

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

January 25, 2016

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. 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 Hays, Commissioners Alvin S. Griggs, Barbara Kuhl, and Jane L. Solon, and Treasurer Gary Wackerlin and Attorney Guy Hall.

Staff Present: Joseph DeLuca, Executive Director, Cindy Harvey, Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary, Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Kevin Crump, Director of Operations and Planning, Tammy Hoggatt, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology, Andrew Weiss, Planning Supervisor, Randy Hauser, Horticultural and Natural Areas Supervisor, and Mike Davis, Natural Areas Coordinator.

Other staff and members of the public were in attendance.

Call to Order

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

Comments from the Public

Theresa Truelove, 508 S. McKinley, Champaign, addressed the Board about the need for an adequate warm water indoor facility for residents.

President McMahon thanked Ms. Truelove for her comments.

Presentations

Natural Areas by Randy Hauser and Mike Davis

Randy Hauser, Horticultural and Natural Areas Supervisor, and Mike Davis, Natural Areas Coordinator, presented an update on the Park District natural areas. They also responded to questions from the Board. Mr. Hauser and Mr. Davis discussed the necessity and purpose of prescribed vegetation burns at certain parks and reported that they have introduced prescribed burns in all the Park District's natural areas. The four major natural area sites are Scott, Robert C. Porter Family, Sunset Ridge, and Heritage parks. Photos of the prescribed burns at the different parks were shown.

Commissioner Jane Solon arrived to the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Davis reported that staff monitors the weather at all times before and during the prescribed burns and notifies the appropriate authorities of when the burns take place. Mr. Hauser and Mr. Davis explained that no more than 1/3 of a designated burn area is burned at once. Mr. Davis explained how scattering seeds on snow allowed for better germination. Mr. Hauser and Mr. Weiss updated the Board on the rain garden at Leonhard Recreation Center. Mr. Hauser encouraged the Commissioners to let him know if they would like a personal tour of any of the natural areas.

Commissioner Kuhl commented that it was good to see how passionate staff is about the natural areas. President McMahon thanked staff for the presentation.

Discussion Items

Location of Hessel Park Playground

Mr. Weiss reported that a question arose about placing the new playground in its existing location versus south of the existing location. He presented preliminary cost estimates of the new playground and drawings of option one, placing the playground in the existing location and option two, placing the location south of the existing playground provided by MSA Professional Services. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Crump reported that the main reason staff was looking at moving the playground south of the existing location was to leave the existing playground and spray pad open during construction. He also discussed the drainage issues, recycled versus non-recycled water, pavilion, removing ash trees, salvaging restrooms, and ADA compliant sidewalk. Discussion also ensued about preliminary plans for an amphitheater. Mr. Crump reported that a proposed plan for an amphitheater has not been finalized. Discussion ensued.

President McMahon summarized that staff was seeking clarification on the location for the new playground and spraypad. He stated that the Board would like for staff to provide the two master plan phases with the amphitheater and a proposed cost for the entire project. He also noted that the advantage of option one, current location, was that the Park District would not be without a playground for a year and option two, location to the south, was that there are more shade trees over the playground.

Commissioner Solon stated that she was fine with the original location (option 1) for the new playground planned by staff.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that based on the budget she prefers to complete the entire project at once rather than in stages. She stated that Hessel Park is a key park and staff could inform the public that the playground and spraypad would be closed for construction. She believes the project may move quicker by completing it all at once.

Commissioner Griggs agreed with Commissioner Kuhl's reasons to place the new playground and spraypad in its existing location. He also agreed that option two offers more shade.

Commissioner Hays stated that his concern was water. He stated that option one makes as much sense as option two.

President McMahon favored option one. Under it, the Park District will not lose a highly used playground for a year.

Commissioner Kuhl followed up by emphasizing that it is important to have good shade and there is merit in completing the project at once.

The majority of the Board favored option one, placing the new playground south of the existing playground, as recommended by staff. The Board thanked staff members for their efforts.

Site Plan for Park North of Abbey Fields

Mr. DeLuce reported that staff was seeking Board direction on whether to pursue development at the east side or the west side of the Trails of Abbey Fields property and if the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and National Park Service allow it as conversion property. Two alternate plans for developing the 20 acres property north of Trails of Abbey Field

subdivision have been presented publicly and to the Board. Discussion ensued about the proposed half-court basketball court and parking.

Mr. Weiss reported that the homeowners favored the design for the west side of the Trails of Abbey Fields property.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that she thought it was important to keep the development of the park at a certain dollar amount and not exceed \$300,000.

It was the consensus of the Board to the extent the project proceeds, development would be at the west side of the property.

Capital Budget

Mr. DeLuce and Ms. Wallace presented the proposed capital budget and the 5-year capital improvement plan. They responded to questions from the Board. Ms. Wallace updated the Board on the proposed schedule for the capital budget/plan and the annual operating budget.

Commissioner Kuhl stated that she will be unable to attend the February 24, 2016 meeting and asked that no vote be taken or no significant discussion take place at this meeting about the capital budget/plan or operating budget.

Commissioner Solon stated that she would like more time to review the capital budget/plan to thoroughly review it and give it appropriate attention. Commissioner Griggs prefers to proceed with staff's recommendation for the capital budget/plan. Vice President Hays stated that he would like additional information about several of the proposed projects.

Discussion ensued about the 5-year projection and possible tax freeze legislation. Mr. DeLuce highlighted the proposed capital items that will cost \$75,000 and more. Staff responded to questions about contingency funds, replacement of lights at the Dodds 3-plex, replacement of Douglass gym floor, replacement of the Kaufman boat house, replacement of roofs, Hessel Park projects, construction of trails and paths, purchase of a backhoe and generators, replacement of vehicles and purchase of a wide area mower, and hard court replacement at the Dodds Tennis Center. The Board recommended that staff delay development of the Kaufman Lake boat house until 2018. Mr. DeLuce stated that large capital projects that will cost more than \$800,000 will be presented to the Board at a later date. The projects include possible development of Heritage Park, Spalding Park, and the Operations facility.

The Board will review the capital budget and 5-year plan at a later date. The Board thanked staff for providing the additional information.

Health Insurance for Employees Update

Ms. Hoggatt presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Board. She reported that the Park District partners with the City of Champaign for health insurance rates. Ms. Hoggatt reported that by using a portion of the risk share account, there will be a 0.0% increase to health insurance for the 12 months effective March 1, 2016 with no changes to the plan benefits. The Champaign City Council will vote on the health insurance plan at its February 2, 2016 Council meeting. After discussion, staff requested Board consensus to place this item on the February 10, 2016 agenda for approval.

It was the consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the February 10, 2016 agenda for approval.

Revisions and Amendments to the Employment Policies and Procedures Manual

This document as presented to the Board and evaluation was tabled until a future meeting to allow the Board additional time to review it.

Comments from Commissioners

None.

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)(2) collective negotiating matters involving 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; and 120/2(c)(11) to address litigation that is probable or imminent.

Reconvene turn to Open 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 Vice President Hays. The motion passed 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Timothy P. McMahon, President

Cindy Harvey, Secretary