

Cary Park District
Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
January 13, 2022
7:00 PM
Community Center
255 Briargate Road
Cary, IL

Minutes

Board Members Present: Stanko, Carasso, Frangiamore, Victor and Renner.

Staff Present: Kelly, Hall, Raica, Hughes and Barge.

Guests Present: None.

Commissioner Renner called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

No matters from the public.

Under matters from Commissioners, Renner stated that an email had been sent regarding the upcoming conference and an app, and he recommended everyone download it.

Under matters from staff, Hall introduced Eric Barge, a newly hired Program Manager for the agency. The Board welcomed Barge to the agency.

The minutes from the December 9, 2021 COW meeting were presented for approval.

Frangiamore moved to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Stanko.

Voice vote: Yes – 3, No – None, Abstain - 2. Motion carried.

There were no Direction Items.

The first Discussion Item, was Action Plan 2022 draft. Jones recapped the discussion of the Board at the Committee from December 9, 2021. He reviewed the Action Plan 2022 draft document and highlighted modifications and additional information added to it since it was discussed first in October 2021. Jones noted again, the differences between an Action Plan update and a Comprehensive Master Plan update.

Renner stated he would like to start with comments from Commissioner Victor and himself as then give opportunity for other Commissioners to follow up or revisit their previous comments.

Victor stated that she would like to see the area where the old pool will be removed considered for use in a manner that would support seniors or teens.

Renner stated that a theme or directive of from the public and found in the Comprehensive Master Plan 2016, was to take care of what the Park District had. He provided several examples of the Park District implementing this work via the capital project and undertakings since the CMP 2016 was approved. Renner stated that he believed a discussion of the future of the Community Center and the old pool demolition could be separated. He stated that discussion of the sale of the front 80 acres at Hoffman Park should be considered again. Renner stated that the Annex Office Space lease is a priority to be addressed.

Frangiamore reviewed previous discussions of the Board pertaining to the area where the old pool now sits. He stated that he remembers this being discussed as a park. Frangiamore stated that a Recreation Center is the future of the agency and would be a place for teens/e-sports amongst many other things. He stated he believed a referendum to support the construction of the facility should be discussed and considered by the Board in the near future.

Carasso stated she agreed with Frangiamore regarding a Recreation Center and consideration of a referendum. She stated that she is not in favor of another park to be located where the old pool sits now.

Stanko stated that the old pool should be removed and be done so in such a way that the area could be built upon in the future. He stated that he believed the future of the Community Center should be considered when the next CMP Update is undertaken. Stanko stated that the agency should finish what it has started and that new things need to get in line with other things already planned or in progress. He stated that items already planned or in progress should be pushed back so the agency can focus rather than pushed back to add in new things.

Jones suggested the Board first discuss items individually and reach consensus agreement on those items that seemed everyone was already in agreement with, leaving the few items that required individual discussion to then focus upon. After completing this, the Board focused on the Community Center item, old pool demolition and site master plan development for Veterans, Sands Main Street Prairie, Hoffman and Jaycee Parks. The Board reached consensus to move the Community Center back to a window 2024-2026, the demolition of the old pool to remain as scheduled in the draft plan, and keep the site master plans as shown on the draft with the exception of the Jaycee Park plan which should be moved to 2026-2027. Jones stated that he would bring the revised draft Action Plan 2022 to the COW meeting in February for final review and recommendation to the Board for approval.

The second Discussion item was Teen Center/E-Sports. Renner recapped discussions he had individually with Megan Streit and Paul Ingallerina on this matter. He stated that he understands the importance of a program like E-Sports for those who have interest in this area. Renner stated that for the Park District planning is important and that the mission of the Park District includes the word "exceptional" and he was in favor of a process to plan, evaluate so that something exceptional could be implemented rather than just doing something to do it. He stated that the focus of the agency should be on things that have already undergone a planning process.

Victor stated that teens needs something and as a Park District we are obligated to provide services to them. She stated that this could be a room for their use, more programming but that they deserved something. Victor stated the high school should be engaged for partnerships to expand this area within the Park District.

Carasso stated that she does not believe E-Sports is the responsibility of the Park District but rather the high school. She wondered how hard those interested have pushed the high school to meet their needs in the same way they have pushed the Park District to do so. Carasso stated that she agrees with Victor teens deserve a space or more programming to meet their needs.

Stanko asked to revisit the question he asked at a previous meeting which was, what does success look like in this area? He stated that for him, a teen center is different than a teen recreation center, the components of each are different. He reiterated again, what does success like in this area when the Board is finished?

Several Commissioners stated that more should be done for teens in the programming area and suggested items that staff should undertake to move this forward. Jones stated that the Executive Director is the individual the Board should hold accountable for meeting these directives. He suggested adding this desire as a directive in the annual Executive Director work initiatives would be the means to hold the Executive Director accountable to seeing that they are implemented. Renner asked the Board to consider what this means to them, is it based on programming, research or facilities? After discussion the consensus of the Board was the focus should be on programming and research and that for the Executive Director work initiatives for FY2022-23, this item be included.

The last Discussion Item was a review of the Board Policy Manual. Jones stated that due to the time, the Board did not need to tackle this item this evening. After discussion, the Board reached consensus that it would review Section 1 on their own, provide their feedback and comments to Jones individually and that he should bring these items before the Board for discussion and review at the February COW meeting.

Renner asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Stanko. Second by Carasso.

Voice vote: Yes – 5. No – None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.



Daniel C. Jones, Secretary
Park District Board of Commissioners