

Cary Park District
Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
December 14, 2023
7:00 PM
Community Center
255 Briargate Road
Cary, IL

Minutes

Board Members Present: Frangiamore, Stanko, Carasso, Renner (7:08pm), Victor.

Staff Present: Jones, Horn, Kelly, Hall, Krueger, Mach, Tarosas, Barge, Fejedelem.

Public Present: Al Tuman, Laura Tuman, Jenay DiOrio.

President Victor called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Victor asked if there were any Matters from the Public, Commissioners, and Staff.

Under Matters from the Public, none.

Under Matters from Commissioners, none.

Under Matters from Staff, Jones reminded the Board of the Staff and Commissioner Holiday Party of December 15 at Foxford Hills Golf Club. Jones provided a brief update on the Lions Park Paving project. He stated Aptar has agreed to pay a portion of the costs for the project and staff will continue to work with them throughout the process.

The minutes from the November 9, 2023 COW meeting were presented for approval.

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

Voice vote: Yes – 4. No – None. Motion carried.

Victor recommended the Board start the meeting with the two Discussion Items. The Board agreed.

The first Discussion Item was FY2024-25 Budget Calendar. Krueger presented the calendar outline of activities related to the development and approval of the annual budget. Victor asked for discussion and there was none.

The second Discussion Item was Update, 2023 Seasons Review, Sunburst Bay Aquatic Center (SBAC) and Summer Day Camp Programs. Jones introduced Program Managers Barge (Camp ECHO) and Fejedelem (Sunshine Camp) to present the Day Camp 2023 Season Review. Barge and Fejedelem highlighted the benefits of the camps, enrollment, staffing, weekly themes, field trips, registration

process, and survey results. Fejedelem stated some of the improvements she would like to make for Sunshine Camp next summer include continue to develop and improve staff training week, reevaluate age group breakdown, look into bringing special guests in lieu of field trips (since the younger kids cannot utilize the Park District buses for field trips), and increase marketing to participants in the Early Childhood and Preschool programs. Barge stated some of the improvements he will look into for Camp ECHO include improving the drop off and pick up system at Fel-Pro, develop a new and engaging camp staff training/orientation, develop a better inclement weather plan, and adjust the refund/withdraw date.

Frangiamore inquired about the decrease in Sunshine Camp enrollment. Fejedelem did not have direct reason for the decrease since the camps were full or nearing their capacities in 2022. She stated the age group breakdown could have contributed to the decrease, which is something she will evaluate again for next summer. Frangiamore asked if Barge and Fejedelem had ways to increase retention of staff. Barge stated staff return rates for both camps was good this year, but it becomes difficult when staff begin to “age out” of these positions as they move through high school and college. He further stated they continue to try and offer a competitive rate. Carasso asked if splitting the camp up by age group for specific field trips would help keep field trips more age appropriate. Barge responded that is something he is evaluating for next summer, but there are some challenges that come with that, the maximizing of an entire bus due to cost, therefore he needs to look deeper into the details and logistics of that option. Frangiamore asked Barge is there was a waitlist. Barge responded yes there was, but it is challenging to fill spots due to the timeline of a spot becoming available and waitlist families already committed to other programs. Frangiamore asked if Camp ECHO campers went to SBAC. Barge responded all campers went to SBAC two days a week, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Jones introduced Program and Facility Manager Tarosas to walk the Board through a review of the 2023 SBAC Season. Tarosas reviewed a variety of information including staffing, concessions, admissions, guards, managers, maintenance of the facility, rentals/parties, hours of operation, swim lessons, programming and special events, PDRMA reviews, and staff training. At the conclusion of the presentation, Tarosas stated some of the goals for 2024 include increase in special events offered, revamping the swim lesson program into a swim school, host open houses, create a lifejacket rental policy, additional staff training, more hiring events, and adjust hours of operations. All Commissioners complimented staff on a job well done and provided positive feedback.

Victor stated some of the feedback she heard was in regard to issues booking parties and asked what the process is for a booking. Tarosas briefly reviewed the process and stated she will continue to evaluate the process to eliminate future issues. Frangiamore shared he received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from the community throughout the summer. He stated he likes the idea of having Snack Shack managers in the future to help manage that area, which can get quite chaotic especially during breaks. Frangiamore expressed the need for full time maintenance staff throughout the summer to help accommodate the needs of that busy facility. He also noted the great experiences he has had with the swim team and their meets at the facility. Renner shared he also received many compliments on SBAC, one in particular complimenting the active adult opportunities available. He expressed one area of concern from his personal experience at the facility which was the area around the diving board and climbing wall. Tarosas responded staff has discussed the possibility of roping that area off in the future. Renner also expressed concerns with the concession stand umbrellas during times of high wind. Tarosas responded the umbrellas needed to be tightened, which was done and they haven’t had any other issues since that was done. Lastly, Renner asked about the swim lanes during open swim, wondering if that

many are needed. Tarosas responded patrons expressed the desire for more, so staff opened more, but staff have observed they are not all being utilized most of the time.

Carasso thanked staff for all their hard work and dedication this past summer. She agreed with Frangiamore on the need for full time maintenance staff. Stanko echoed the other commissioner's comments. He stated he is very impressed by the staff and thanked them for operating a great facility to offer to our community. Victor echoed the previous comments made. She shared any time she visited the facility, the lifeguards always did an excellent job. Victor made a recommendation to consider offering bilingual swim classes, or some other option to help reach some other members of our community. Tarosas responded they did make some adjustments this past summer with bilingual staff to help accommodate swim students who did not speak English fluently, but she will continue to review the possibility of offering a bilingual class itself. Victor shared she has heard comments from the active older adult/senior population who desire some special event or private time at the facility for an opportunity enjoy it. She also shared the desire for more adult nights.

Jones concluded the presentation by complimenting the entire staff on all their hard work and dedication to the programs and facilities.

The first Direction Item was Village of Cary, Water Main Extension Utility Easement, Construction Access Easement and Utility Easement within Hoffman Park. Jones briefly reviewed the previous discussions the Board has had in regard to this item. He added the most recent information he received from the Village of Cary (VOC), which included the following: 1) Three of the water main routes are not feasible to construct, now leaving 3 remaining options (A, C, and D). 2) An alternate option for the water main has been determined by the VOC, outside of Hoffman Park. 3) The location of the permanent utility easement in the southwest corner of Hoffman Park, may be determined by the Park District. 4) The VOC prefers temporary construction access route Option 2. 5) The VOC may consider water taps at no fee for Park District development, but likely will not agree to the same for private development. 6) The VOC's preference is to work with the Park District versus working with private owners in adjacent properties. 7) Prior to agreeing to offset Park District consultant fees (Gewalt Hamilton), the VOC would need to review the scope, anticipated fee and/or fee schedule of the consultant. 8) Significant fees assessed to the VOC by the Park District to secure a permanent utility easement(s) are not desirable. Jones stated staff has asked Gewalt Hamilton to prepare a proposal to evaluate the water main locations identified as A, C, and D. He further stated the evaluation will be done from the perspective of pros/cons for each location based on the potential for future development on the site. Jones noted additional feedback will be requested related to the permanent utility easement and temporary construction access easement route. After the evaluation, Jones stated staff will then develop a fee related to the impact of lost farming revenue and fee for the cost to secure permanent water main utility easement and permanent utility easement.

Renner started the discussion by confirming his comfort with staff developing an appropriate fee for the impact of lost farming. He stated he would be okay with not collecting a fee for the permanent utility easement from the VOC, but is disappointed with their response to the water taps. Renner confirmed he is comfortable with the location of the proposed permanent easement, but would like to let staff make that decision since they have been on site more.

Frangiamore stated he has concerns with the possibility of future development on the land in which the VOC is proposing for the water main, and does not understand why the VOC removed the other options. He expressed other concerns with the temporary access route, stating the land will never be restored to its original condition, and with the language in regard to their “consideration of no water tap fees” for Park District development. Frangiamore reiterated the VOC should be responsible for the legal and engineering costs the Park District may have. He confirmed he has no issue with the utility easement, and would be fine with not charging for the easement, but any out of pocket should be the VOC’s responsibility.

Stanko reiterated the point of involving Gewalt Hamilton was to have them complete an analysis of all the options the VOC was presenting, not just these three options, to determine the best option for the Park District, and felt it is premature to respond to some of the information from the VOC. He stated he is okay with the response to no water tap fees for any future private development, and is not worried about the fees related to securing the permanent utility easement. Stanko further stated his expectation would be the VOC also reimburses the Park District for any legal fees, in addition to the consultant fees.

Carasso stated she agreed that all of the original options the VOC presented should be reviewed by Gewalt Hamilton, rather than just the three options they are now providing. She further stated she understood the important of having this water main, therefore she is okay with the fees for the permanent utility easement, but would like the Park District to be compensated for any legal fees.

Victor stated she values this as an opportunity to work together with the VOC and would be okay with splitting the consultant fees because this information will also benefit the Park District for any future plans. She asked for confirmation on whether or not the other three options originally presented are still options and if they will be explored by Gewalt Hamilton. Jones responded he will confirm with the VOC. Carasso stated the VOC may have removed the other potential option due to funding, but she would still like to hear feedback on all of the options from Gewalt Hamilton. Stanko stated this piece of property is the most valuable land the Park District owns and the Board has a responsibility to make sure they do not move forward with something that may conflict with potential future plans for this property.

Jones summarized the discussion as follows: the consensus of the Board is that Gewalt Hamilton reviews all the options originally presented to the Park District, and if the VOC will not consider the other options anymore, the conversation will be done. The Board is okay with no fees for the VOC to secure the easement and the VOC assessing water tap fees for any future private development. The VOC should be responsible for reimbursing the Park District for all costs, including consultant and legal fees, one Commissioner recommending splitting the fees. Jones stated he will communicate the information back the VOC and report back to the Board when he has new information to share.

At 9:25 PM, a motion was made by Stanko to enter Closed Session for the purpose of B. Acquisition, Purchase, or Lease of Land (5 ILCS 120/2 © (5)). Second by Renner.

Victor asked for discussion prior to taking the vote. Frangiamore expressed his concern in going into Closed Session when he had not been provided any information on the matter to be discussed. Hearing no more discussion, Victor asked for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote: Yes –Stanko, Renner, Victor. No – Frangiamore. Abstain – Carasso. Motion carried.

Victor reconvened open session at 9:38 PM.

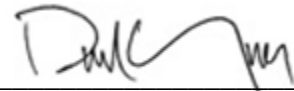
Victor summarized Closed Session as follows: The Board discussed the Acquisition, Purchase or Lease of Land.

Victor asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Renner. Second by Frangiamore.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 pm.



Daniel C. Jones, Secretary
Park District Board of Commissioners