

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Workshop Meeting Highlights May 4, 2021



AUDIT PRESENTATION

Jennifer Martinson of Lauterbach & Amen presented the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Management letter. Ms. Martinson explained the report in detail and provided general information to the Board of the yearly audit process for the Park District and stated the District had again received the Certification of Achievement for Excellence Award. The Park Board had a brief discussion of the report, and thanked Ms. Martinson and the Lauterbach and Amen audit team while expressing their appreciation for Superintendent Cinquegrani for his time expended on the audit and again achieving the Certification of Achievement Award for 2020.

LAKE ELLYN NORTH SHORELINE PROJECT

Initiating the discussion regarding Lake Ellyn Park North Shoreline Project, Executive Director Harris discussed the Master Plan for Lake Ellyn that was developed in 2013. The District continues to utilize this plan as template for improvements and identifying near-term capital projects and address additional recommendations while establishing priorities. A 5-year capital improvement plan consistent with the 2013 Master Plan has been developed.

Project Manager Troia highlighted several elements of the 5-year capital improvement plan and then discussed specifically the Lake Ellyn North Shoreline Project. These improvements will provide connectivity between the boathouse to the existing floating pier with a wide permeable paver walkway. The project would provide shoreline stability, improved accessibility to Lake Ellyn's water edge, create additional seating and social opportunities, improve the north existing boat ramp while establishing rain gardens which will serve as filters for stormwater prior to entering Lake Ellyn.

Troia provided that this project would be funded primarily through private contribution (\$570,000) with some, limited Park District funds and possible grant opportunities. Director Harris stated that the District would allocate \$75,000 in contingencies to assure the project would be completed to the full potential and relayed that the anonymous contributor would like formal approval from the Park Board for the pursuit of the Lake Ellyn North Shoreline Project.

The Park Board had a brief discussion and expressed their sincere appreciation to the anonymous contributor as well as former Park District Commissioner Ron Aubrey for his efforts and following discussion agreed to pursue the development of the Lake Ellyn North Shoreline Project in 2021-22, contingent on grants, funding assistance and available capital funds.

CAPITAL PLANNING PROJECTS DISCUSSION

Executive Director Harris discussed that over the past several months, the Park District has been approached regarding several conceptual ideas regarding property and potential related capital

projects. As the Board met in-person, this was an opportunity to discuss and provide some direction and feedback regarding the ideas presented.

Harris first discussed the Johnson Center property and Lenox Road property stating that a local developer has provided interest in purchasing those properties. Harris discussed the strict guidelines set in place should the District sell property as the mission of Park District's include the preservation of open space, ordinances and statutes that were established to restrict the District's ability to sell property.

Preliminary details were provided, and the consensus of the Board was to engage a consultant regarding improvements at the Johnson Center that was previously discussed at the 2020 Strategic Meeting and to retain the Lenox Road property as open space is limited within Glen Ellyn and the Park District property inventory presently has less than the national park's industry standard.

Next, Director Harris stated they were approached by the Prairie Glen Homeowners Association (HOA) regarding purchasing a small section of land and retention pond just west of the Johnson Center at the western end of Anthony Road. Harris said staff met with a representative from the HOA and then met with representatives from the City of Wheaton and Wheaton College to receive additional information regarding storm water, ownership, obligations, future plans, etc. The Park Board had a brief discussion and per staff's direction will not engage further at this time regarding purchasing this land from the Prairie Glen HOA but will continue discussions with Wheaton College should something arise, that could create improved connectivity within the area for more open space.

Harris then discussed that the US Bank site within downtown Glen Ellyn that has been recently sold to a developer. The potential development could impact Prairie Path Park as it will be just south of the park. The Park Board discussed various potential ideas and consensus was to preserve open space within the downtown area at either Prairie Path Park and/or other options that may arise.

Lastly Project Manager Troia provided an update on the Newton Park Project stating the OSLAD grant should be executed in the near future with possible construction starting in the Fall of 2021.

He provided an overview of the project and elements that will be established within Newton Park including a new inclusive focus playground, sensory gardens, seating areas, renovation of the skatepark, addition of a lacrosse wall and improved connectivity within the Park. The District will hold an open house to engage the community regarding the playground and the Park Board looked forward to the upcoming improvements at Newton Park.

Executive Director Harris concluded stating that staff will continue to keep the Board apprised of potential opportunities and more can be discussed during the summer Strategic Meeting for the 2022 budget process.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISONS (MAY 2021-MAY 2022)

Executive Director Harris discussed the selection of officers and members of various advisory committees that will be selected at the May 18, 2021 Regular meeting and will serve through May of 2022. Harris led an open discussion of interest in the various officer positions and the advisory committee positions. Harris stated that Commissioners can continue to relay their interest over the next two weeks prior to the Regular Annual meeting.