

Cary Park District
Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting
September 24, 2011
Community Center
255 Briargate Rd.
Cary, Illinois

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Hill called the Special Meeting to order at 8:00 AM

Roll Call

Upon roll call the following Commissioners answered present:
Mr. Emma, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Renner, Mr. Krueger, Ms. Hill

Staff Present:

Jones, Glenn, Hughes, Raica, Kelly, Rea

Guest Present:

Barbara Hill, 910 Ridgewood Drive, Cary

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ED Jones gave a Planning Retreat overview, explaining the reason for the meeting: to give the Board an opportunity to share ideas and thoughts on different topics outside the confines of the regular committee and board meeting schedule and agendas. The first item completed by the group was to place in order the topics for discussion. The order chosen was review of Long Range Goals, Vision and Mission Statements, Cary Park Foundation, Acquisition and Development Priorities List, Cary Veterans Park, Third Party Funding Opportunities and Open Forum.

Long Range Goals, Vision and Mission Statements

Per Board policy 1-103.r3, the Board is to review these items in years ending in 0 and 5. The last review was completed in 2006. After a review of the items there were no changes recommended to any of the statements.

Cary Park District Foundation

When the Foundation was begun, the members of the board were Dave Gervais, Alan Hoffman, Sheila Monaghan, and Mike Collins. Claire Glenn and Dan Jones were appointed to the Board as staff members by former ED Steve Cherveney. The intent of the foundation originally was to support activities and development at Hoffman Park. As time moved forward the intent was modified to provide help with “extras” for the District, through donations, fund raisers, a statue program.

The Moonlight Golf Outing was the only fundraiser held, and Park District staff, primarily former ED Cherveney, ended up with many duties in order to have a successful event. Harvey expressed that the foundation had become too connected to staff. Most foundation activities seem to have been more staff driven rather than foundation board driven events. Only one statue was ever donated, resident Steve Moore at Chalet Park.

As time wore on interest and passion for the Foundation began to lag. At this point, the Foundation is considered dormant with the last meeting being held in 2007. The necessary annual paperwork filings are still being sent to the State. This has continued at the recommendation of counsel. Glenn commented that another value to maintaining the foundation was that certain grants could only be applied to or received by an entity such as a foundation.

It was suggested that the Foundation could tap into the Chamber, student groups, other service organizations, impressing upon them that this group is separate and distinct from the Park District.

The structure of the board exists to add members. Two of the original board members (Gervais, Collins) have indicated that they would be willing to continue their involvement if there was a plan.

Renner commented that the by-laws should be structured to keep individuals from having a specific agenda in order not to sway the group, but he wondered how this could be kept from happening. The main purpose of the Foundation should be of service to the community and the Park District.

Jones summarized that the Park District Board is interested in continuing the Foundation and that efforts should be made to rekindle interest in the Foundation and establish a direction moving forward. He suggested a golf outing before Memorial Day to re-energize, recruit new members and re-define the Foundation's goals.

Acquisition and Development Priorities List

At 8:55 AM, Harvey moved to enter Closed Session for the purpose of Acquisition, Purchase or Lease of Land per 5 ILCS 120/2 ©(5) and Sale or Lease of Land per 5 ILCS 120/2 ©(6). Second by Krueger.

All voting aye. Motion carried.

At 9:35 AM the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken as a result of Closed Session. A five minute recess was taken.

At 9:40 AM the discussion continued with Acquisition and Development Priorities.

Jones provided an overview of the list. This working list has existed since 2000, the completed projects since that time were acknowledged as a signs of progress. Many of the items were included in 2007 CMP. Some required a partner or additional funding to

be completed. The aim of the discussion is to review the list and then prioritize, eliminate, or keep items on it.

Renner commented that many of the items are just holdovers from old lists and should be dumped. There was a question about wetland mitigation at Lions Park and Raica clarified that there had been an opportunity to do a wetland bank and boardwalk if the funding became available but that did not materialize. Regarding another trail through Lions Park, MCCD property to West Lake has been discussed but no firm direction established.

A playground for the Brigadoon Subdivision was discussed briefly but the Val Budd Park property is located “in a hole” so the idea lacks practicality. Hill commented that a playground in this area is not needed unless Briargate School was lost.

Regarding a historical museum, the Village’s acquisition of the Harper collection and their focus on displaying items both in the Village Hall and in their newsletter would make the Village a more likely candidate to follow through on such a project.

The concept of a trail from the Chally property through Hoffman Park to Fox Trails is to be funded by Meyer Material. Raica explained the trail potential for this area. Also, he explained another aspect of trail potential beyond Sage Corporation where the Village trail ends, on to the Three Oaks Recreation area in Crystal Lake. This is another idea.

Also, Renner asked if Route 14 will ever connect to Cary-Algonquin Road and was told that due to sidewalks already in existence across most of these areas, another trail would not be a priority.

The need for more baseball and football fields across the community was brought up again as it has been in the past.

The Board spent time reprioritizing the list individually. The work would be presented again at a later date.

Veterans Park

Jones introduced the topic by stating that Veterans Park used to be the center of town and then the center of town has moved in other directions over time. At this point, the Park District is dealing with storm water issues, decaying tennis courts, disrepair of a playground, and the looming dredging project. The memorial area of the park, reworked several years ago, seems to be the highlight of the park and the Suchy Fountain is a nice art piece located in a highly visible location.

Rea indicated that money has been spent on the tennis courts, but the work doesn’t hold up. Due to the ground the courts are built upon the cracks will continue to reoccur. Time spent in upkeep of the park is another consideration. There is not a good estimate of the amount of resident and general use of the park site except for the tennis lessons that the Park District runs in the summer and the use of the memorial space for specific activities

during the year. Dredging of the pond is a good way to start improving the look of the park. Krueger said there needs to be a plan with wild flowers and other low maintenance amenities that will enhance the view of the park from Route 14. It was commented that nothing can be done about the “vista” of the backs of the buildings that line Northwest Highway.

It was generally held that the playground should not be replaced and should be removed. The future of the courts held mixed reviews. Hill stated that there shouldn't be a great investment since the area is a TIF district and things may change in the future. Emma did not feel that the tennis courts be removed without other alternatives in place. Harvey felt the Park District should just leave courts alone and continue to manage them as best as we can. Renner and Krueger were of the opinion that the courts should be removed. The dredging project will also have a big impact on the state of the park.

Renner felt the decision on the courts would not be of major impact. Would we replace, if there was demand? Past discussed courts at Cary Oaks were brought up, but that was a developer item and funds were never really available to do the project.

What is the extent of court use in the community? It was stated that if individuals wanted to play tennis it is likely they would do this at CGHS before the park site. If tennis court opportunities were replaced, sites for consideration could be Lions Park or Cary-Grove Park but Harvey said he would not want to spend \$100,000 to replace for the sake of one or two passionate tennis players. The focus of the use of funds should be on the biggest bang for the buck.

In referring to the 2007 CMP survey, playgrounds and tennis ranked above a lot of other desired amenities but ranked well behind in actual use. Other parks have far more usage than Veterans Park has.

Third Party Funding Opportunities

In this economy it is more difficult to identify where these opportunities may arise. It is not a conducive climate in which to seek funds. Perhaps working with Fox River Grove, Crystal Lake, Algonquin, Lake in the Hills and other surrounding communities, in a cooperative effort to build a recreation/multi sport use center, has merit in exploring. Even if a large, cooperative facility was built, how do you staff, economically, for the ebb and flow of use. This is a question that could arise from constituents. Renner commented that if this plan were viable, someone else would have done so by now. Hill commented that Crystal Lake is looking into building a facility and that's what brought the idea to mind. Harvey did not think this was a good plan. How do we get people interested in exploring the idea? Do we have the interest? Krueger commented about all the talk about a resort at Hoffman Park got stalled in details early on.

Open Forum

Hill stated that this was an opportunity for anyone to bring up other items for discussion not already covered.

Krueger asked if there were any fall-back plans to help Cary Youth Baseball if Maplewood School was lost. Jones indicated he had spoken with the CYB President about a transition plan and had already offered assistance. Candlewood Park field was redone this year in support of this effort. An offer to assist CYB getting fields into shape on short notice already stands.

Renner asked about improving the grade of the ballfields at Lions Park and he was told that all the fields had a great deal of work done this past year. The area where the infield and outfields meet were regarded. Rea commented that the result was better than in the past. The most difficult field to drain remains no. 2.

There were no other items brought forth for discussion.

Harvey moved to adjourn the meeting. Renner seconded.

All voting aye.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM.