

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 15, 2016
185 Spring Avenue**

I. Call to Order

President Kinzler called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Upon roll call, those answering present were Commissioners Nephew, Weber, Wilson and President Kinzler. Commissioner Pierce arrived at 7:07 p.m., Cornell arrived at 7:27 p.m. and Creech at 7:56 p.m.

Staff members present were Executive Director Harris, Superintendent of Recreation Esposito, Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani, 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

Executive Director Harris explained that agenda item VII.B , an 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, will be tabled to the next Regular Board Meeting on December 13, 2016. Harris explained that due to the recent market volatility the Bond issuance will take place at a later time. Harris stated that there is time available for this issuance and it would be best served to wait until a later date and possibly revisit this item at the Regular Board Meeting in December.

V. Public Participation

None.

VI. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Nephew moved, seconded by Commissioner Weber, to approve the Consent Agenda including the Voucher List of Bills totaling \$427,234.17 and the October 18, 2016 Regular Meeting minutes.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Nephew, Weber, Wilson, and President Kinzler

Nay: None.

Motion Carried.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Approve 2016 Tax Levy Ordinance 16-02

Commissioner Weber moved, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, to approve the 2016 Tax Levy (Ordinance 16-02).

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Weber, Pierce, Nephew, and Wilson

Nay: President Kinzler

Motion Carried

B. 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.

This item has been tabled per discussion in Changes to the Agenda.

C. 2017 Budget Discussion continued

Executive Director Harris recapped from the October 18, 2016 Regular Meeting that the last item under the Capital Projects to be discussed was the proposed athletic lights at the Upper Newton field at Newton Park. Superintendent Hopkins then provided a summary and gave specifics of the project. Harris then stated that a group of Newton Park neighbors would be giving a presentation supporting their opposition to the capital project of proposed lights at Newton Park. Those presenting included Ben Stortz, John Farrell and Katie Rahill.

Stortz thanked the Board for allowing the group to present and stated they were representing many people that were in attendance that night. Stortz stated this was a collaborative effort to show data that has been collected and consolidated to support the contention that lights are not needed. Stortz discussed the concerns of the residents; lights are not needed, costs are significant, infrastructure not supportive, increase in safety concerns, future development of the Park, evaluation of alternatives and the unwanted change in the character of the neighborhood. Stortz discussed the decreasing enrollment trends of various user groups while Farrell discussed the findings of recent FOIA reports regarding lights demand, field usage analysis, and specifics of the IGA between the Glen Ellyn Park District and District 87. Stortz then discussed the financials of the Park District, cost factors and possible alternatives to the lighting proposal. Katie Rahill then discussed the impact the possible lights at Newton Park Athletic field would have on the neighborhood. Rahill listed the impacts to be an increase in traffic and noise, the environmental impact and the change in character of the neighborhood. Farrell then discussed the safety and parking concerns in greater detail as well as information regarding the 2012 Community Interest & Opinion Survey. Stortz ended the presentation

urging the Board to consider the views presented before them and asking them to consider delaying this project if need be to first see if the parking and traffic concerns could be addressed before considering this project. The Board then opened the meeting for public comments.

Michael Ward, 164 Milton Ave of Glen Ellyn agreed with the concerns presented by the presentation.

Nick Del Giudice, 176 Grandview of Glen Ellyn spoke on behalf of youth baseball. He stated he lives within 2-3 blocks of the park and stated it is congested both day and night in the area. He coached fall baseball and now coaches a travel fall baseball league and now currently plays within Lombard and Wheaton properties. He discussed the restrictions on practice due to the lack of facilities and the conditions of the fields after football has practiced on the fields. He does not believe it makes sense to cross train different sports on fields as it will cost more money in the end in repairs to fields.

Richard Kujawa, 740 Fairview Ave. in Glen Ellyn stated that he was new to Glen Ellyn and inquired about lights at Glenbard West, living locations of Commissioners and asked who on the Board wants the lights. He does not believe there is a need for lights at the Park.

Tom Campbell, 160 Nicoll Ave. in Glen Ellyn wanted to echo the stance of the presentation and inquired that additional information be shared as to wants of the lights at Newton.

Patrick Carmody, 149 Bryant in Glen Ellyn thanked those who distributed the information and would like more information regarding projects to be distributed and does not see a need for lights.

Brent Carter, 153 Nicoll Ave. in Glen Ellyn echoed the sentiments of the opposition.

Ed Rossy, 360 Vine Ave. in Glen Ellyn does believe the parking needs to be addressed. He is part of the Glen Ellyn Rebels organization and does believe that baseball fields should be used for baseball as holding football practice at Village Greens hurts the condition of the fields in the fall. He believes it is a sport issue and understands the concerns of the neighbors but believes the lights will help the sports in the future.

Sandy Hibbard, 96 Exmoor Ave. in Glen Ellyn echoed the sentiments of the opposition.

Matt Halkyard, 708 Hill Ave. was appreciative of the Newton neighbor's presentation and stated he is President of the Bulldogs Lacrosse organization. Halkyard discussed a recent email he has written in support of lights at Upper Newton Turf field. He also stated that user groups need to have better communication in regards to parking at Newton Park. He is advocating lights for Newton Park so that practices can be held and would like to say what a benefit the turf has been to Newton Park and for the benefit of lower Newton Park. He stated the conversation has been ongoing for a need for lights.

Mark Wilson, 636 Harding Ave. in Glen Ellyn discussed his discussions with the Golden Eagles and Glen Ellyn Park District staff regarding a joint venture with Staehlin properties to alleviate parking at Newton Park. Wilson, who is a coach for Bulldogs Lacrosse, advocated the need for lights at Newton and the need for safety as the portable lights do not provide safe lighting. Wilson understands impact of lights on the community and stressed his desire for lights at Upper Newton Park Athletic Field.

Eric Pierce, 871 Coldecort in Glen Ellyn stated that parking within some of the cul de sacs has been challenging in the past but the parking lots have been open with available spots. He said the parking does need to be addressed but does not believe there is a lack of parking available. He inquired about evening activities at the Park and was told there were activities in the evening including skating and tennis.

Dan Dietzler, 150 N. Montclair in Glen Ellyn suggested that the District fix the parking and traffic problems first then move forward with the lights once good faith has been put forward. He does not believe demand is needed and does hear the noises from the field.

Hugh Johnson, 71 Exmoor Ave. in Glen Ellyn who lives directly across from Newton Park and has been a user of the Park and a Golden Eagles participant. He understands the issues of the parking but is in favor of the lights and thinks it is a positive movement for the kids and thinks the turf is an asset. He believes using the Park more and at more times a day is a positive and hopes the neighbors come together to work on the issue of parking with the Park District, Village and Police.

Kevin Cook, 133 Sheffield Ct. in Glen Ellyn is one of the Co-Chairs of the Golden Eagles Football and has lived in the community for over fifteen years. He believes there is a need for the lights and believes it is a trickle down affect for all sports, from baseball to football. He believes it is on the user groups to direct their participants to the correct areas for parking and not just the Park District, police or neighbors.

Brett Hepner, 339 Elm St. in Glen Ellyn is the Co-Chair of the Glen Ellyn baseball program stated that the lights at Newton would improve the fields at Village Green and elsewhere and that it would be beneficial to reduce the cross use of the fields as much as possible..

Stephanie Clark, 316 Brandon Ave. in Glen Ellyn believes the issues need to be addressed first before moving forward with the lights proposal.

Gretchen Bobroff, 785 Fairview in Glen Ellyn thanked those who presented for their representation. Bobroff stated that if lights were put in it would create need as stated by those who were in favor of lights as opposed to currently being needed. She believes the lights are more of convenience than needed. She does not believe that Parks should be dedicated to a particular sport.

Executive Director Harris thanked the community members for attending and participating in the past few discussions. Harris gave a brief summary of the project and issues at hand and then opened the discussion up to the Board.

Commissioner Wilson stated that she once lived by Newton Park and was actively opposed to the lights at Memorial Park. She is concerned about the environmental impacts and will not be in support of the lights.

Commissioner Weber thanked everyone for the presentation. He attended the public meetings and believes there is a disconnect between the parking and the lights. He believes it will be beneficial for the various user groups and represents the interest for those groups and community as a whole and would be in favor of the lights.

Commissioner Nephew thanked everyone who came out tonight and thanked the Hibbards for having her over to discuss the project in-person. Nephew believes it is unfortunate that the Park District is hearing of the parking situation at this point as it was never mentioned formally before the light project was first discussed. Nephew encouraged residents to actively follow the various local government entities for information on projects and would like the District to more widely alert residents of projects. She agrees that the coaches need to re-teach patrons and users of the parking parameters. Nephew hopes the teams and Park District show good faith to fix the issues first. Nephew said she is not against the lights but would like to see the user groups amend this situation and possibly reassess in the spring or summer.

Commissioner Cornell thanked the neighbors for a very informative presentation and stated she is in favor of cooperatively working the issues out first with the neighbors, village and police then would reconsider the project at a later date but at this time would not be in favor of the lights.

Commissioner Pierce was not aware of the issues at hand regarding parking prior to the public discussions and appreciated all of the information brought forth by the neighbors. She believes the parking issue can be better organized and directed by the user groups and the parking lots need to be improved for accessibility (connectivity and turn around). Pierce discussed the previous discussions regarding the lights, the I.G.A. and discussed various ways for residents to stay abreast of projects being discussed in the community. Pierce states she is in favor of the lights and discussed the taxes that are being charged on these programs.

Commissioner Creech discussed the various ways for patrons to be aware of the transparencies available to the public. Creech believes the Park District now that they are aware of these issues with the parking and traffic concerns can and will be able to resolve these issues by working with these user groups. Creech discussed her location in residing near a lighted Park and the challenges it poses. Creech is in favor of the lights and believes this is a reasonable proposal and a reasonable change to this Park once the parking concerns are taken care of. Creech does not believe the lights will increase the volume of traffic but will change the time of

day that the traffic will take place. Creech would like the Park District to work with the programs but hopes the residents will work with the Police and Village.

President Kinzler thanked the neighbors again for their presentation. Kinzler discussed the Community Survey and the ways the Park District has been fiscally responsible to succeed in these projects. Kinzler discussed the field study and its process to improve field quality. President Kinzler stated they would like to represent everyone. Kinzler discussed the turf at Upper Newton and would like to get more use out of an existing asset in the District. Kinzler stated he would most likely be in favor of this project but it still needs to go through the process with the Village.

Ben Stortz, 150 Exmoor Ave. stated he hoped they would rectify the parking and traffic situation first before moving forward with lights. He stated there is not a rush for the lights or an issue in delaying the project a year to fix the situation first then to reconsider the lights project.

Harris stated that he would begin the process of a collaborative effort with the neighbors, police and village to form a strategic plan for parking.

VIII. New Business

A. 2017 Proposed Meeting Schedule

Harris presented the 2017 Proposed Meeting Schedule and Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Pierce to approve the 2017 Meeting Schedule as presented.

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried

B. Ordinance 16-05 Sale of Surplus Personal Property

Superintendent of Parks and Planning stated that in an effort to reduce surplus vehicles and equipment, staff would like to sell a Park District dump truck that has since been replaced in accordance with the Equipment Replacement Program. Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Pierce to approve Ordinance 16-05, sale of surplus property of the Glen Ellyn Park District.

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried

C. Glen Ellyn Park District Website Presentation

This item has been tabled due to the late hour of the Regular Meeting and will be rescheduled to a later date.

IX. Staff Reports

A. Finance Reports

Superintendent of Finance and Personnel presented the November Finance Report.

B. Staff Reports

Director Harris stated that Mom Prom was well attended and commended Recreation Supervisor Marquez on the creation and success of this event. Turkey Trot will take place on Thanksgiving morning and Ackerman will be hosting the Turkey Burn group exercise classes as well. Harris said four (4) Golden Eagles Youth Football teams qualified for the Superbowl this year with three (3) winning teams. Superintendent of Recreation Esposito discussed the Chocolate, Cheese and Wine event this Friday and thanked Commissioners for attending the Flotilla in October.

X. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Cornell discussed the Dance Party that was held at the Boathouse through her Adult Dance class and received great compliments on the Boathouse. Cornell also commended staff for working on the Holidays.

Commissioner Pierce discussed her children's sporting events and was pleased to see the crossover use of facilities with Glenbard West. Pierce also attended the Ackerman Advisory Committee this past week.

Commissioner Creech thanked the Park District for use of the Board Room for her daughter's Girl Scouts meeting in order to obtain their civics badge.

Commissioner Nephew also attended the Ackerman Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Weber looks forward to the Turkey Trot next week as it is his favorite event.

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Creech moved, seconded by Commissioner Pierce to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:05 p.m.

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

Nay: None.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary

