



MEETING MINUTES

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Thursday, March 21, 2019

6:00pm

Ecology Center, 2020 McCormick Blvd.

Members Present: D. Michelin, T. Long, D. Featherson, E. Moran, J. Bryan
E. DeStefano

Members Absent: D. Barreto, J. Greenberg

Staff Present: L. Hemingway, K. Hawk, M. Poole, M. Bush, E. Doroghazi

Others Present: R. Bush

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present, E. DeStefano called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 17

Action: The motion to accept the minutes was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Program Coordinators M. Poole and E. Doroghazi gave an overview of their job responsibilities and the different programs offered at the Ecology Center. Program Coordinator M. Bush gave an overview of her job responsibilities and the different programs offered at the Chandler-Newberger Community Center.

The owner of First Slice Pie Café (housed in the Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center) has decided that the company is not in a position to keep this location open. It has been an ongoing challenge for them to get customers into that location, and the revenue generated there was not sufficient to offset the cost of their operations. Their last day of business at Gibbs-Morrison was March 15, 2019. Staff is in the process of developing a Request for Proposal for a new concession operator at Gibbs-Morrison.

As part of the 2019 budget process staff looked at opportunities to increase revenue for the Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center. It was determined that an opportunity to lease out the Delores A. Holmes Recording Studio could potentially bring in an additional \$10,000 annually. On March 11 City Council approved a lease agreement with Avengerz Music Group LLC. The term of the agreement will be for two years, March 1, 2019 – March 1,

2021 with an increase in the monthly rental rate from \$900 to \$1,000 after the first twelve months.

A Neighborhood meeting was held on March 19 at the Kabul House located at 2424 Dempster Street to gather input regarding planned improvements to Harbert Park. Approximately 35 people attended.

On March 11 City Council approved a contract with Chicagoland Paving for the Lovelace Park tennis court rehabilitation. This project consists of reconstructing all six of the tennis courts at Lovelace Park. The asphalt surface will be milled and replaced along with a new sport court color coating. Work also includes fence repairs as needed and new nets, tennis posts, and net anchors.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded four North Shore communities a grant to protect public beaches from erosion. Park districts in Glencoe, Lake Bluff, North Chicago and the City of Evanston will receive clean sand dredged from Waukegan harbor to protect public beaches. Placement of dredged material could begin as early as the spring of 2020.

On March 18 staff presented City Council with an update on the Robert Crown Community Center, Ice Complex and Library project, which is on time and on budget. On April 8 staff will recommend City Council's approval of a ten year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Friends of the Robert Crown Center (FRCC). The MOU memorializes the relationship between the City of Evanston and the volunteer-led fundraising entity and details how the funds raised by FRCC are applied to the Robert Crown Community Center project construction and debt service. L. Hemingway will provide the Board with a copy once it has been approved.

There were 604 youth that attended the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program job fair. Staff is working on getting those kids placed in the jobs that were available at the fair. For students who didn't attend that job fair, there will be another job fair for ages 16 and above, hosted by the City of Evanston, the Youth Job Center, and state Department of Human Services on May 23, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Levy Senior Center.

After 14 years at the City of Evanston, Evonda Thomas-Smith is retiring as the director of Health and Human Services.

BOARD OFFICE ELECTION

Action: The motion for Emily DeStefano to serve as Board President and Tracy Long to serve as Vice President was approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7pm. The next scheduled meeting is 6pm on April 18, 2019 at the Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center.