



MEETING MINUTES

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Thursday, October 15, 2015

7:00pm

Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St.

Members Present: D. Stein, H. Garcia, R. Mayne, E. DeStefano,
J. Brown, A. DiMarco

Members Absent: B. Logan, D. Campbell, J Bryan

Staff Present: B. Dorneker, R. Doerner, K. Hawk, K. Wallin, R. Lloyd, K. Brown, C.
Ferraro, K. Cherry

Others Present: Z. Chencheng, W. Wang, J. Adams, C. Kenny, E. Austin, Y. Zhou,
H. Zhou, C. Williamson, S. Wang, J. Rizki, B. Janes, B. Ester, L.
Damashek, P. Giles, C. Sutton, R. Hudson, L. Raab, L. Harms

Presiding Member: D. Stein

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of JULY 16

The motion to accept the minutes as written was approved.

DEPARTMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Management staff of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department attended the meeting to introduce themselves to the Board and explain their roles in the department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

J. Rizki said an Alderman put out a proposal that Harley Clarke will remain public and the city was going to take over running the building. This was not voted on but there were close enough votes to pass it. This is a big change because they're throwing away the private option and basically saying the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department will run programming at Harley Clarke. This may or may not happen but looks like this is the direction it's moving in. He also mentioned the City is in negotiations to turn the recycling center into a manufactory facility for beer. He believes the recycling center should be used as a city facility.

B. Janes spoke on behalf of "No Park Sale". She hopes the Board will support the Alderman's motion for the city retain ownership of Harley Clarke and have the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department operate programming there. The programming should be affordable and accessible to all Evanston residents.

P. Giles spoke in favor of keeping Gilbert Park.

C. Sutton doesn't believe one blade of grass of any park should be turned over to private developers. He hopes the Board will use their influence to make sure that public parks remain public, available and accessible to all Evanston residents.

HARLEY CLARKE UPDATE

At the October 12, 2015 City Council meeting, an Alderman made the motion that city retain ownership and control of Harley Clarke and use it for city programming; and that up to \$590,000 in capital improvement funds be placed in the 2016 budget to bring Harley Clarke into condition to be used for programming. No decision was made. This item will be brought back to City Council at their October 26 meeting.

GILBERT PARK BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

B. Dorneker explained that in 2007 the West Evanston Master Plan was adopted by City Council, which included the development of Emerson Square. In 2010 the city received grant funds from the Federal Government to help build Emerson Square, which would be built in 2 phases. Part of the proposal was a trade in property where Council agreed to take what is now Gilbert Park and allow it to be developed in phase 2 of Emerson Square. For this trade, the developer would have to create a park in Emerson Square, which they have done. Emerson Square Park was dedicated in 2014. Phase 1 is complete but in order to move forward with phase 2, the developer and the city would have to acquire that property and the Federal Government would have to come up with the funds to pay for phase 2. Currently there is nothing on the table to proceed with phase 2. There are no plans, no available funds and no funding request at this time. B. Dorneker recommends that the Board stay informed and should funding become available, work with the community and have the discussion about Gilbert Park at that time.

D. Stein requested that staff let the City Manager know that the Board is very concerned and would like to be part of the discussion to make sure that the residents' concerns are addressed before moving forward with phase 2.

B. Ester provided additional background on Gilbert Park and the West Evanston Master Plan.

APPROVED FUNDING IN FY2016 CIP FOR TWO STUDIES: A REPORT CARD REVIEWING PARK & RECREATION PROPERTIES; AND A PARK & RECREATION FINANCING REPORT THAT WILL PRIORITIZE SPENDING

This project will occur in 2016 and the Board will be very involved. Other involved partners will include District 65, District 202, Ridgeville Park District, Lighthouse Park District and the Metropolitan Water and Reclamation District.

STAFF REPORT

B. Dorneker noted that the James Park Community Gardens will not be impacted by any work done at the recycling center. Outdoor ice rinks will remain at Bent Park, Baker Park and the Arrington Lagoon in 2016. There will be a national search for the appointment of a new Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director. Applications will be accepted through November 8 and interviews will take place in December 2015.

OTHER ITEMS

A. Dimarco requested an update on the Sheridan Square parking pilot program for the November Board meeting and possibly inviting someone from the Transportation and Parking Committee to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved 8:18PM. The next scheduled meeting is 7pm on November 19, 2015 at the Chandler-Newberger Center.