

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Highlights Nov. 16, 2021



WDSRA DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION – DAN LEAHY AND WDSRA ANNUAL UPDATE

Executive Director Harris introduced Dan Leahy, the new Executive Director of the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (W.D.S.R.A.) that was appointed following the retirement of Sandy Gbur, the previous Executive Director. Harris provided a brief background of WDSRA stating that the organization serves more than 4500 children and adults in over 1500 recreation programs. Harris stated many Glen Ellyn residents take part in WDSRA's offerings with several programs taking place in the District at Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center.

Dan Leahy thanked the Board for their time and presented an overview of the WDSRA annual report. He briefed the Board on his professional background stating he has worked in local government for 16 years and is the parent of a child with special needs, so he brings this insight into his position. Leahy provided information on the year in review sharing personal stories and challenges along the way. Leahy concluded expressing his appreciation of the member Districts. Director Leahy thanked staff and the Park Board for their time and addressed a few follow up questions.

COMMUNITY ATTITUDE & INTEREST SURVEY RESULTS PRESENTATION

Staff reviewed the timeline of this survey from fruition and then Jeff Andreasen, Principal, of aQity Research provided an overview of the Community Attitude and Interest Survey that was initiated in September and data collection was completed by the end of October 2021.

Andreasen highlighted the Executive Summary of the survey stating that approximately 500 households completed the survey over a 5-week period. Andreasen conveyed that the Park District scored significantly well in all categories. He reviewed the sample demographics, overall opinions and perceived strengths and weaknesses of the District. He highlighted various Parks, playgrounds, and facilities within the District and analyzed the data that was presented. He displayed data on various programs and events that the community discussed and/or attended over the past two – three years. Lastly, he reviewed the support and opposition for potential Glen Ellyn Park District initiatives and the community's willingness to fund those improvements.

The Park Board presented questions and discussed the data that was shared and thanked Mr. Andreasen for his time and providing a survey highlighting the many sentiments of our Community within our District.

APPROVAL OF THE 2021 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE 21-01

Superintendent of Finance and Personnel Cinquegrani presented Ordinance 21-01 "An Ordinance for the levy and assessment of taxes for the year 2021" to the Board of Commissioners. In accordance with the truth in taxation requirements, the Park District Board placed the tax levy on file at the October 5th meeting wherein the Board approved Resolution 21-01 "Truth in Taxation Law Resolution". After Board discussion, Ordinance 21-01 was approved.

NEWTON PLAYGROUND SAFETY SURFACE CONSTRUCTION

Project Manager Troia stated that as Newton Park was awarded an OSLAD Grant for site-wide improvements, the playground was one of the first phases of construction. He provided that installation is going well and is on schedule and reminded the Park Board that Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) wood chips were included in the base bid of the playground. Staff has since investigated other options that will provide improved accessibility, an enhanced experience and reduction of ongoing maintenance.

Troia discussed the product ForeverLawn Playground Grass that was recently used at Sunset Pool with great success and provided details of the product. This is the first and significantly inclusive focused playground within the District. While the turf is a higher expense, cost savings within the overall Newton Park project along with the District's 2021 financial status can support and offset the additional expense. The Park Board had a brief discussion and agreed this product would be an enhanced benefit for the playground and awarded the cooperative purchase and installation of Newton Playground Grass to ForeverLawn in the amount of \$118,025.67.

2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani discussed that the Board placed a draft of the 2022 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance on file at the October 19, 2021, Regular Meeting. He reminded the Park Board that approval will follow the Public Hearing at the 12-7-2021 Regular Meeting. The Park Board did not have any further questions regarding the proposed budget and look forward to its approval in December.

OAK WILT DISCUSSION

Executive Director Harris reviewed discussion from the last meeting stating that several trees had tested positive for Oak Wilt disease, but it was recommended to seek a second opinion. Samples were taken and were sent to the University of MN for further analysis. Staff has since received its results and contrary to the original findings the samples were negative for Oak Wilt disease. Staff will confer with the Village and moving forward, will continue to monitor the trees and implement additional efforts to diversify tree population, enhance their pruning process and evaluate soil quality. All Commissioners were very pleased of this outcome but understanding that the trees remain vulnerable and require continued oversight and ongoing care.

SUNSET PARKING LOT-PAY APPLICATION

Project Manager Troia relayed to the Park Board that the Sunset Parking Lot project has been fully completed. The project consisted of a full depth asphalt removal, adding concrete collars to inlets, sidewalk improvements to meet ADA requirements, amended stone base and included new paving with striping. Following Troia's update the Park Board approved the first payout request to Geneva Construction Co, the general contractor responsible, in the amount of \$92,860.20.

2022 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE DISCUSSION

Executive Director Harris presented the 2022 proposed Board Meeting schedule stating that dates have been reviewed by staff and hoped that the Park Board has had a chance to review as well. After a brief discussion, the Park Board approved the 2022 Board Meeting schedule as presented.

APPROVAL OF DESIGNATE FOR IAPD CREDENTIALS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Executive Director Harris stated that as a member of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, the Glen Ellyn Park District is required to formally designate a representative and an alternate to attend the association's annual Board meeting held in late January 2022. This enables the District representative to attend and participate in any action or matters of business that might be presented. The Park Board held a brief discussion and following approved to appoint Executive Director Harris as the delegate and Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Cinquegrani as the alternate delegate to represent the Glen Ellyn Park District at the 2022 Illinois Association of Park District's annual meeting.