Glen Ellyn Park District  
Board of Commissioners  
Workshop Meeting  
May 5, 2015  
185 Spring Avenue  

I. Call to Order  
President Mayo called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.  

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

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

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

IV. Changes to the Agenda  
None  

V. Public Participation  
None.  

VI. Voucher List of Bills Totaling $182,578.86  
Commissioner Dunn moved, seconded by Commissioner Creech, to approve the Voucher List of Bills totaling $182,578.86.  

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

Motion Carried.  

VII. Upper Newton Park Synthetic Turf Update  
Executive Director Harris presented a slideshow update to the Upper Newton Park Synthetic Turf project. Harris reviewed the process beginning with the existing athletic field conditions and needs, recommendations that were researched and presented, how the turf project came to fruition along with the financial aspect of the project. Director Harris then reviewed and
answered several questions that have been posed in the last several weeks. Following the presentation several members of the public spoke in regards to the project.

Nancy Perlman, 124 Exmoor Ave. in Glen Ellyn stated she was surprised about the project and questioned why neighbors were not notified earlier. She presented a petition signed by surrounding neighbors and members of Brookdale senior home (43 in total) stating that they are not in favor of the turf project and would like it suspended. Mrs. Perlman spoke of environmental concerns with the turf, asked for disclosure on funding and requested a second meeting for the public to discuss the project in more detail.

Matt Halkyard, 708 Hill Ave. in Glen Ellyn, representing the Glen Ellyn Bulldogs Lacrosse program, fully supports this project. He discussed the limitations for participation due to challenging weather conditions particularly in the spring and the increased demand for field availability for rectangular athletic fields. On behalf of the Bulldogs lacrosse, he endorses the project and the benefits it would bring to the people of this community.

Peter Simic, 603 Fairview Ave. in Glen Ellyn was upset that he was not notified prior to the project being approved. He believes the public should be able to participate in discussion and approval regarding large scale capital projects within Glen Ellyn.

Fred Bartucci, 170 Lowell Ave. in Glen Ellyn commented about the high rate of taxes he pays in Glen Ellyn.

Glen Biggus, 654 DuPage Blvd. in Glen Ellyn learned about the project in mid April and while he is appreciative of the posting of meeting minutes and other efforts to provide Park district information he would like would like more public discussion of environmental concerns related to the synthetic turf field. Mr. Biggus is worried about the impact of the synthetic turf on the surrounding neighbors and children over the course of the years and the environment.

Kevin Cooke, 852 Chancel Cr. in Glen Ellyn, representative of the Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles youth football, appreciated the past two year discussion of this project in an open forum along with all of the due diligence that the Glen Ellyn Park District has done regarding the turf project and in supporting the Golden Eagles program. Mr. Cooke appreciates that thorough research was done both environmentally, fiscally and that significant consideration was given before proceeding with this project. He further thanked the Board for their overall efforts, both personally and as a representative of the Golden Eagles Football program that is comprised of over 500 families within the community.

Mike Wilson, 716 Crescent Blvd. in Glen Ellyn believes this project needs more consideration and shared personal stories of health concerns. He believes this project is being rushed and worries about the materials being used and would like more research to be done regarding the environmental impact a turf field might have.
Rick Delapaz, 1766 Maple Ln. in Wheaton has been a coach for a variety of Glen Ellyn Park District athletic programs for several years and has known of the turf project for the last two years. While he has concerns, he has also reviewed facts and reports available and believes it will be a benefit to the Park District and residents and does not feel the risk is high enough to stop this project.

Al D’Ambrosio, 66 Stephanie Ln. in Glen Ellyn congratulated the newly elected commissioners and appreciates the time they dedicate and commit to the community. He believed the notice could have been provided earlier to the neighbors and hopes that communication improves in the future. He then stated that the community needs to take an active role. Mr. D’Ambrosio suggested that the Park District be more proactive in getting their information out to residents particularly those in close proximity of the various projects and that residents should become more proactive within their community.

Rod Molek, Assistant Superintendent for Glenbard District 87 thanked the Park District on behalf of the families of Glenbard West and Glenard South High Schools for partnering with District 87 on shared use of each other’s facilities and fields. He provided his experience with the District 87’s turf fields over the past years and has found that they have had fewer injuries due to better and more consistent playing surfaces. Mr. Molek stated Glenbard West held quarterly community meetings regarding Memorial Field shortly after the installation of turf and lights to ensure communication with the surrounding neighbors and now very few people attend due to their satisfaction with the facility. Mr. Molek concluded that District 87 is happy to partner with the Glen Ellyn Park District as it is mutually beneficial and looks forward to the completion of the project. If anybody had questions regarding District 87 turf fields, he would be happy to share information regarding their research and experience.

Bill Crosby, 305 N. Main St. in Glen Ellyn stated that he is a father of three and is excited about the turf field. He understands the neighbors concerns of not having notice but said he is a part of the group that will make use of this facility. Mr. Crosby discussed that turf is the best environment and condition for these sports and lacrosse is constantly seeking out turf fields to practice and play as the natural grass fields are often unplayable. Mr. Crosby said he is invested in the community and the various athletic programs and is fully supportive of the project.

Chris Wilson, 537 Phillips Ave. in Glen Ellyn identified that she is a newly elected Park District Board member yet to be officially seated, stated that she was opposed to synthetic turf at Memorial Field and is not in support of artificial turf in general because of health and environmental issues.

Dan Vlahos, 131 Park Blvd. in Glen Ellyn would like for children to have access to great facilities in the area but inquired if Ackerman Park was looked at as a site for the artificial turf as opposed to Newton Park as Ackerman is in less of a residential setting.

The Park Board of Commissioners then held a lengthy discussion.
Commissioner Cornell stated that she still personally has environmental concerns regarding turf but did say the Board chose a higher quality infill product and she understands the benefits to the community and the need and ability to have fields available for active kids.

Commissioner Pierce stated she is fully supportive of this project and commends the Park District for their planning and seeking funding through user fees and athletic team contributions. Commissioner Pierce discussed the need for residents to be active and involved in their community and that transparency is available to the patrons of the community.

Commissioner Dunn stated that he is in favor of the turf field and that it was thoroughly discussed. He stated the Park District did consider other locations as well as products including natural grass. Dunn discussed that citizens wanted a space to play club sports and the Park District thoroughly planned through their Intergovernmental Agreements and user fees and that this would not be a burden on taxpayers.

Commissioner Creech thanked all for coming out and discussed the transparency of the meetings and discussion and how they arrived at this point. Commissioner Creech stated that this is a good project with unique funding opportunities available. She would also like to see the existing natural fields improved particularly at Ackerman as she is not in favor of additional synthetic turf fields. She concluded by stating that halting this project would be a tremendous waste of financial resources.

Commissioner Kinzler stated he is in favor of this project and that the Park District spent considerable time making this a cost neutral project. He believes the benefits outweigh the risks and that ultimately each family should determine if they want to participate on a synthetic field.

Commissioner Nephew appreciated staffs work in this project and the diversity of this Park Board. She recognizes the need to balance the variety of wants and interests of the community and would not recommend halting this project. Commissioner Nephew would like to increase communication among citizens and increase their involvement while taking advantage of the newer technologies that are available as a source of transparency.

President Mayo stated that he is in favor of the project and that it is the Boards job to gather community input and do what they believe is in the overall best interest. Mayo respects that at times like these that this can be difficult for those who have a different opinion and that the Board considered all of the issues that have been raised within the public’s comments. He appreciated their concern for the lack of notice and will make sure that the Park District will continue and improve in their communication.

Following the meeting, an faq will be placed on the Park District website addressing issues and questions asked this evening and previously. The board consensus was to continue the project as previously approved.
VIII. Oath of Office

Oath of Office – Inauguration of Commissioners

Executive Assistant Dikker administered the Oath of Office for newly elected Commissioners Gary Mayo, Kathy Cornell, and Chris Wilson.

Following the Oath of Office, Commissioner Wilson took her seat on the panel and Commissioner Dunn departed from his position as Park Board Commissioner.

IX. Election of Officers

President

Commissioner Creech nominated Commissioner Nephew for the Office of President. Commissioner Kinzler seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Kinzler, to close the nominations. *Motion Carried.*

*Vote to elect Commissioner Nephew as President of the Board.*

*Roll Call:* Aye: Commissioners Creech, Kinzler, Cornell, Pierce, Wilson, Nephew, and Mayo.

Nay: None. *Motion Carried.*

Vice President

Commissioner Kinzler nominated Commissioner Creech for the Office of Vice President. Commissioner Cornell seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Kinzler moved, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, to close the nominations. *Motion Carried.*

*Vote to Elect Commissioner Creech as Vice President of the Board.*

*Roll Call:* Aye: Commissioner Kinzler, Cornell, Pierce, Wilson, Creech, Mayo and President Nephew.

Nay: None. *Motion Carried.*

Treasurer

Commissioner Creech nominated Commissioner Mayo for the Office of Treasurer. President Nephew seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by President Nephew, to close the nominations. *Motion Carried.*

*Vote to Elect Commissioner Mayo as Treasurer of the Board.*
Roll Call: Aye: Commissioner Creech, President Nephew, Commissioners Cornell, Pierce, Wilson, Mayo, and Kinzler. Nay: None.  

Motion Carried.

Executive Director
Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Kinzler to appoint Dave Harris as Executive Director.  

Motion Carried.

Board Secretary
Commissioner Mayo moved, seconded by Commissioner Creech, to appoint Kimberly Dikker as Board Secretary.  

Motion Carried.

WDSRA Representative
Commissioner Pierce moved, seconded by Commissioner Creech, to appoint Dave Harris as the WDSRA representative.  

Motion Carried.

Law Firm
Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kinzler, to appoint Ancel Glink as the Park District law firm.  

Motion Carried.

X. 2014 Audit Report/Presentation
Jamie Wilkey of Lauterbach & Amen presented the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Management letter. She stated the District did receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for last year’s audited financial statements. Ms. Wilkey then explained the report in detail and the Board had a brief discussion of the report.

XI. Monarch Butterfly Project
Glen Ellyn Park District Naturalist Renae Frigo discussed a recent Problem Based Learning (PBL) project that took place in the fall of 2014 with students at Ben Franklin School regarding the declining Monarch butterfly populations. As a result of the recommendations presented from the students, the Village of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn Park District and the Village of Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission (E.C.) collaborated in creating a community-wide project to save the monarch butterfly. Frigo then presented a slideshow discussing the decline of the monarch butterfly population and the strategies that will help their cause. Frigo stated that a Monarch summit was organized involving several community stakeholders and many ideas emerged to aid in the plight of the Monarch. Informational meetings were held at the Glen Ellyn Public Library and Ben Franklin students hosted a fundraiser selling milkweed seeds which in turn will
go towards the purchase of more milkweed seeds that will be planted within Glen Ellyn. Milkweed seeds are essential to the life of the Monarch Butterfly and will aid to increase their population. Demonstrative gardens will be planted within the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Park District as well as other Glen Ellyn agencies cross-promoting their efforts. Naturalist Frigo also discussed the marketing efforts of the Glen Ellyn Park District in creating awareness of the Monarch Butterfly including the new Trails & Trivia program being implemented as an interactive program to connect families to nature and involving the public in conservation stewardship and citizen science.

XII. Director’s Report
Executive Director Harris thanked Commissioner Kinzler for working with staff the past few Wednesdays. He stated that Commissioner Kinzler shadowed and worked with Parks crew for a day and he and President Nephew attended the mediation process regarding Ackerman Roof. Harris also thanked Commissioner Cornell and Creech for their time in meeting and discussing the Lake Ellyn Park and Boathouse Project. Director Harris expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Commissioner Mayo for serving as President of the Park Board this past year.

XIII. Commissioner’s Report
Commissioner Cornell enjoyed her all day workshop with staff and consultants regarding the Lake Ellyn Boathouse and Park improvement project. Commissioner Pierce inquired about alerting Lake Ellyn area residents about the upcoming project at Lake Ellyn. Commissioner Pierce also asked about a schedule for the upcoming Meet and Greets for the summer. Commissioner Mayo stated that the Earth Day celebration was a huge success and believes the Monarch Butterfly project is another example of our environmental efforts. Commissioner Kinzler enjoyed his time working with staff and was impressed with the many systems the Parks department had in place. Kinzler also thanked Commissioner Mayo for his time in office as President. Commissioner Wilson thanked everyone and is happy to be on the Park Board and appreciates allowing the people to express their viewpoints. President Nephew was pleased to see the Cardboard Boat Regatta listed in AAA magazine and commended staff for the publicity.

XIV. Adjourn to Executive Session
At 10:15 p.m Commissioner Kinzler moved, seconded by Commissioner Creech to convene into executive session under Section 2 (c) 11 of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussion of pending litigation, or probable and imminent litigation which shall be specifically identified in the Executive Session Minutes

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

Nay: None.

Motion Carried.

Commissioner Creech left at 10:15 p.m.

XV. Reconvene to Open Session
The Workshop Meeting reconvened at 10:50 p.m.

**XVI. Adjourn**
There being no further business, Commissioner Kinzler moved, seconded by Commissioner Cornell to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 10:51 p.m.

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

*Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary