Cary Park District
Board of Commissioners
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**
December 9, 2021
7:00 PM
Community Center
255 Briargate Road
Cary, IL

**Minutes**

Board Members Present: Stanko, Carasso and Frangiamore.

Staff Present: Kelly, Rogus, Hall, Raica, Hughes and Krueger.

Guests Present: Paul Ingallerina.

Commissioner Stanko called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Stanko asked if there were any matters from the Public, Commissioners, and staff.

No matters from the public.

Under matters from Commissioners, Commissioners Carasso and Stanko both stated that the Merry Cary Parade was nice and that they enjoyed participating in it.

No matters from staff.

The minutes from the November 11, 2021 COW meeting were presented for approval.

***Frangiamore moved to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Carasso.***

Voice vote: Yes – 3, No – None. Motion carried.

The first Direction item for consideration was Policy 4-011, Whistleblower Protection (Safe-T Act).

Jones stated the Governor signed into law Public Act 101-0652, section 4.1 of which applies to Park Districts. Jones stated that PDRMA has provided direction on the implementation of this item for agencies as well as a sample policy. Jones stated that the policy presented this evening will bring the Park District into compliance from a policy standpoint related to the new law.

***Frangiamore moved to recommend Policy 4-011, Whistleblower Protection (Safe-T Act). Second by Carasso.***

Stanko asked for discussion. Hearing none from others, Stanko asked what occurs if the Executive Director is the person to be reported for wrong doing? Jones directed to #5 in the policy which provides alternatives for whom an individual may file a report too.

Voice Vote: Yes – 3, No – None. Motion carried.

The first Discussion Item, was Action Plan 2022 draft. Jones reviewed an updated Action Plan 2022 draft document and highlighted modifications and additional information added to it since it was discussed first in October 2021. Jones noted the differences between an Action Plan update and a Comprehensive Master Plan update.

Stanko asked for discussion. Frangiamore stated the demo of the old pool is important and he would be willing to wait a year but no longer than that. Frangiamore stated that the most important item for staff and the Park District is the operation of the new aquatic facility. He stated that the Annex lease and space is important but he would like to see where the market moves on office space lease in the future.

Carasso stated that she agreed with Frangiamore and the demo of the old pool is very important. Carasso stated that the parking lot at Lions Park should also be a priority and she is concerned with the timeline for this work as shown on the Action Plan 2022 draft.

Stanko stated this discussion of this item should be placed on the COW agenda in January as two Commissioners are missing this evening. Stanko stated he is concerned about people and work loads. Stanko stated the new pool operation is a high priority. Stanko stated he does not want to wait on the old pool demo project. Stanko stated that he is interested in President Renner comments about the Lions Park parking lot and the old pool demo from his perspective as a civil engineer. Stanko stated he would recommend the Annex discussion be held every 6 months or on a regular time frame to manage Board discussion on this item.

The second Discussion Item, was Teen Center/E-Sports. Jones stated that this item was directed to be placed on the agenda by the Board at its October Regular Board meeting.

Stanko asked the others to consider what they believe the outcome or the end point of this topic of discussion to be. Carasso stated that she believed the topic was important to discuss but a final outcome would not be a short process. She believes it will require visits to other park district teen centers to see what others are doing. Carasso stated she believes the process will be longer than shorter, even though her own children would benefit from something happening sooner than later. Carasso stated that additional discussion should be held as this discussion may impact the Action Plan 2022 draft as well as the upcoming budget.

Stanko stated the previous discuss of a teen center was too expansive in his opinion, calling it a teen recreation center is a more appropriate concept he believes. Stanko stated there are avenues for kids to find things to do within the community including the high school. Stanko stated that multi use spaces are important, versatile spaces rather than single use spaces. He stated he would like more discussion of the Board to be clearer on the scope of what is being discussed. Stanko asked what does success look like for a teen recreational center? He stated that he believes not everyone is on the same page as to what this is. Stanko stated that he does not see this topic impacting Action Plan 2022 and that he sees it

as part of the next Comprehensive Master Plan update process, but not now. Stanko stated that there is a lot that needs to happen before decisions are made on spaces and staff.

Frangiamore stated that he watches the Village board meetings and he sees everyone bailing on these ideas. Frangiamore stated that he did his own research on this topic. He stated that he wonders if COVID is a driver of the concerns raised on behalf of teens, he stated that he believes it is part of it. Frangiamore stated his research found a company that manages e-sports for different entities'. He stated that he found nine Park District's that offer e-sports. Frangiamore stated that CMP 2016 has a recreation center discussed within it as a need and desire. He stated that he sees a teen center and e-sports being a part of a large recreation center. Frangiamore stated that the current community center will never be anything more than a multi-use center. He stated that there are always more needs and wants than there is money to implement.

Stanko stated that he would be interested in who (park districts) operates teen centers, where are they operated and how big is the community the center serves? Stanko stated that he does not want to put too much on COVID, that COVID has been difficult on everyone in all facets of life and all ages. Stanko stated that when this item was first brought up it was about e-sports, he asked is e-sports driving a teen center or is a teen center driving e-sports? He stated that a recreational center could have space in it for e-sports and teens.

Stanko asked for staff comment. Jones stated that when this discussion is taking place it is also important to remember all the things that the Park District does do in the area of teens rather than focus only on its shortcomings. Jones highlighted the annual employment of teens and young adults in the Cary community, which is something that is not a program, but impacts positively hundreds of teens year after year. Jones stated that it is easy to hear things like there are more needs and wants than money and see it as an excuse. He stated that in this case the Park District has more than done its part to meet the needs of the community expressed and identified through CMP 2016. He noted that nearly $20 million had been invested back into the community since 2016 but really 2017, which has included meeting action items and identified needs in the CMP 2016 document that include Lions/Kaper Park Revitalizations, four playground replacements with more scheduled to occur, purchase of new early childhood facility and remodel of it, conversion of old preschool space to usable maintenance space, construction of new multi-use trail at Hoffman Park and finally the construction of a new aquatic facility which is a 40+ year infrastructure project for the community.

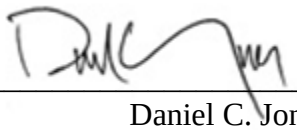
Stanko stated that this item would be included on the COW meeting agenda for further discussion on January 13, 2022.

Stanko asked for a motion to adjourn.

***Motion to adjourn the meeting by Frangiamore. Second by Carasso.***

Voice vote: Yes – 3. No – None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.



Daniel C. Jones, Secretary
Park District Board of Commissioners