

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Regular Meeting Highlights May 21, 2019



### **RECOGNITION – PAST PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS- RON AUBREY, MELISSA CREECH, BILL DALLMAN, AND JAY KINZLER**

As part of the Park District 100-year Anniversary celebration, the Park Board of Commissioners were honored to acknowledge four (4) past Park Board Commissioners who served the community for the latter portion of the 100 years. Those in attendance were Bill Dallman who served for twelve (12) years from 1999 to 2011; Ron Aubrey who served for nine (9) years from 2004 to 2013; Melissa Creech who served for eight (8) years from 2009 to 2017, Jay Kinzler who also served for eight (8) years from 2009 to 2017 and Marty Durkin, who unfortunately was called out of town at the last minute, but served for four (4) years from 2001 to 2005.

President Weber stated that during their terms as Park Board Commissioners, the Park District experienced significant growth while remaining fiscally sound as reflected in the District's AA+ Bond rating and positive fund balances. Some of the significant capital improvements achieved under their tenure included:

- Purchase and renovation of the Spring Avenue Recreation Center and dog park
- Addition of medium depth lap pool at Sunset
- Purchase of the Maryknoll property and development of the Park
- Purchase and development of Churchill Park as a nature area
- Partnered in gymnasium expansion at Churchill and Ben Franklin Schools
- Redevelopment of Village Green Park
- Renovation of Newton Park including the installation of an artificial turf field
- Replacement of ten (10) playgrounds
- Acquisition of open space
- Construction and development of Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center
- Restoration of the Boathouse and the improvements to Lake Ellyn Park

Weber said while impossible to calculate, hundreds of thousands of people have benefitted from the improved amenities and many capital projects, both large and small, that were completed over the past twenty years. The participation is extraordinary and continues to increase every year.

The four (4) Board members that were present this evening along with those that served prior and at the same time, were instrumental in many successful and positive outcomes in other areas within the District as well. These included securing over \$5 million in grants and alternative funding; development of a capital asset management plan; refinancing bonds at lower rates saving taxpayers hundreds and thousands of dollars; stabilizing and solidifying the financial condition and overall operations including the reduction of the tax levy; establishment of volunteer advisory committees in finance, environmental, facility and athletics; recipients of several awards including the Sunshine Award for governmental transparency and two-time Gold Medal finalist for the National Parks and Recreation Association; redevelopment of Intergovernmental Agreements with community groups and governmental agencies resulting in benefits

for our mutual constituents; and the development of the District's first history website, just to name a few.

President Weber described the many characteristics of these four (4) Commissioners, stating that their passion, respect, dedication, commitment, vision, leadership, service and selflessness improved the quality of life within Glen Ellyn creating lifelong memories, establishing a greater sense of community and provided resources and opportunity for residents to recreate and socialize. They were present at ribbon cuttings, open houses, meet and greets, community-wide special events, planning sessions, volunteer days, strategic meetings and hundreds of evening board meetings. They were enthusiastic about the mission, passionate about their beliefs, respectful to the constituents while always prioritizing what was in the best interest of the community.

President Weber, on behalf of the Glen Ellyn Park District and the Park Board of Commissioners, thanked Bill Dallman, Ron Aubrey, Melissa Creech and Jay Kinzler for their years of service and commitment to the community as past Park District Commissioners and presented a small token of appreciation.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE – INAUGURATION OF COMMISSIONERS**

The newly elected Commissioner, Paul Bischoff Jr. and re-elected Commissioners Ben Stortz and Kathy Cornell were given their Oath of Office and began their new terms on the Glen Ellyn Park Board of Commissioners.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ADVISORY POSITIONS**

The Glen Ellyn Park Board of Commissioners held their election of officers. Commissioner Ward was elected as the new Park Board President, Commissioner Durham as Vice President and Commissioner Nephew as Treasurer. Other appointments included Dave Harris as Executive Director and the WDSRA (Western DuPage Special Recreation Association) representative, Executive Assistant Kimberly Dikker as Board Secretary and Ancel Glink as Legal Counsel.

Following the election of officers and appointment of positions, the Park Board held discussion of the advisory positions on the various committees. Commissioners Nephew and Durham would be serving on the Citizens' Finance Committee and Commissioners Weber and Stortz would now be serving on the Ackerman Advisory Committee. Commissioners Stortz, Weber and Bischoff would be serving as Co-chairs on the GEPD Athletic Advisory Committee and Commissioners Cornell and Nephew would now serve on the GEPD Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee. Lastly, Commissioner Cornell would remain on the Friends of Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation as a liaison and Commissioner Bischoff would be serving as a liaison as well.

#### **EAST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER TRAILS GROUP**

Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail gave an informational presentation regarding efforts to implement previously developed plans by DuPage County to construct a north/south bike and pedestrian trail between the Great Western trail and eventually connecting to the Morton Arboretum.

Steve Miller and Steve Johnson were in attendance and discussed the proposed location of the north/south trail that would run through the center of DuPage County connecting various east/west trails and the potential challenges of implementation. Johnson stated that this is a grass roots organization advocating for the implementation of a previously established County north/south trail plan. Johnson discussed the financial contributions of the DuPage County Forest Preserve (75K), the DuPage County Board of Transportation (75K), and the Village of Glen Ellyn (10K) towards a preliminary engineering. Johnson said that their group is presenting to those Districts and entities near the trail seeking support and possible financial assistance.

The Park Board of Commissioners posed various questions to the advocacy group and Executive Director Harris stated that this could further be discussed by the Board during the budget process for 2020 or at an earlier time if desired as an agenda item. The Park Board thanked Mr. Miller and Mr. Johnson for their time and informational presentation.

#### **ACKERMAN SPORTS AND FITNESS CENTER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-ARCHITECT RECOMMENDATION**

Executive Director Harris stated that the Glen Ellyn Park District identified the need to review and develop a plan to maintain and improve Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center (ASFC) in the coming years. As the facility is enormously popular, well used and extensively programmed it is vital to ensure the operation and facility remains up to date and competitive. Harris said while the facility is well maintained and operated efficiently, there seems to be opportunities to expand the programming capabilities while enhancing the patrons experience. However, to do so, likely would involve physical improvements and renovation of the existing facility.

Harris discussed that the District solicited proposals for architectural services for the redesign and renovation of the Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center development, an 88,000 square foot, sports and fitness facility. The intention was for the Park District to select a consultant team to provide professional and technical services to redesign and improve the existing facility with the goal to increase program opportunities while maximizing existing space.

Harris discussed the fruition of the Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center that was opened in January 2010 and described its many elements and offerings stating that it not only serves as major resource for athletic related activities but is a social center particularly during the winter months.

The Park District compiled a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking Architectural Services to develop plans for ASFC improvements and it was publicly noticed as well as distributed directly to several potential consultants. Eleven (11) submittals were received and after review by the selection team, six (6) top rated firms were interviewed. All the candidates were qualified and had relevant experience and the process was extremely competitive. Following the interview and check of references, Wight Construction, of Darien, IL., was unanimously selected.

Harris shared Wight's experience and qualifications with the Park Board of Commissioners and discussed the services and outcomes that the Wight consultant team would provide.

Upon completion, which is projected to be done by the end of 2019, a conceptual plan will be provided with cost estimates and potential phasing. The plan could be transitioned to design and development documents, construction documents and bidding should the Park District decide to move forward with implementation.

The Park Board held a brief discussion of renovation and then approved the agreement as presented with Wight Construction for Architectural Services to develop proposed improvements for Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center in an amount not to exceed \$32,500 for scope and services and a fixed amount of \$1,200 for reimbursable expenses per counsel review.

#### **SUNSET POOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-ARCHITECT RECOMMENDATION**

Director Harris said that the Glen Ellyn Park District recognized the need to review and develop a plan to maintain and improve Sunset Pool in the coming years. Harris reminded all that the outdoor aquatic facility was first constructed in the 1940's and has since been renovated and expanded several times and provided all with a brief description of all elements that encompasses Sunset Pool facility.

Harris said that the pool is opened Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, is extremely well attended and well used and provides various programming over the summer including employment of over 150 seasonal staff that is often the first employment opportunity for many Glen Ellyn teenagers. To ensure the facility continues to remain capable of serving the aquatic demands and needs of the community for the years to come, the Park Board of Commissioners and staff determined that it was in the best interest of the Park District to engage a professional consultant to review the existing facility, involve staff and others and develop and establish plans to maintain and improve the aquatic park in the next several years depending on the outcome and recommendation. Harris reminded the Park Board that in anticipation of this process, funds were allocated in the 2019 Annual Budget in the amount of \$40,000 for a consultant to provide a conceptual plan and recommendations.

The Park District compiled a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking Architectural Services to develop plans for Sunset Pool improvements and the RFP was publicly noticed as well as distributed directly to several potential consultants. Seven (7) submittals were received and after review by the selection team, the two top rated firms were interviewed. Following the interview and check of references, FGM Architects, of Oak Brook, IL., was unanimously selected. Harris reviewed the experience and references of FGM Architects and its team and provided a list of services and outcomes that FGM would provide.

Harris said upon completion, which is projected to be done by the end of 2019, a conceptual plan would be provided with cost estimates and potential phasing. The plan could then be transitioned to design and development, documents, construction documents and bidding should the Park District decide to move forward with implementation.

Following Board discussion of the proposal and after posing various questions to both staff and FGM representative, the Park Board approved the agreement as presented with FGM Architects for Architectural Services to develop proposed improvements for Sunset Pool for an amount not to exceed \$27,000 subject to counsel review.