

Ms. Riley Cook, 20 Maryland Drive, was representing the Glenbard West Eco Club. The students care about what is going on and will ultimately be affected by the decision. A drainage project may be necessary but she didn’t think it would have to take up the entire woodland area and felt it was important that other alternatives were looked at. Ms. Cook thought the Park District needed to make the woods inviting so people can enjoy them. People have recommended picnic areas and paths.

President Taylor explained the decision of putting the soccer field at Ackerman was brought to the Board by the Village and does not take up the entire 18 acres of wooded area. The Park District has a plan to design paths through the area as well as overlooks and the planting of over 300 trees.

Ms. Marisa Charicki, 2448 Peppertree Court, said she was representing the next generation because it is her kids that will be living next. She would like to keep the place more beautiful and felt everyone should work together to work toward a new alternative.

Ms. Eleanor Saliamonas, 626 Newton Avenue, commented that the Park District has said that 77% of the trees in Ackerman woods are undesirable for street and parkway areas. She asked if it was the Park District’s policy to remove healthy trees from parks and forests because they are undesirable parkway trees. Ms. Saliamonas also asked how trees in a forest provide a maintenance liability issue.

Mr. Thomas Waters, 740 Grand, asked what the next step or decision was the Board needed to take on the project.

President Taylor said there is an agreement in place and they don’t need to take any further action.

Mr. Waters asked if one of the members of the Board would have to make a motion, and have it seconded by another member of the Board, to reconsider the intergovernmental agreement.

Director Atwell explained that if it was an agenda item on a Regular Meeting the Board could take a vote but not at a Workshop Meeting.

Mr. Waters asked how it would get on the agenda and President Taylor explained the Board could choose to place the issue on an agenda whether it be 2 weeks from now or the next Workshop Meeting in a month.

Ms. Jennifer Kenzler, 929 Newton, asked if the 200 trees would be planted all at one time or over time.

Superintendent Scarmardo explained that the plan is to plant 350 trees, shrubs and bushes over 10 years.
Ms. Kenzler stated the soccer numbers she has showed a decrease of 1% is soccer participation and asked how they could base a plan on needing another soccer field.

President Taylor commented that when someone goes to Ackerman on a Saturday they would see that every field is in full use. The Park District would like another field so they would have the opportunity to grow the program. Glenbard West also uses the fields as well as club teams.

Ms. Juliann Hephew, 628 Prairie Avenue, said her understanding was that anyone who uses Roberts Rules of Order can suspend the rules and bring up items that are not on the agenda and take a motion.

Director Atwell explained the Board could not do that during a Workshop Meeting.

Ms. Hephew asked who decides what goes on the agenda, when that decision is made, who proposes items for the agenda, and if members of the public could propose items for the agenda.

President Taylor explained that agenda items are decided in advance of the meeting and the agenda is published on the website and posted. Director Atwell and the Superintendents generally propose items for agenda. The public could phone or email to suggest an item for an agenda.

Ms. Hephew asked if members of the community could send a message asking that it be on the next agenda.

Ms. Sesto explained those messages would be given to the Board President as the Board makes the final decision as to what goes on the agenda.

Commissioner Hess commented that one thing Ms. Hephew needed to be cognizant of was they have a signed intergovernmental agreement with the Village for this project. It is a legal document and he felt some of the questions needed to be discussed with the Park District’s attorney as to what might be appropriate future actions.

Ms. Hephew commented that at the last Village meeting the board president indicated that although they wanted to revisit it and had not considered the removal of the trees ever, it was out of their hands because of the signed document and left it in the Park Board’s hands. It was portrayed to those who were at the Village meeting that the Village board has no control about it.

Commissioner Hess said he was at that meeting and it may have been inferred that it was up to the Park District to make a decision on the project but it is not their own jurisdiction. There is a joint agreement with the Village and there are many ramifications to that contract and a couple of them happen to be stormwater and the soccer fields at Ackerman. It is not as simple as the Board saying they want to do something different.

Ms. Cam Page, 206 Hill, said she attended the Village meeting and the Village board was asked if they were aware of all the trees were being taken down when the engineer submitted his plan. President Hase, Trustee Thorsell and Trustee Comerford all said they were not aware of that and would be willing to work out alternatives. Ms. Page suggested that instead of spending the $467,000 getting the water to Ackerman and building soccer fields, the Park District should let the Village fill the area with more water and take the $467,000 and build soccer fields somewhere else.

Mr. Carl Separini, 626 Hillside, said he sat through a couple meetings to get all the background on the issue and he had not seen conclusive proof for the need for fields. It is not backed by a true analysis and he would like to see that clarified somewhere with conclusive real data.
Mr. Gaiden commented that the property belongs to the Park District. The Board are trustees for the Park District. The people vote for them so they have to represent the people as trustees of the property that belongs to all of them and they are asking the Board to put it on the agenda for their next meeting and vote to reconsider.

Mr. David Creech said there was a previous intergovernmental agreement and it was voided between the Park District and the Village so they know it can be done. He asked if they could get a commitment from the Board to put the issue on the agenda for their next meeting to hold a vote on a resolution to discuss with the Village a way to change the agreement.

President Taylor said he could not commit to placing the issue on the agenda.

Commissioner Hess commented that he knew it was the desire of the people at the meeting to move the issue ahead and see the Board make a decision on it however, they have to check with counsel before they can make an educated decision, in a proper way, about putting it on the agenda or not and if it is on the agenda, whether they have the information to make a decision about it.

Commissioner Minogue commented that the Board had been exploring the issue all evening and residents always have the opportunity to come in front of the Board during Public Participation. There has been discussion at several meetings so the people cannot say the Board is not discussing or letting the people put the issue in front of them.

President Taylor commented that the Board has every right to say it is a done deal, the agreement is signed and going forward. The fact that they are debating the issue means they are considering it but he cannot guarantee it will be on the agenda in two weeks.

Ms. Janice Waters, 740 Grand, asked if there was a possible way for them to have a meeting with the Village in the same room. The people are being bounced back and forth and she suggested they all sit down and have a reasonable discussion with each other.

**EarthWerks, Inc. Pay Request #2 for Village Green Park Project**

Superintendent Scarmardo presented EarthWerks, Inc. pay request #2, in the amount of $60,584.40, for work completed on the Village Green project. He reported that the project is moving along expeditiously and taking shape very rapidly. Staff and LandTech Architects reviewed the pay request and found all documentation in order.

Staff recommended, and the Board agreed, to place formal approval of EarthWerks, Inc. pay request #2, in the amount of $60,584.40, on the May 20 Regular Meeting consent agenda for formal approval.

**2008 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance**

Superintendent Woods reminded the Board that the Park District will be converting to a calendar year budget effective January 1, 2009. The 2008 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance is based on a May 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 time period.

The Budget & Appropriation Ordinance reflects a recap of the discussions held by the Board regarding the tax levy, operating budget and capital budget projects and financing.

Superintendent Woods stated there was no money budgeted for that project.
A 30 day public inspection period must be allowed, followed by a public hearing prior to the Board adopting the Ordinance. The Ordinance will be available to the public as of Wednesday, May 7, 2008.

Staff recommended, and the Board agreed, to direct staff to schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 17, 2008. At the closing of the hearing the Budget & Appropriation can be approved by the Board.

Mr. Don St. Clair, 672 Pleasant, asked if there were any expenditures in the proposed Budget & Appropriation Ordinance related to the Ackerman woods project.

President Taylor said there was no money proposed in the Ordinance for that project.

**Matters from Staff**  
Superintendent Scarmardo reported the Park District has a new Border Collie and his name is Bob. Arizona had to be retired. When asked who Bob would be living with Superintendent Scarmardo said he would live with Parks Department staff member Paul Pitts.

**Matters from Commissioners**  
Commissioner Jourdan commented said he thought the fields at Ackerman and Village Green looked good and he was looking forward to a good season.

Commissioner Hess stated he had a couple people ask him if the Park District intended to rent horseshoes or boccie balls at Maryknoll to service those courts.

Superintendent Esposito said staff has them available for rent in the miniature golf course clubhouse.

Commissioner Minogue said she noticed there are gold fish in Lake Ellyn again.

**Adjourn to Executive Session**  
At 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Schoen moved, seconded by Commissioner Minogue, to convene into Executive Session under Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel for the District.  
**Roll Call:**  
**Aye:** Commissioners Schoen, Minogue, Jourdan, Aubrey, Hess and President Taylor  
**Nay:** None  
**Motion Carried**

**Reconvene the Workshop Meeting**  
The Workshop Meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

**Adjourn**  
There being no further business Commissioner Jourdan moved, seconded by Commissioner Aubrey, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting.  
**Motion Carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanine Sesto  
Board Secretary