

**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 There was one bid, and it came in under the estimates originally made for these projects.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.

