



MEETING MINUTES

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Thursday, May 21, 2015

7:00pm

Fleetwood Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St.

Members Present: D. Stein, B. Logan, J. Brown, A. DiMarco, H. Garcia
J. Bryan, E. DeStefano, D. Campbell

Members Absent: R. Mayne,

Staff Present: J. McRae, B. Dorneker,

Others Present: R. Hudson, J. Rizki, A. High, B. Seidenberg, S. Canter, L
Damashek

Presiding Member: D. Stein, President

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present, D. Stein called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of APRIL 16

It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as written. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

S. Robinson gave an overview of the four Fountain Square renovation options and had the Board participate in an exercise to choose their two favorite options. The goal is to eventually submit an RFP to develop preliminary designs for two concepts. S. Robinson will present the two remaining concepts to the Board to make a recommendation to City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

R. Hudson gave an update on programs held at the Robert Crown center and asked for an update on hiring of a fundraising consultant for the center. She also noted that Crown needs two full size ice rinks.

J. Rizki distributed information on how Harley Clarke and the coach house can be turned into a lakefront activity center used for recreation, cultural and ecology uses for current city programs and new expanded programs. He said it's a myth that Harley Clarke is falling apart with repairs running into the millions of dollars for safe occupancy.

A. High would like to see circuit fitness equipment installed in Grey Park to attract adults. Evanston is a fantastic place in terms of green space and there are lots of playgrounds in that area but very little outdoor fitness equipment. This would encourage health and wellness; revitalize the park; increase public safety and a sense of community.

L. Damashek asked for an explanation of the capital improvement process. Mr. McRae explained the process.

Robert Crown Update

Two firms submitted a proposal for RFP 15-24: Robert Crown Fundraising Consultant. Staff will evaluate and make a recommendation to City Council in June 2015

Temporary Reorganization of Public Works

Assistant City Manager/CFO Marty Lyons will temporarily leave his role as Director of Administrative Services to work full time on an examination of services provided by the Public Works and Utilities Departments and how the services provided can better align with City goals and community standards. Hopefully there will be no impact on our department as we depend on Public Works to oversee our capital improvement items and ongoing maintenance in terms of fields and facilities.

Parking at Sheridan Place

At their June meeting the Transportation/Parking Committee will discuss amending the parking plan on Keeney Street east of Sheridan Road and the 500 – 600 block of Sheridan Place restricting it to residential parking permit only. If approved, this will eliminate parking for those who want to visit S. Blvd. beach. This location is the primary parking area for S. Blvd beach.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the Board is against permitted parking on Sheridan Place

Members of the Board will try to attend the Transportation/Parking Committee meeting.

Parks & Facilities 2016 – 2018 CIP Plan

The City Council referred the Parks & Facilities 2016 – 2018 CIP Plan to the Board for its recommendation. After review and discussion the following items were noted:

- Better lighting is needed in the west parking lot of James Park, which includes the basketball court area.
- The Board needs to develop a plan for improving the overall James Park site and prioritize, this work.
- The Lakefront Master Plan calls for replacing restroom facilities and the renovation projects will only provide a short term solution and does not address, beach entry or equipment storage. The Board accepts the proposed renovations but would like to move forward with the Master Plan recommendations, in a future year.
- The Park and Recreation Board should identify a location for installing a synthetic turf field and request funding.
- Place on hold, the Lighthouse/Fog house interior and exterior project, until a determination has been made on the Harley Clark site.
- The Penny Park project will be discussed at the June meeting and a recommendation will be presented to the City Council in July.

Action: It was moved and seconded to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for year 2016 as proposed – minus the fog house /light house and Penny Park.

Years 2017 and 2018 are not recommended for approval because it's important to have decisions on Penny Park; the Harley Clark site; identifying a location for a synthetic turf field; developing a master plan of improvements for James Park; and continuing discussion about Grey Park and the Robert Crown Center project.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved. The next scheduled meeting is 7pm on June 18, 2015 at the Levy Center.