

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

February 22, 2017

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to published notice duly given. President Timothy P. 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, Andrew Weiss, Director of Planning, and Tammy Hoggatt, Director of Human Resources.

Kevin Miller, Park Board candidate, and Tim Mitchell, reporter with *The News-Gazette*, were in attendance.

Call to Order

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

Presentation

Greenbelt Bikeway Trail Connection

Mr. DeLuce reported a priority for the Board and staff is Heritage Park and the connection between Heritage Park and Kaufman Lake Park. The Park District contracted with Clark Dietz Engineering to study the feasibility of alternative routing for the Greenbelt Bikeway Trail Connection located under Interstate 72 between Heritage Park and Kaufman Park. Mr. DeLuce introduced Mr. Sean Widener with Clark Dietz who presented the preliminary findings to the Board.

Mr. Widener a Power Point presentation and responded to questions about the Greenbelt Bikeway Preliminary findings. He discussed the project understanding; alternate route analysis; preliminary findings; and funding opportunities. Mr. Widener identified several project stakeholders that could be involved in the project depending on the options considered. The design considerations for the project include accessibility and safety of the route, and constructability aspects of the options. He reviewed the original set of IDOT plans from the 1960s-1070s and pictures of the current path.

Mr. Widener discussed the options and concerns associated with fixing the culvert under 1-72 or building a new culvert through the bridge embankment. Clark Dietz recommends no future action to look at a culvert option. He presented two alternate route options for connecting Heritage and Kaufman Park. Option A would utilize the existing Kaufman Lake access road to the south, the land to the west of the CN Railroad and the existing trail alignment to the north. Option B would utilize the existing Kaufman Lake access road to the south, the area to the east of the CN Railroad, the existing underpass structure and the existing trail alignment to the north. He discussed the pros and cons of both options. Clark Dietz recommends utilizing Option A. The preliminary estimated cost of Option A is \$500,000. He also discussed an Alternate A, new bridge over the Copper Slough drainage ditch for a preliminary estimated cost of \$200,000. The overall base plus the alternate would be approximately \$800,000. Mr. Widener reported that possible funding opportunities include Federal Rail Safety Funds and Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grants through the Illinois Department of Transportation as well as a Recreation Trails Program grant through Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Discussion ensued. Mr. Widener responded to questions about the railroad crossing, grants, and stakeholder interests.

Commissioner Kuhl commented that she favored the proposed project and that it would provide a desired connection between Heritage and Kaufman Parks. It will flow into the Park District trails plans. She considers it a worthy project.

Commissioner Griggs asked if the project has been discussed the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC). Mr. Weiss reported that the project has been discussed with the CCRPC and that the connection was cited as the most popular trails connection in the Trails Plan that the residents would like to see completed.

Mr. DeLuce asked the Board whether staff should continue the process for this project. He stated that staff could develop the project further, work with stakeholders and pursue possible grants. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board that staff work on a proposed budget.

President McMahon thanked for Mr. Widener for the very detailed presentation.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Discussion

Ordinance Regulating Travel Expense Reimbursements

Mr. DeLuce presented the report. He reported that the ordinance was updated based on prior Board feedback. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that the ordinance include language that any exception to the policy pertaining to the executive director will have to be approved by the Board. Mr. Hall provided clarification of the reimbursable expenses for employees, officers and board members.

It was the consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the March 8, 2017 agenda for approval.

Naming of a Park North of Abbey Trails Subdivision

Mr. DeLuce presented the report. He reported that the planning and other staff came up with a selection of different names for the park. Mr. DeLuce stated an Abbey Fields Subdivision residents provided a few different names. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board that the park north of Abbey Trails Subdivision be named "Commissioners Park."

It was the consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the March 8, 2017 agenda for approval.

Champaign Parks Foundation 3rd Quarterly Financial Update

Ms. Wallace presented the report. She reported that the update if for the nine months ended January 31, 2017. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kuhl asked about the donation from Midland States Bank. Ms. Wallace reported that staff is following up with Midland State Bank representatives about the grant.

Vice President Hays announced that the Foundation fundraiser will be held April 1, 2017 at the City Center. He stated that VIP tickets are \$50 and general admission is \$10. The band is Mike and Joe and Scotty's Brewhouse is a sponsor of the event.

Champaign Park District 3rd Quarterly Financial Update

Ms. Wallace presented the report. She reported that the interest income revenue for this year has exceeded budget due to an increase in interest rates. Ms. Wallace reported that the insurance premium for the liability insurance fund increased approximately 20% for various reasons. She stated updated the Board on the IMRF rates for employees and the employer for the past and current fiscal year. The Park District has spent more this year in scholarships over the prior year. She indicated that everything else is on track and the update is through January 31, 2017. Finally,

Ms. Wallace discussed the different reports included in the update.

Mr. DeLuce reported that staff is researching rates of liability insurance. He discussed the different options available to park districts.

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 Barbara J. Kuhl – yes. The Board convened into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) for the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

Return to Regular Meeting

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

Adjourn

There being no further items 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 7:36 p.m.

Timothy P. McMahon, President

Cindy Harvey, Secretary