

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

May 27, 2015

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois., pursuant to notice duly given. President McMahon presided over the meeting.

Present: President Timothy P. McMahon, Vice President Craig W. Hays, Commissioners Alvin S. Griggs, Barbara J. Kuhl, and Jane L. Solon, Treasurer Gary Wackerlin and Attorney Guy Hall.

Staff Present: Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, Cindy Harvey, Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary, Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Kevin Crump, Director of Operations and Planning, Megan Kuhlenschmidt, Director of Recreation, Jameel Jones, Director of Cultural Arts, Tammy Hoggatt, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Risk, and Andrew Weiss, Park Planner/Landscape Architect.

Members of the public were in attendance. Tim Mitchell, a reporter with The News-Gazette, was also present.

Call to Order

President McMahon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CPD Highlights

Ms. Kuhlenschmidt reported that the Sholem Aquatic Center opening this weekend was attended better than expected given the weather forecast. She reported that the Aquatic Center and Prairie Farm were well attended. Excellent photos were posted on social media. President McMahon reported that he visited the Aquatic Center, and that it was up and ready for use. He also viewed the photos on social media.

Vice President Hays reported that he attended the Douglass Park re-opening ceremony and that it went well. He stated that the children had a great time and enjoyed the splash pad. Mr. DeLuce reported that people enjoyed the fitness stations as well.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Presentation

Champaign County Community Coalition (Coalition) Phase II

Joan Walls, City of Champaign Deputy City Manager, reported that the Coalition has been in existence for five years. The Coalition is a collaborative effort made up of governmental partners, organizations and community members working together to address and solve community problems of mutual concern. She identified the members of the Executive Committee. Ms. Walls presented regarding the following: Coalition 2012-2014 Successes; why the Coalition is needed; community youth challenges, community youth challenges, and the proposed model. Champaign County Mental Health Board has agreed to serve as the lead organization for the coordination of the Coalition. Tracy Parsons, Director, ACCESS Initiative, addressed the following aspects: Champaign County Mental Health Board is a long term partner; Vision, Mission and System of Care Statements; How the Coalition networks; and maximizing collaboration with the Coalition. Ms. Walls reported on the next steps, which include seeking financial and or in-kind contributions, as well as partners to enter into an intergovernmental agreement. She thanked the Board for allowing them to present and Mr. DeLuce and his staff for their time and commitment to the Coalition.

Mr. DeLuce reported that the relationships have been fantastic. He stated that partnerships enabled collaborative efforts to happen. He envisions the Coalition being very successful and doing wonderful things for the community.

Discussion ensued about getting other organizations, such as Boys and Girls Scouts involved. Also, discussed were financial contributions, youth employment, and programming opportunities.

The Board thanked Ms. Walls and Mr. Parsons for the presentation.

Action Items

Approval Naming Harris Park Flowerbed "Vincent Bellafigore Garden"

Mr. Weiss reported that Vincent Bellafigore was a Professor and former head of the U of I Department of Landscape Architecture who passed away last year. Professor Bellafigore lived directly across from Harris Park. He was instrumental in the Harris Park neighborhood's efforts to keep the city of Champaign from widening Elm Boulevard in the late 1980's. His efforts helped keep the park its current size. A letter of endorsement to rename the flowerbed was received from the faculty of the Department of Landscape Architect at the University of Illinois suggesting the "Vincent Bellafigore Garden". David Hays, the UI's incoming associate head of Landscape Architect, spoke in favor of the tribute and preserving the professor's legacy.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve naming the flowerbed at Harris Park the Vincent Bellafigore Garden. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval Setting a Public Hearing on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance

Ms. Wallace reported that staff recommended that the Board set a public hearing on the budget and appropriation ordinance. Commissioner Solon asked if changes could be made before July 8, 2015. Ms. Wallace responded, yes.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve setting a public hearing on the proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center to receive public comments. The motion was seconded by Vice President Hays. The motion passed 5-0. Ordinance No. 598, the proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is available at the Bresnan Meeting Center for public view.

Approval of Budget Line Transfers

Ms. Wallace presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Board. She reported that the transfers do not affect the overall budget as other line items would be decreased within the same funds.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve line item transfers of FY14-15 budget be made within funds where amounts will exceed their original budget. This is being done to comply with the Park Code and for audit purposes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griggs. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion Items

Commissioner Priorities for FY15-16

Mr. DeLuce reported that staff was seeking Board direction on what the top priority projects for staff to focus on in FY15-16. He stated that staff would like to have five or six projects ready in the extent funds or grants become available. Mr. DeLuce reported that he will review the Board priorities for 2016-2020. Staff is recommending that the Park Board set overall Board priorities for FY15-16 and develop a consensus on certain standards and issues. Mr. DeLuce reported that the Board priorities for FY13-13 included land acquisition, open space expansion, park and facility development, the Virginia Theatre, and best practices.

Tammy Hoggatt, Director of HR, IT and Risk, arrived to the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Mr. DeLuce addressed items about which staff would like Board to discuss and provide direction including Spalding Park or any of the parks to be considered as a location for Central High School; what should be the District's role moving forward with land or amenities for the new high school; where in the District do we need to add space, should the District accept the old landfill as park land; should the District accept land donations less than six acres; should the District have a standard of a park within a half mile of every resident; should the District add playground equipment or amenities; should there be a standard or level to develop parks and facilities; and is there a willingness to increase staff or contractual costs to maintain new parks and amenities.

Mr. DeLuce presented and responded to questions on a list of possible priorities for FY15-16. Possible priorities could include: trails; improvements to Spalding Park; finalizing a master plan and improvements to Heritage Park; adding new playground and water area and new restroom to Hessel Park; creating a master plan and development of Trails at Abbey Fields Park; adding additional trails and amenities in Centennial Park; land acquisition; an innovation museum; new Operations and Planning Facility; or options for the current administration facility. Additional projects that could be considered include: a nature center at Porter Park; agricultural center/sustainable farm; program or deep well pool at Sholem; fitness equipment along trails; indoor pool in conjunction with the school district or a local hospital; Beardsley Park improvements or purchase the home adjacent to Dodds Park.

Discussed ensued. Commissioner Solon questioned making improvements to Heritage Park until an assessment of the City's position can be made. Commissioner Kuhl questioned whether the lake at Heritage Park was serving its purpose. She suggest that staff meet with the City and let them know that improvements at Heritage Park are a high priority for the Park District. Commissioner Kuhl suggested that staff share a drawing of the proposed locations for a new playground, water playground, and restrooms at Hessel Park with the Board. Commissioner Kuhl questioned if the Park District considered purchasing additional acreage at the Trails of Abbey Fields whether it would become part of a potential IDNR restriction.

President McMahon suggested that each Commissioner provide their top two to five priorities, discuss those priorities and come to a consensus about a time frame for completion.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that the Board came up with the following four target priorities: Heritage Park, Spalding Park, Trails at Abbey Field and trails. She stated that she could not put a timeframe on the proposed priorities as they all have nuances that have to be worked out. Commissioner Kuhl stated that she would that staff would focus their attention on these four priorities and day to day projects.

Discussion ensued about standards. Commissioners Kuhl and Solon expressed their opinion about existing and type of standards. Commissioner Griggs suggested that the Board make the review of the operations facility a priority. Discussion ensued about the Board needing to decide if the facility would remain at its current location.

Commissioner Hays raised the question of the population changes. He would like to see what land is owned by the Park District as a well as the City. Commissioner Hays also stated that he would like to know what the next trend is and what the community's expectations are. Mr. DeLuce will provide Commissioner Hays with a copy of the Community Needs Assessment.

Discussion ensued about the map showing parks within a half mile of a neighborhood. Commissioner Solon suggested that commercial and industrial property be depicted on the maps. President McMahon commented that he felt that all neighborhoods were well covered based on the map.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that she would like to canvass the Board regarding the Park District's stance with the School District. She asked if there was a consensus to collaborate with the School Board about opportunities in the community. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Griggs suggested that Mr. DeLuca raise the topic during his discussion with City and Unit 4 staff.

President McMahon stated that there appears to be a consensus to speak and listen to the School Board as long as no promises are made and that any final discussion is held with the Board. Discussion ensued about whether a Board member should be a part of the discussions. Commissioner Kuhl volunteered to be the Board's representative. President McMahon prefers that the Board be represented by the President or the Vice President.

President McMahon suggested establishing two to five the next one to two years. He suggested land development and trails, as well as other priorities that not necessarily have to be capital projects. President McMahon suggested that discussion be tabled to future study session.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Hays announced the Champaign Parks Foundation is sponsoring a car raffle to raise funds for youth scholarships. He reported that ticket sales began on May 25, 2015, 90 days before the drawing. Tickets were distributed to the Park Commissioners and Officers. He encouraged the Park Commissioners to participate in selling tickets.

Commissioner Solon commended staff on the pre-opening event at Sholem Aquatic Center and all the work on the re-dedication of Douglass Park. The improvements at Douglass Park are an example of what the Park District can do to improve some areas.

President McMahon reported that Board packets are available on line for downloading and printing. He is taking the opportunity to reduce staff time and paper by downloading the packet. Discussion ensued about the copies relevant articles from The News-Gazette. It was requested that the Board be sent the articles as a pdf file.

Executive Session

Commissioner Solon moved as set forth below to convene into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griggs. The motion passed 5-0. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon – yes; Commissioner Griggs – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; President McMahon – yes; and Commissioner Kuhl – yes. The Board convened into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meeting Act, specifically 5 ILCS, 120/2(c)(1) for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body, 120/2(c)(5) for the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body 120/2(c)(6) for the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body, 120/2(c)(11) litigation affecting the public body, and 120/2(c)(16) self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representation of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.

Return to Special Meeting

Following the adjournment of the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in open meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Solon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griggs. The motion passed 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Timothy P. McMahon, President

Cindy Harvey, Secretary