



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **PARK AND RECREATION BOARD**

Thursday, May 19, 2016

7:00pm

Fleetwood Jourdain, 1655 Foster St

Members Present: D. Stein, E. DeStefano, B. Logan, H. Garcia, R. Mayne, J. Brown, J. Bryan, D. Campbell, Denise Barreto

Members Absent:

Staff Present: B. Dorneker, L. Hemingway

Others Present: F. Barboro

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### **DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

With a quorum present, J. Brown called the meeting to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of MARCH 17**

The motion to accept the minutes was approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

D. Stein noted that Board members reached out to community members regarding their concerns about athletic field conditions and added this topic to the agenda for discussion. He's surprised at the lack of support of those people (by not showing up at the meeting) that were concerned about this issue. Other Board members agreed with D. Stein.

F. Baboro runs house league baseball and is involved with soccer and other activities. The Evanston Baseball/Soft Ball Association has 1200 kids playing on the fields and the conditions of the fields are generally poor. There's a lack of drainage; the fields has system of fences that is unsafe. In general we'd love to see what we can do to get more resources to address field issues.

### **CIP UPDATE**

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

### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **Dog Beach Update**

The traditional dog beach is gone due to high water levels. Staff was able to create a small temporary dog beach using sand that was dredged from the boat launch. Public Works will put up fencing and an entry gate. The dog beach will open on May 28 and season dog beach tokens will be prorated.

### Lee St Beach Parking Update

At the April Board meeting staff was directed to ask the city engineer to perform a measurement check to see if diagonal parking could be placed at Lakeshore Blvd between Lee and Greenleaf. Engineering staff recommend not moving forward with this suggestion because diagonal parking would create a bottle neck when cars double park to drop people off.

### Summer Camp Update

We still have open spaces in some of our summer camps. This year staff is including a reading component to the summer camp programs. Books will be delivered to many of the camp sites and campers will have 10-20 minutes of daily reading time.

### Update on Report Card Reviewing Park and Recreation Properties; and Park and Recreation Financing Report Prioritizing Spending

Staff is still working on a request for proposals.

### Robert Crown Center Fundraising Campaign Progress

The City is still moving forward in various stages of the fundraising initiative. The goal is to build a new facility. We've received significant commitments. There will be a separate 501c3 "Friends of the Crown Center" to hold all funds raised.

### **ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE / Field conditions and strategies to improve**

L. Hemingway said we really don't have athletic fields as it pertains to soccer, football or lacrosse. What we have is lined green space. So as a department and with the Board's help, we really need to position ourselves to make serious investments in the fields. Public Work's park maintenance staff is doing the best they can but we really need capital not maintenance. J. Bryan said he's been pushing to get the field improved for over many years. He has seen kids suffer serious injuries from playing on the fields. We really need to make the athletics field a priority.

### **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION CONSOLIDATION PLAN**

The City is moving forward with reducing the number of Boards and Commissions from 45 to 37. Some of the Boards/Commissions will be eliminated and some will be combined. The Citizens' Advisory Committee on Public Place Names will be absorbed by the Park and Recreation Board and the Board's name will be changed to Parks, Recreation and Community Services Board. The Board's bylaws will need to be updated once the change is made.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved 8:05PM. The next scheduled meeting is 7pm on June 16, 2016 at the Levy Center.