



MEETING MINUTES

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Thursday, September 24, 2015

7:00pm

Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St.

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

Members Absent: D. Stein

Staff Present: B. Dorneker, R. Lloyd

Others Present: C. Sutton, J. Fradin, M. Simonette, K. Hoffman, F. Hoffman, Z.
Hoffman, C. Rivera, P. Braithwaite, W. Althouse, R. Hudson, G.
Rieger, E. Rieger, Y. Borisova, C. Guggero, B. Janes, E. Biss, C.
Reed, P. Giles, T. Sheridan, L. Barski, A. Anon, H. Bartling, X. Liu,
M. Rosinski, D. Guran, B. Ester

Presiding Member: A. DiMarco

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present, A. DiMarco called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of JULY 16

The motion to accept the minutes as written was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

J. Fradin would like for the penny park playground to remain as is, as much as possible, with restoration in piecemeal. She's opposed to adding a restroom.

C. Rivera spoke in favor of preserving the wood playground.

C. Hoffman spoke in favor of preserving the wood playground.

G. Rieger spoke in favor of restoring the wood playground; no pavilion and no restroom.

Y. Borisova spoke in favor of restoring the wood playground.

L. Barski suggested terminating the contract with Leathers and Associates and starting the process from scratch issuing a bid; no pavilion and no restroom.

A. Anon spoke in favor of restoring the wood playground.

H. Bartling is opposed to a pavilion and restroom. We need to keep the green space and add bike racks.

D. Guran noted the City Manager is meeting with Chairmen of the different Boards/Committees. He wants to know if the Park and Recreation Board Chair met with the City Manager yet and if so, what was discussed. He also stated City Council needs more direction from the Park and Recreation Board regarding the Harley Clarke mansion, which is considered a park. Also, Gilbert Park needs to be a part of the comprehensive plan for all Evanston parks.

B. Ester said Gilbert Park is not shown on all city of Evanston maps and would like to see this corrected.

- B. Janes wants the city to make the dog beach a higher priority.
- E. Biss is opposed to a pavilion in Penny Park. We need to keep the green space. She's not convinced that Leathers and Associates is the right company for redesign or renovation of the park.
- S. Doxtator supports the use of city funds to rehab the playground. She feels strongly that the playground's current configuration should be preserved.
- C. Reed spoke in favor of preserving the wood park.
- P. Giles is in favor of green space. Changing Penny Park would be a travesty and getting rid of Gilbert Park would be even worse.

PENNY PARK – BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

Action:

After further discussion on the matter of Penny Park, the Board agreed on the following resolution to City Council:

- Terminate the contract with Leathers and Associates Inc. with payment for work completed.
- Issue a Request for Proposal for the renovation/rehabilitation of Penny Park. The Request for Proposal should include options for both a Community Build and a Traditional Contractor Build for the renovation and rehabilitated of Penny Park in wood, without a pavilion or restroom.
- Should any public design renovation/rehabilitation process be necessary, it would be facilitated by the contractor through the Park and Recreation Board with community involvement.

STAFF UPDATE ON CIP PROJECTS

B. Dorneker reported improvements to the Church St boat ramp has started; Baker Park renovation is almost complete; Currey Park project is moving along; the Ladd Arboretum path project started two weeks ago; renovation of the Ecology Center class room space is underway.

OTHER ITEMS

A. DiMarco requested that Gilbert Park and Harley Clarke be added to the November Board meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved. The next scheduled meeting is 7pm on October 15, 2015 at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center.