

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

January 13, 2016

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to published notice duly given. President McMahon presided over the hearing.

Present: President Timothy P. McMahon, Vice President Craig 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, Jameel Jones, Director of Recreation, and Tammy Hoggatt, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Risk, and Andrew Weiss, Planning Supervisor.

Tim Mitchell, The News-Gazette reporter and other staff were in attendance as well as members of the public.

Open the Public Hearing

President McMahon opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. He stated that the sole purpose of the hearing was to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed tentative proposed site plans for a park north of Abbey Fields Subdivision in accordance with state procedures.

Comments from the Public

Mr. DeLuce summarized that staff was seeking input from residents to create drawings to present to the Board for approval in order to submit the proposed site plan to Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Mr. Weiss presented a brief overview of the project and two alternate site plans for the potential park site. The initial site plan shows the park amenities to the east side of the development and the seconded alternate indicates park amenities to the west side of the development. He reported that Mr. DeLuce, Commissioner Kuhl and he met with residents to solicit comments regarding the potential site plan. The majority of the neighbors in attendance at that meeting favored having the park amenities on the west side of the development. Commissioner Kuhl noted a concern regarding the six (6') foot width of the Pipeline Trail spur.

Mr. Weiss reported that James K. and Karen S. McKechnie, 1401 Wyndemere Point Drive, Champaign, sent an email (attached) stating that the majority of the residents favor putting the amenities on the west side.

Mr. Weiss reported that Lin Li, 1214 English Oak Drive, Champaign, sent an email (attached) sharing possibilities of what she would like to see at the park.

Mr. Ben Freund 1410 English Oak Drive, Champaign, did not oppose adding a playground in the neighborhood, however he expressed concern about traffic that would be generated.

Commissioner Jane Solon arrived to the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Justin Little, 4809 Oakdale Drive, Champaign, spoke in favor of the proposed park. He commented that it was great to work with Mr. DeLuce and Mr. Weiss and thanked them for their efforts during this process.

Commissioner Kuhl attended one of the neighborhood meeting and commented that it is nice to receive positive citizen feedback.

In response to a question by President McMahon, Mr. Weiss stated that staff will present the final design to the Board for consideration at the February 10, 2016 meeting. Assuming Board approval, he will forward the information to IDNR for review. IDNR will forward it to the National Park Service for review. If the conversion is approved by all interested parties, the Park District will have three years to develop the designated portion of the park.

Richard Riggs, 1201 English Oak Drive, Champaign, questioned how the decision to locate the park would be made. Mr. Weiss responded that the Board will make a selection which will be forwarded to IDNR for its consideration, along with comments from the residents.

Steve Gardner 4702 Vahalla Drive, Champaign, echoed Mr. Little's comments. He also thanked the Board for the opportunity and commented that based on resident feedback there is a preference for locating the park on the west side due to parking, accessibility, future development, and more flexibility.

Close and Adjourn Public Hearing

Commissioner Griggs made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. The motion passed 5-0.



Timothy P. McMahon, President



Cindy Harvey, Secretary