



MEETING MINUTES

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Thursday, March 17, 2016

7:00pm

Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center, 1823 Church St.

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

Members Absent: R. Mayne, J. Brown, D. Campbell

Staff Present: B. Dorneker, L. Hemingway, S. Walker

Others Present: Ald. M. Tendam, P. Wild, S. Pilgrim, K. Proskie, D. Abraham, R. Hudson, L. Maclin

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of FEBRUARY 18

The motion to accept the minutes was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Crown Advisory Board member R. Hudson announced that an ice skating test session was held Robert Crown, which hasn't happened in many years, and twenty Robert Crown ice skaters attended a team competition.

S. Pilgram stated the fencing and benches surrounding the pond in Lovelace Park need repair. Staff responded that repairs for Lovelace Park are part of the 2016 Capital Improvement Plan.

Evanston Youth Hockey Association President D. Abraham gave an update on the youth hockey program, which is doing very well with increasing number of participants over the past few years. He said there is a need for more ice time and closing Robert Crown for a rebuilding would hurt the program and lose the continuity. Staff responded that we understand this challenge and is conveying this to the city leadership as well.

EVANSTON SAIL BOAT AND PADDLE ASSOCIATION

Sail Boat and Paddle Board Association member P. Wild attended tonight's meeting to introduce the association as the governing board for the oversight of Dempster Beach. Their main focus right now is assisting staff in making sure the safety rules at the beach are enforced. The association plans to visit the Park and Recreation Board twice a year to provide a report.

L. Maclin said she has concerns with near and offshore safety because boaters violate the 300 yard rule. She suggests placing additional buoys along the lakefront to help with safety, similar to Chicago.

S. Pilgrim suggests getting staff certified in non-motorized boating safety programs; offering classes to the Dempster St beach users; and restricting Dempster to a boating beach. The lake is dangerous and individuals don't understand the dangers and the number of drownings that occur each year.

PARK MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR 2016

S. Walker, Greenways Supervisor of the Public Works Agency, provided an update on field maintenance plans for 2016.

CIP UPDATE

The Board received a monthly capital improvement projects report submitted by L. Biggs, Bureau Chief of Capital Planning & Engineering.

STAFF REPORT

The CCS consultant group is continuing to work on the fundraising campaign. A presentation is scheduled for the April 18 City Council meeting to discuss and determine the next steps. There had been discussion on possible encroachment onto the James Park community garden plots by a business that may go into the recycling center. Adjustments are being made so there will be minimal to no impact to the community garden plots. Staff is still working on the request for proposal for a condition review of park and recreation properties, including Districts 65 and 202 and the Lighthouse and Ridgeville Park Districts. The goal is to have this completed in the next 30 days. Robert Crown Recreation Manager Robert Lloyd has announced his retirement after 29 years with the City of Evanston. His last day will be May 6, 2016.

ROBERT CROWN ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT

D. Stein recommended placing the application on hold until the Board could look at the make-up of the Robert Crown Advisory Board as it appears to be mostly figure skating representatives.

BOARD OFFICE ELECTION

The Board office election is placed on hold until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved 8:10PM. The next scheduled meeting is 7pm on April 21, 2016 at the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center.