Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
December 16, 2014
185 Spring Avenue

I. Call to Order
President Mayo called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Commissioners
Upon roll call, those answering present were Commissioners Pierce, Dunn, Nephew, Kinzler, Creech and President Mayo. Commissioner Cornell was absent.

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance
Commissioner Mayo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Changes to the Agenda
None.

V. Public Participation
None.

VI. Consent Agenda
Commissioner Dunn moved, seconded by Commissioner Kinzler, to approve the Consent Agenda including the Voucher List of Bills totaling $242,706.38, the November 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, the December 2, 2014 Workshop Meeting Minutes and the proposed 2015 Park Board Meeting Schedule.

Roll Call:  Aye: Commissioners Dunn, Kinzler, Pierce, Nephew, Creech, and President Mayo.
Nay: None.

Motion Carried.

VII. Public Hearing for the 2015 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance
President Mayo opened the public hearing for the 2015 budget and appropriation ordinance.

There being no comments from the public, Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Kinzler, to close the public hearing for the 2015 budget and appropriation ordinance.
Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Creech, Kinzler, Pierce, Dunn, Nephew and President Mayo.
Nay: None.

Motion Carried.

VIII. New Business
A. Ordinance 14-06 providing for the issue of approximately $4,355,000 of General Obligation Park Refunding Bonds, Series 2014, of the Glen Ellyn Park District, DuPage County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds

The Park Board President announced that the Board Park Commissioners would next consider the adoption of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of $4,355,000 of General Obligation Park Refunding Bonds of the District and for the levy of taxes to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds of the District.

Whereupon Park President Mayo 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 Kinzler moved and Park Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion that said ordinance as presented and read by title to 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 Kinzler, Pierce, Dunn, Nephew, Creech and President Mayo.

The following Park Commissioners voted NAY: None

Whereupon the President declared the motion carried and said ordinance adopted, approved and signed 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 Retaining Legal Counsel for Ackerman Roof Litigation
Executive Director Harris stated that recently, Park District attorney Ralph Kooy resigned from the law firm of Tressler LLP to become a partner at Dinsmore and Shohl LLP. Mr. Kooy has been representing the Glen Ellyn Park District in its ongoing litigation regarding the Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center roof since the outset of the litigation efforts beginning in 2011. As a result of Mr. Kooy’s effort, time and intimate knowledge with the ongoing litigation, staff recommends retaining Mr. Kooy as lead counsel representing the Glen Ellyn Park District while he is employed at the law firm of Dinsmore and Shohl LLP.
After a brief discussion, Commissioner Nephew moved, seconded by Commissioner Creech, to approve retaining Mr. Kooy as legal counsel for Ackerman Roof Litigation.

Roll Call:  
Aye:  Commissioners Nephew, Creech, Pierce, Dunn and President Mayo.  
Nay:  Commissioner Kinzler  

Motion Carried

IX. Unfinished Business
A. Approval of Purchasing the Newton Field Synthetic Turf Product through a Cooperative Purchase Program  
At the December 2, 2014 Park Board Workshop meeting, staff presented options for artificial turf surfacing at Newton Park. Staff researched numerous turf products and met with several qualified manufacturers including: Sprinturf, Field Turf, Astroturf, and Shaw. After much research, staff recommended purchasing the Field Turf-Classic HD product with the cryogenic crumb rubber infill stating that it would be the most versatile, longest lasting, and the best suited playing surface for Newton Park and its user groups. Additionally, staff recommended joining The Cooperative Purchasing Network. By purchasing the FieldTurf Classic HD product through the TCPN, it satisfies the formal bidding process and provides both a substantial cost and time savings, while ensuring the turf is a quality, safe product that will achieve maximum life. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the turf. The Board discussed the product and options associated with Turf.

Commissioner Pierce moved, seconded by Commissioner Dunn, to authorize the execution of the Purchase Agreement with FieldTurf for the supply and installation of the Newton Park artificial turf field for the amount not to exceed $364,000.00 pending attorney approval.

Roll Call:  
Aye:  Commissioners Pierce, Dunn, Nephew, Kinzler and President Mayo.  
Nay:  Commissioners Creech.  

Motion Carried

B. Approval of the 2015 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance  
Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani presented the revised version of the 2015 Combined Budget & Appropriation Ordinance that was presented and discussed at the December 2 Workshop Meeting. The Park Board had a brief discussion with staff regarding the ordinance.

Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, to approve Ordinance 14-05 “A combined annual budget and appropriation ordinance for the purposes of the Glen Ellyn Park District for the year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015.”

Roll Call:  
Aye:  Commissioners Creech, Pierce, Dunn, Nephew, and President Mayo.  
Nay:  Commissioner Kinzler.
X. Director’s Report
Executive Director Harris thanked staff for all of their work over the last week and weekend with the many Holiday events including the Polar Express, Breakfast with Santa, Visits with Santa. Harris also stated that the drainage improvements at lower Newton Park have been completed with all work being performed by Park District staff. Harris thanked staff and looks forward to the spring to see the outcome of the improvements made.

XI. Commissioner’s Report
Commissioner Pierce thanked staff for the holiday luncheon and for looking at other opportunities to the Park District’s tennis program. Commissioner Dunn provided a brief update from the Park District Environmental committee meeting. Commissioner Dunn stated that topics included plantings to increase Monarch butterfly habitats, increased use of LED lighting and the areas of natural vegetation including the successful burn that took place at Maryknoll Park. Commissioner Nephew thanked staff for the holiday luncheon as well and expressed her enjoyment with her family at Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center’s climbing wall. Commissioner Nephew also hoped everyone has a wonderful holiday. Commissioner Kinzler thanked staff for the entertaining holiday luncheon. Commissioner Creech was complimentary regarding the restoration work that was occurring at the Ackerman woods. President Mayo thanked staff for the holiday luncheon at Maryknoll and is looking forward to 2015 as it will be an ambitious and exciting year for the Park District. President Mayo read a statement regarding the Glen Ellyn Park District and that statement has been included at the end of the minutes for the December 16, 2014 Regular Meeting.

XII. Adjourn
There being no further business, Commissioner Dunn moved, seconded by Commissioner Nephew to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Harris
Board Secretary
With the end of another year approaching, I thought it might be worthwhile to take a few minutes to reflect on recent events at the Park District, and think about where we’re heading.

Based on the goals presented by staff and the capital projects planned, 2015 will be an ambitious and exciting year. I truly believe that this Park District provides an incredible value to our residents, and contributes greatly to the overall quality of life within our community. And of course when I say “we”, I am mostly referring to Dave and his fantastic staff who does the actual work, and all the volunteers who contribute their time and effort so freely to help make it all possible. We as Board members play a small yet integral part. I, for one, am proud of the role we all play in helping to make this the wonderful community that it is.

Lately, the District seems to have generated a fair amount of controversy, at least among a vocal few, largely because of the referendum and issues related to that. I have to say that I don’t really understand why giving our voters the opportunity to voice their opinion regarding an indoor aquatics center, which is really all the referendum did, was so controversial, but obviously it was for some people. While it was clear that the overwhelming majority of the community did not support a $13.5 million aquatic center, and I fully accept that outcome, I am concerned that some seem to view the result as a mandate that the Park District must reduce our spending and cut taxes, without regard to all the good work we do and the mission the Park District is responsible for fulfilling.

I come away from this experience believing that there are some community members who seem to think that our top priority should be to reduce taxes. Let me first say that I think reducing taxes is an admirable goal. I don’t know anybody who enjoys paying their Glen Ellyn property tax bill. However, before you can say the Park District’s tax levy should be reduced, you have to consider where the District is starting from. Coming up on 4 years now on this Board, and most of that also as Board liaison to our Citizen’s Finance Committee, I know for a fact that this Park District is already extremely efficient. We’ve taken several steps recently to make it even more so, including reducing headcount and expenses over the last 3 years. The budget we approved tonight reflects the fruits of those efforts. We have one of the lowest tax levies among Park Districts in Dupage County, and it will be THE lowest, THE LOWEST, by far, when the Ackerman construction debt is paid off in a few years. In spite of that, we have an outstanding Park District that is the envy of many other communities. Through good management, resourceful programming, and the efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteers, the District has balanced fiscal responsibility with meeting the high recreational standards expected by the Glen Ellyn community. We certainly want to continue to be fiscally responsible and to spend our taxpayers’ dollars wisely, and reduce taxes when and if we can, but I believe we were elected to at least maintain the level of services and facilities that the community expects. And where it makes sense, we also need to continue to enhance what we offer. Like everything else these days, if you are standing still while the rest of the world moves forward, you are really going backwards! If we were to simply strive to cut
taxes, without considering these other factors and the impact on the services we provide, we would NOT be leading in a way that is consistent with our mission, and NOT doing what I believe we were elected to do.

Just consider for a moment if previous Board members who sat in these chairs had made the reduction of taxes their #1 priority –

- There would be no ASFC. Now, were there mistakes made in building Ackerman? Yes, to be sure, some big mistakes. But the end result is the community now has a tremendous asset that has become a central gathering place providing healthy recreational opportunities, and it would be hard to find anyone today who thinks it shouldn’t have been built. The center now contributes over $250,000 every year to our operations, providing funding for other District programs while also diminishing our reliance on property taxes. When the bonds are paid off in 3 years, that money is pure profit for our taxpayers and will continue to be expended to support Ackerman and other components of the Park District.
- No Maryknoll – no mini-golf, no splash pad, no platform tennis. Thousands of Glen Ellyn residents would be going to neighboring towns to enjoy those activities. That property would have been developed, and that valuable open space would have most likely been gone forever.
- Village Green would either be a golf learning center or some undeveloped baseball fields. It certainly wouldn’t be the vibrant center for baseball and other recreational activities that we have today.
- Possibly no artificial turf at Memorial Field, if the Park District hadn’t agreed to contribute our fair share to benefit all the kids who use it.
- Churchill Park, Spring Avenue, Ackerman Park – there are lots of examples.
- And if you think about it, we probably would not even have Lake Ellyn Park and the Boathouse, if somebody 100 years ago had said: We can’t do that – it costs too much money.

Our community has these resources today because previous Boards had VISION! In each case, Board members at the time made a value judgment (sometimes with the help of a referendum, sometimes not; sometimes with a survey, sometimes not; and sometimes just with instinct and common sense) and they decided that these facilities and properties would enhance the community, and were worth investing community tax dollars. If their goal had simply been to reduce taxes, those things would not be here today and those opportunities lost forever.

I believe that this Board has an obligation, as elected representatives of our community, to continue to maintain AND ENHANCE our parks for future generations. You can bet that the communities around us are doing that, and I want Glen Ellyn to keep pace. I truly believe the majority in our community want that too.

Just something for you all to ponder as we head into the New Year...
I hope we keep moving forward!