

**Springfield Park District
BOARD MEETING**

MINUTES

Thursday, September 19, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Springfield Park District Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the John F. Linxwiler Administrative Office, 2500 South 11th Street; Springfield, Illinois.

Roll Call

Trustee Sgro called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and requested roll call.

Members Present: Trustees: Badger, Metcalf, Schmidt, Senor-Moore, Theilen and President Sgro

Members Absent: Trustee Hammer

Others Present: Derek Harms, Executive Director; Jason Graham, Director of Parks & Planning; Stephen Flesch, Director of Finance & Administration; Lynn Saputo, Director of Recreation; Legal Counsel, Rob Cross; Staff and public

Minutes Regular Board Meeting were presented

Motion: To approve the August 15, 2019 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented

Moved by: Trustee Theilen

Seconded by: Trustee Schmidt

All approved by voice vote.

Special Guests:

Lynn Saputo, Director of Recreation introduced:

- Alexa Bryan Potts as the official General Manager of Botanical Gardens. Alexa served as the Interim General Manager since 2018 and has been with the District since 2002. Alexa has a BFA from Miami University, Oxford, OH and did graduate work at University of IL.

- Mandy McCann, joins the Park District as Horticultural Curator of Botanical Gardens. She comes to the District from East Peoria with a degree in Landscape & Turf Grass Management.

Swearing in New Police Officers:

Chief Nargelenas shared a brief police video and introduced new officers:

- Officer Glenn “Butch” Tuxhorn from Leland Grove
- Officer Kajanda “KJ” Love from State of IL/CMS
- Officer Carl “Rick” Wray from Sangamon County State’s Attorney’s Office

The new officers bring valuable experience to the current Park District Police department., many of which came in support of the new staff.

Public Comment

President Sgro asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

- Trustee Badger introduced fellow Springfield Jaycees members: Stephanie Miller and Emily Watts and acknowledged their many community efforts. Miller & Watts thanked the Park District for their assistance and shared their excitement for the partnership with the Park District and continued projects.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Staff Report

Lynn Saputo, Director of Recreation informed the Board of the upcoming ribbon cuttings:

- Friday, September 20th at 11:00 am
AARP/FitLot at Lincoln Park
- Saturday, September 21st at Noon
Fifth Street Renaissance/SARA Center/Labyrinth at Lincoln Park
- Saturday, September 21st at 4:00 pm
Playground at Paul A. Barker Park

Also noted the upcoming Springfield Parks Foundation “Springfield Parks for Pollinators Fundraiser” to be held on September 26th at the Washington Park Botanical Garden Exhibit Hall from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

BUILDINGS & CONCESSIONS

Staff Report

No additional information

Contract with Ron Furman's Commercial Sweeping & Paving for Improvements

Motion: Authorize Staff to execute contract with Ron Furman's Commercial Sweeping and Paving to install access paths in Gietl, Douglas and Jaycee Parks and various Bunn Park Admin ADA Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$190,000

Moved by: Trustee Schmidt
Seconded by: Trustee Theilen

Discussion: n/a

Roll Call: Badger: Aye Hammer: -- Metcalf: Aye
Schmidt: Aye Senor-Moore: Aye Theilen: Aye Sgro: Aye

Motion Passed: Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Staff Report

No additional information

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Staff Report

No additional information.

Lincoln Greens GC Engineering Study

Motion: Authorize Staff to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$19,000 from account 33-01-6329 (remove tennis courts at Lincoln Greens) to fund an engineering study to provide options designed to facilitate better drainage at Lincoln Greens Golf Course

Moved by: Trustee Metcalf
Seconded by: Trustee Theilen

Roll Call: Badger: Aye Hammer: -- Metcalf: Aye
Schmidt: Aye Senor-Moore: Aye Theilen: Aye Sgro: Aye

Motion Passed: Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

GRANTS & MARKETING

Staff Report

Director Harms gave a brief update regarding the OSLAD Grant.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL

Staff Report / Finance

No additional information

Staff Report / Personnel

No Additional information

Statement of Claims

Motion: To approve the Statement of Claims and Visa bills as presented by President Sgro

Moved by: Trustee Metcalf

Seconded by: Trustee Theilen

Discussion: n/a

Roll Call: Badger: Aye Hammer: -- Metcalf: Aye
Schmidt: Aye Senor-Moore: Aye Theilen: Aye Sgro: Aye

Motion Passed: Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

BUSINESS

Ordinances #1444-19 through #1446-19 RE: Property Annexations

Motion: Approve Ordinances #1444-19 through #1446-19 RE: Property Annexations

Moved by: Trustee Schmidt

Seconded by: Trustee Theilen

Discussion: n/a

Roll Call: Badger: Aye Hammer: -- Metcalf: Aye
Schmidt: Aye Senor-Moore: Aye Theilen: Aye Sgro: Aye

Motion Passed: Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board it was moved by Schmidt and seconded by Senor-Moore that the meeting adjourn at 5:56 p.m.

\Sept 2019 Board Minutes.docx\

**Joint Meeting of the Recreation,
Buildings & Concessions, Liaison, Long Range Planning,
Grants & Marketing, Finance & HR Committees**

MINUTES

September 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Badger, Hammer, Metcalf, Schmidt and Theilen

Members Absent: Trustee Senor-Moore

Others Present: President Sgro, Derek Harms, Executive Director; Jason Graham, Director of Parks; Stephen Flesch, Director of Finance & Administration; Lynn Saputo, Director of Recreation; and Staff

A meeting of the Recreation, Buildings & Concession, Liaison, Long Range Planning, Grants & Marketing and Finance & HR was held on September 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Committee

Staff Report

Director Saputo noted several recent and upcoming events:

- Senior Olympics
- Last summer 2019 MIP at Kiwanis Park Friday (09/06)
- Art spectacular at Botanical this weekend (09/14 & 09/15)
- Pollinator garden event
- Interdenominational hymnfest
- Zoo grant (in progress)
- Botanical reorganization-new Horticulturalist Curator
- JOLS with new twist-we will host event for pumpkin chuck off the Carillon
- Both Ice Rinks are up
- Preschool & Funshop are in session
- J. Mies is hosting a fundraiser for special Olympic program
- Three upcoming ribbon cuttings
 - AARP Fitlot at Lincoln Park
 - AIDS memorial at Lincoln Park
 - Barker Park Playground opening

Pickleball Request

Pickleball Request special guest, Jack Handy current update on pickleball status in area (see attached narrative). Mr. Handy would like the District to perhaps consider adding more pickleball courts in a year or so.

Buildings & Concessions

Staff Report

No Additional Information

Park Walking Paths & Bunn ADA Improvements – Bid Results

Park Walking Paths and Bunn ADA Improvements –Director Graham briefed the Board on results of recent bid and corresponding plans for ADA walkways at Douglas, Jaycee and Gietl, and ADA accommodations at Bunn Administration building. There was one bid, and it came in under the estimates originally made for these projects.

Liaison Committee

Staff Report

Updates from Executive Director Harms. Gotcha (bicycle rental) having issues, looks like rollout of the program will be delayed until spring 2020. A new intergovernmental agreement with D186 is currently under negotiation.

Long Range Planning Committee

Staff Report

Director Graham talked about recent accomplishments:

- Washington Park Pavilion roof currently in progress
- Franklin Room (Nelson Center) upgrades in progress (flooring); asphalt overlay at Nelson Center (completed)
- AARP Fitlot finishing up this week
- AIDS labyrinth (complete)
- Barker Park Playground (complete)
- HRZ projects (red wolf, bird of prey, otter; all in progress)
- Velasco tennis court rehab estimates are being put together
- Funshop exterior has been painted.

Executive Director Harms noted:

- Centennial Park Update with city utilities access (action expected to be on October cycle)
- City annexation (Singer Avenue corridor) These properties will also be annexed into SRD (District levy).

Lincoln Greens Drainage Proposal

Lincoln Greens Drainage Proposal-Director Graham briefed Board on drainage issues, and action plan. Plan to ask for re-appropriation to fund the engineering study.

Grants & Marketing

Staff Report – Grants

Executive Director Harms updated Board on OSLAD grant status

Staff Report - Marketing

Staff Report-Director Saputo gave update on Marketing push, social media/marketing optimization work, and how it is getting results. Using harvested data for targeting texts to relevant market segments.

Finance & HR

Staff Report - Finance

Staff Report-Director Flesch updated Board on highlights:

- The staff report – timing on capital expenditures causing variance from budget, and payroll looks off.
- Finance Department will be initiating investigation to find root cause of payroll variance from budget.
- Statement of Claims /Visa Bill (included in packet)

Staff Report – HR

No additional information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

September 2019

Prepared by Jack Handy, President, Springfield Pickleball Club

---With the addition of 8 dedicated pickleball courts in Chatham (in June), overcrowding at the Springfield courts has been somewhat alleviated. Our 225 members have mixed opinions on whether or not we should add more courts. Perhaps in 2021 should be considered. Many of our members desire courts on the west side of Chatham Road. The club member residential locations are illustrated with the pushpin map shown below. You can readily see the large number of members who reside west of Chatham Road.

---A concern with all of the parks that were looked at is the condition of the slabs. My fear is that each of them may need to have an overlay prior to the construction of tennis or pickleball courts.

---With that in mind, I did look at 4 parks located west of Chatham Road to see which one may be the best.

VREDENBERG PARK – The existing slab is not wide enough to accommodate four courts. About 15-18' of asphalt would have to be added. In addition, a major expense would be the fencing that would be needed. Currently, there is just a slab with no fencing.

CENTENNIAL PARK – There are no utilities located in this park. My understanding is this might change in the next year or so, but most likely by 2025 when an agreement with Hope Church and the city expires. The asphalt slab that is currently there has really deteriorated due to neglect. Many of the cracks are very wide. Also, there are no windbreaks or shaded areas near the courts.

LINDBERGH PARK – I like this location and it has great fencing. My biggest fear with this location is that several houses are sitting within 150 feet of the slab. Pickleball is louder than tennis. If any pickleball courts are added here, there would be no place in the Westchester/Sherwood area to play tennis. And if there are four pickleball courts on that slab, I have no doubt that there will be complaints about the noise from the neighbors. The parking near the slab is limited, which would mean the parking lot would need to be expanded unless players could park on the street. Also, the walk from the parking lot to the slab is currently only grass, so a sidewalk may need to be involved.

ROTARY PARK – In my opinion, this is by far the best location. There are currently two tennis courts at this location. I think, ideally, one tennis court can be maintained and four pickleball courts can replace the other tennis court. Mixed use (tennis and pickleball) seems to be the growing trend. And this has plenty of room for this type of mixed use. The fencing is adequate. And one of the best features is that the courts are surrounded by mature evergreen trees, which provide for a natural windbreak (and for some shade). Dr. Keri Senica, who lives about one block away is one of our club members. She said she used to play a lot of tennis at Rotary Park and, in her five years of living there, has never seen both tennis courts being used at the same time. So I think this makes sense to convert this to mixed use. I think another consideration is that with the park district's limited funds, one of the priorities should be to put money into areas that are more visible to the public. Douglas Park courts look beautiful to the

hundreds of drivers who see it every day. Certainly a lot better than they looked four years ago. I think Rotary has the most visibility of the four parks I've mentioned here. So that should also be a factor.

