

Cary Park District  
Board of Commissioners  
**Parks & Recreation Operations Committee**  
August 9, 2018  
7:00 PM  
Community Center  
255 Briargate Road  
Cary, IL

**Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Howell, Renner, and Hauck

Commissioners Present: Stanko

Guest Present: None.

Staff Present: Jones, Krueger, Raica, Rogus, Kelly, and Lee.

Hauck called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes from the July 12, 2018 Parks & Recreation Operations Committee meeting were presented for approval.

***Renner moved to approve the minutes; second by Howell.***

Voice vote: 3-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

The next Discussion item was Renewal of SD155/Cary Park District Intergovernmental Agreement – Use of Facilities. Kelly explained a draft agreement between School District 155 and the Park District on use of facilities has been presented this evening. This is the second agreement with the original expiring this August. She explained there were not a lot of changes in the facilities or fee structure presented. Lacrosse is becoming an IHSA sport, and with that facility usage was discussed. Cary-Grove High School Boy's Lacrosse Club was renting Park District field space, but now Cary-Grove will arrange for their field space. Kelly stated that if D155 knows of a construction schedule that could impact Park District programming in the summer months, Cary-Grove is to provide the Park District with that schedule to help assist with programming and space on our end. The next School District 155 Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 21 where they will review and approve the agreement.

Howell asked if any of the language was different, and Kelly said it was the same.

Stanko asked what the procedure is to change the agreement in reference to field space. Kelly said, for example, previously the High School Boy's Lacrosse Club organizer would follow guidelines to rent field space through the Park District, but now Cary-Grove High School will request the space. Requests have been accommodated so the club can be at Cary-Grove Park.

Renner asked if the boys and girls lacrosse both take place in the spring. Kelly stated that the only two groups in contact with the Park District are the high school club and co-ed youth, so she does not know if the girls group will need field space. Renner stated that from a transportation stand point, it is very convenient that there is a field right next door to Cary-Grove High School so lacrosse can play. He said the cooperative agreement is great. He then asked about the tennis courts and if they will be renovated at Cary-Grove High School next summer. She said yes, she has heard that might occur, but nothing is final.

Jones said it is good that the Park District and School District 155 are working together to best utilize resources for the communities best interest. He mentioned that the golf team no longer pays fees to play at Foxford Hills which is a benefit to Cary-Grove High School. The Park District does not pay rental fees for tennis court usage or use of the auditorium. This agreement benefits both sides.

Renner asked if there has been time that the Park District has asked for space at another high school rather than Cary-Grove High School, and Kelly said yes, but not since the agreement has taken place. This agreement is not restricted to Cary-Grove High School and covers all schools in School District 155, but Cary-Grove High School is the best location for Cary patrons.

***Renner moved to recommend Board approval of the revised Intergovernmental Agreement between Cary Park District and Board of Education of Community High School District 155, McHenry County, for Use of Facilities. Second by Hauck.***

Voice vote: 3-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

The next Discussion Item was Purchase of a Lightning Prediction System. Rogus stated funds totaling just over \$65,000 were placed in this year's budget for a lightning detection system. After much research, Rogus explained he is looking at purchasing a lightning prediction system instead of a detection system. The main benefit of a lightning prediction system, such as Thor Guard, is that when conditions are right for a lightning strike, the alarms will sound, and with lightning detection, it goes off after lightning has struck the area. They have a 97% prediction rate of lightning occurring within 8-12 minutes. Since the purchase limit is above the limit for competitive bidding, the proposal letter was submitted to the attorney. Thor Guard is the only company producing a lightning prediction system, so a bid does not need to occur.

Rogus explained that a system will be installed at Foxford Hills. The system has a solar panel, battery backup system, audible alarm, and flashing light. The main sensor would be at the club house with remotes out on the golf course. A sensor would also be at Jaycee Park. There would be 5 other remotes placed throughout town including Lions Park, Cary-Grove Park, the Community Center, Hoffman Park, and Kaper Park. Staff would install mounting poles, and Thor Guard would install the remotes and sensors to the roofs. The Park District can set the parameter for the system such as the times they will be operational (usually dawn to dusk). Rogus stated that traditionally other Park Districts with the Thor Guard system turn it off from November through March due to fields not being in use. The alarm does go off in a 360 degree radius; however the horns can be manipulated slightly to blow towards the directed target. The poles will be located as far away from houses as possible. The first horn sound is 15 seconds

sounding the warning. When the all clear is given, there will be 3 short 5 second sounds. Signs will be placed in parks and on the website. Stickers will be placed on all the golf carts indicating what to do if the horn blasts.

Rogus explained that Lake Zurich just installed a Thor Guard and posted an FAQ on the website saying where they are located as well as more information on the system itself. Several Park Districts and Municipalities in the area use this system.

Howell asked how many remotes are connected to Foxford, and Rogus said two. There will be a sensor on the clubhouse. Howell then asked if it is radio connected, and Rogus said it is.

Howell then asked if the system will need to go through the zoning process with the Village of Cary due to the alarm sounding a distance of 700 yards. Rogus stated that he didn't believe the system was required to go through the zoning process. Howell said there are decibel ordinances, and that should be looked into. Howell asked if the remote locations need electricity, and Rogus said no, but the main system will need power, but it has a battery backup. Howell then asked if text alerts are available, and Rogus said yes, that is an add-on option.

Renner asked what the cost would be for similar products. Rogus said other systems such as Boltek, Skyscan, and Vaisala were looked at, and the prices were comparable but they were lightning detection, not prediction systems. He said what is really nice about Thor Guard is that they have all the needed components to make this work through one vendor, whereas other vendors provide only pieces of the system.

Stanko asked if D155 utilized this system, but Rogus said that this will be the only lightning prediction system in Cary. Rogus said depending on where the remote is installed, Cary-Grove High School will benefit from this system.

Renner asked about the letters of support for the grant application, and Rogus stated that the Park District did not get approved for the grant this time around. Rogus stated that Youth Football and Youth Baseball said they would be willing to contribute to the overall cost, but the groups did not provide an amount.

***Howell move to recommend Board approval of the purchase of a Thor Guard lightning prediction system from Lightning Prediction Services, LLC of Morton Grove, IL. in the amount of \$65,550. Second by Renner.***

Voice vote: 3-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

***Renner moved to adjourn. Second by Howell.***

Voice vote: 3-0. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:39 PM.