

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
Workshop Meeting
May 4, 2021
185 Spring Avenue**

I. Call to Order

President Ward called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Upon roll call, those answering present were Commissioners Stortz, Nephew, Durham, Bischoff, and President Ward. Commissioner Cornell arrived at 7:30 p.m. and Commissioner Weber was absent.

Staff members present were Executive Director Harris, Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani, Parks Project Manager Troia and Executive Assistant and Board Secretary Dikker.

Guest in attendance included Don St. Clair of the Citizens' Finance Committee and Gail Bernstein of the League of Women's' Voters.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Changes to the Agenda

None

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Voucher List of Bills

Commissioner Nephew moved, seconded by Commissioner Bischoff, to approve the Voucher List of Bills totaling \$230,683.21.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Nephew, Bischoff, Stortz, Durham, and President Ward
Nay: None*

Motion Carried.

VII. 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. Ms. Martinson stated that it was a clean audit and the District received the Certification of Achievement for Excellence Award for 2020. 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.

VIII. Lake Ellyn North Shoreline Project

Initiating the discussion regarding Lake Ellyn Park North Shoreline Project, Executive Director Harris discussed the 2013 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, 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 including an urban forestry 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. Additionally, landscape opportunities will elevate the aesthetics of the area.

Troia provided that this project would be consistent with the 2013 master plan, an attractive addition to the Park and would be funded primarily through private contribution with some, limited Park District funds and possible grant opportunities. Troia introduced former Commissioner Ron Aubrey who served for nine (9) years on the Park Board and has been instrumental in establishing a relationship with this anonymous donor. Aubrey has been a longtime resident of the Glen Ellyn community and he spoke briefly regarding the effort and significant and unique opportunity.

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 posed questions to staff and Mr. Aubrey, expressed their sincere appreciation to this anonymous contributor and looked forward to the onset of this project. Following discussion, Commissioner Cornell moved, seconded by Commissioner Stortz to pursue the development of the Lake Ellyn North Shoreline Project in 2021-22, contingent on grants, funding assistance and available capital funds.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Cornel, Stortz, Nephew, Durham, Bischoff and President Ward
Nay: None

Motion Carried.

IX. 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 is meeting in-person, this is an opportunity to discuss and provide some direction and feedback regarding the ideas presented.

Harris first stated that the District has been approached by a local developer regarding the purchase of the Johnson Center property and Lenox Road property. Harris then discussed the guidelines set in place should the District sell property that is less than three (3) acres and that greater than three (3) acres. As the mission of Park District's include the preservation of open space, ordinances and statutes were established to restrict Park District's ability to sell property. He explained the challenges involved for both the District and the developer.

A local resident, Rick Scheck, was present for the meeting and provided some preliminary details of his interest and ideas for both the Johnson Center and Lenox Road properties. The Park Board held a discussion on the Johnson Center and the Lenox Road property and agreed they would like to proceed with a consultant to assess potential improvements to the Johnson Center based on an extensive discussion at the 2020 Strategic Meeting including various scenarios such as selling the Johnson Center property and rebuilding the maintenance center at a different Park District site. The consensus of the Board was to hold on to the Lenox Road property as open space is limited within Glen Ellyn and the Park District property inventory presently has less than the national recreation 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. Staff met with a representative of the HOA, reviewed the area, and then met with representatives from the City of Wheaton and Wheaton College familiarize us with additional information including storm water, ownership, obligations, future plans, etc. At this time staff does not recommend further discussion regarding purchasing this land from the Prairie Glen HOA but will continue discussions with Wheaton College should something arise soon 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. Staff has had preliminary discussions with the Village and the developer on potential ideas and impact. The consensus of the Board is to preserve open space within the downtown area either at Prairie Path Park, another property nearby or both. The potential establishment of a downtown plaza was intriguing. All discussions are very preliminary.

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.

The project will include 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 project would be divided into several small projects designed in house and bid out separately based on the trade. Troia expects to hold an open house at Newton Park to engage the community regarding playground and park amenities.

The Park Board inquired on various elements of the project and expressed their interest in attending the open house and looks forward to all improvements including the addition of a truly inclusive playground within the community.

Executive Director said 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.

X. Discussion of Board officers and advisory committee liaisons for May 2021-May 2022

Executive Director Harris said at the May 18th Park District Annual Meeting, elected Commissioners will be sworn in and the election of Board officers and appointment of Chair/Liaison positions to the advisory committees will take place. He stated in anticipation of that process, advance discussion often occurs at the prior meeting to allow for those on the Park Board to express interest in serving in those capacities.

The Park Board discussed the executive positions and Commissioner Durham expressed his interest in serving as President while Commissioner Nephew stated she would be happy to serve as Vice President. Commissioner Cornell provided she would serve as Treasurer for the upcoming term. The Park Board then discussed the Advisory positions with Commissioners present stating they would be interested in remaining on the current Advisory Committees in which they serve.

Director Harris stated that discussion can continue prior to the next Board Meeting should any changes be needed.

XI. Staff Reports

Executive Director Harris congratulated the recently re-elected Commissioners, Ward, Durham, Nephew and Weber. Harris stated Ackerman is a great hub of activity serving many ages and providing a variety of activities for all ages and abilities. He stated the District is looking into hosting another vaccine clinic soon but is waiting for the CDC to modify its guidelines for age limit to service those in the 12–15-year range along with 16 and above. Patrons would register on their own and the clinics would be staged in mid-May/early June timeline. Harris shared that Friday, April 30th was the last day for Assistant Superintendent Defiglia as she retired from the District after 25+ years of service. He praised Defiglia for her dedication, loyalty and tremendous work ethic stating she made herself available seven (7) days a week, 24 hours a day and was an outstanding employee. Transition of her duties began on Friday as her duties were distributed among several employees.

XII. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Nephew expressed her misgivings regarding the pool and certain restrictions and protocol necessitated by current guidelines and hopes adjustments can be implemented when necessary and able. She was pleased with the success of the food pantry clinics, blood drives and

vaccination clinic that the District has held. Commissioner Cornell was happy to be present at the in-person Board meeting and congratulated the District on their recent vaccine clinic and blood drives they have hosted. Commissioner Durham said it was great to see everyone again and was happy to be a part of the Lakers program after his son has made the team. Commissioner Stortz was happy to see the adjustments regarding allowing personal chairs at the pool. Director Harris stated that information would be included in an upcoming eblast. Stortz also asked that the Park Board and staff investigate improvements for the remaining parking lot at Ackerman Park and consider allocating funds for Fiscal Year 2022. Commissioner Bischoff was excited about the upcoming projects and looks forward to the Strategic Planning Session for 2022. He extended his appreciation to Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani. Lastly, President Ward relayed the praise he heard at a recent softball game at Ackerman Park regarding the recent improvements to the Softball Hub at Ackerman Park.

XIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Bischoff moved, seconded by Commissioner Stortz to adjourn the Workshop meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Bischoff, Stortz, Cornell, Nephew, Durham, and President Ward

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary