

Cary Park District
Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 8, 2024
7:00 PM
Community Center
255 Briargate Road
Cary, IL

Minutes

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

Staff Present: Jones, Horn, Kelly, Hall, Krueger, Hughes, Mach, Tarosas, Miles.

Guests: Andrea Pracht, HR Green; Bob Johnson, Cary Youth Baseball & Softball.

Public Present: Laura Tuman, Barb Saylor

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, Carasso shared she attended the Illinois Parks & Recreation (IPRA)/Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) conference in Chicago. She stated she attended great sessions, two of which were focused on sponsorships. Stanko reminded the Board of the upcoming Executive Director performance review process. Victor responded she will be sending information out to Commissioners individually in the coming weeks. Victor stated she also attended the IPRA/IAPD conference. She shared there were over 4,000 attendees that attended the conference and 119 legislators that attended the luncheon. Victor also shared she learned there is over \$55 million dollars available for the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grants, which is awesome and exciting to hear. Overall, Victor stated it was a great conference and she looks forward to next year.

Under Matters from Staff, Jones shared President Victor was recognized at the conference by IAPD as a Master Board Member during the Annual meeting of IAPD. The Board congratulated Victor on her recognition.

The minutes from the December 14, 2023 COW meeting were presented for approval.

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

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

Victor recommended the Board start the meeting with the two presentations noted on the agenda under Discussion Items. The Board agreed to this change in order.

The first Discussion Item was Driving Range Maintenance Project, Foxford Hills Golf Club. Jones started the presentation by identifying the issue occurring at Foxford Hills Golf Club (FHGC), which is ponding and uncontrolled movement of water near the north side of the parking lot/southern edge of the driving range. He explained the impact to operations has been an inability to access this area to retrieve range balls and effectively/efficiently pick the balls and return them to the dispenser for sale to customers. Jones added those challenges have had a negative impact on operations and generation of revenue and income to FHGC. He stated this item is for discussion purposes only as staff intends to include it as part of the FY 2024/25 budget. Jones introduced Andrea Pracht from HR Green, who presented the project details and cost. Pracht began her presentation by reviewing a map of FHGC, identifying the general pattern of drainage and where the issue is occurring. She explained the pipe intended to handle the low flow has lost its functionality and now HR Green is recommending adding new structures (pipes and catch basins) to pick up the flow up and carry it until it reaches outflow at the eastern edge of the property, with as minimal impact to the area as possible. Pracht stated the preliminary cost of the project is \$100,000, including a 20% contingency, but does not include final engineering and permitting. She added the project would be planned to begin in late fall 2024 to avoid disruption to business during the busy months.

Victor asked what the estimated life is on the pipe that would be installed. Pracht responded 20+ years. Jones added this project would be similar to the system out at Cary-Grove Park. Stanko asked who installed the berm and how does it affect the ability of the system to drain in the area. Jones responded the berm was added when the subdivision was built and the plans show it as a detention area. Frangiamore asked if the water always collected in that area. Miles responded yes, typically after rain falls of 1.5 inches and over, which has been happening frequently over the last few years. Stanko asked about the placement of the end of the line. Pracht responded the goal is to keep the same placement, but closer to the outfall than it is right now. Hearing no further question, the Board thanks Pracht for her presentation.

The second Discussion Item was Presentation, Cary-Grove Youth Baseball Softball. Bob Johnson, President of Cary-Grove Youth Baseball & Softball (CGYBS), began the presentation by giving the Board some history on the 70 year old program and how it evolved into what it is today. Johnson explained starting in 2024, CGYBS will lose access to the 6 fields, concession stand, and storage shed at Maplewood, which has been their central location and an important key to “community” element of their program. He stated after construction at the Maplewood site is complete, they will have the ability to return to use the remaining 4 fields. Johnson further stated the program has plans to utilize other fields throughout the surrounding areas, but is proposing the idea of creating their new “home” at Lions Park by constructing three additional fields with portable outfield fences on the north end of the property where the soccer fields currently stand. Johnson stated CGYBS can offer a percentage of its annual gross revenues to the Park District, create additional fundraising opportunities with a percentage dedicated to the Park District, and the opportunity to absorb the Park District’s t-ball program.

Stanko asked if the proposed fields are intended for practices, games, or both. Johnson replied both and explained those fields would be versatile and have the ability to support younger age groups. Stanko asked if the CGYBS has approached Fox River Grove for additional fields. Johnson responded they

currently are using 4 of their fields, along with others in the area, but explained a lot of the problem is the requirement to have a director on duty for all games, therefore they face issues being able to fill that need when using many game locations. He added the organization is not confident they will ever return to the Maplewood property to utilize the remaining fields. Stanko stated this plan could impact not only soccer by taking away their field space, but could impact a variety of programs that are held at the park.

Carasso expressed concerns, specifically with funding a project of that size. She explained the Park District is not able to take on the cost of the project and doesn't have the ability to spend time finding ways to raise money for the project. Carasso inquired about CGYBS's thought on the timeline for this project. Johnson responded the organization has contingency plans made in the event this is not something the Board is interested in pursuing, therefore they have and continue to explore other solutions whether it's a permanent solution or temporary. Barb Saylor, Treasurer of CGYBS, noted they have explored a number of grants that could potentially help fund the project, but are unable to apply for those grants unless they have it in writing that the Park District has plans for this project to move forward. Carasso expressed the importance of the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) the Park District has, the update to this Plan scheduled to begin later in the year and their job is to listen to the community, identify what their needs are, and prioritize from there.

Frangiamore agreed with the program's decision to most likely not return to the Maplewood property to use the remaining field space. He expressed the great timing of bringing this idea forward to the Board now as they prepare to update the CMP over the next 1-2 years. Frangiamore encouraged CGYBS to do their research, plan, and bring as much as they can to the Board in 2024 so the Board can have all that information when prioritizing potential projects to be included in the next CMP.

Victor agreed with Frangiamore and expressed her desire to continue working collectively as a community. She asked how many people in Cary participate in the CGYBS program. The response was 69% of participants are Cary Park District residents. Victor thanked CGYBS for their presentation.

The first Direction Item was O-2023-24-10, Authorizing the Sale or Conveyance of Personal Property Belonging to the Cary Park District. Kelly stated the Board approves disposal of personal property belonging to the Park District for equipment that was valued at \$500.00 or greater at the time of purchase. She further stated on multiple occasions each fiscal year, staff brings a disposal ordinance to the Board for consideration. Kelly briefly reviewed the list of items to be relisted due to not reaching the previously set minimum at the last auction or reevaluation by staff. Kelly stated those items include multiple trucks, a pool chemical controller, a mower, and a tractor. She further stated the equipment will be disposed using a public auction platform.

Frangiamore moved to recommend Board of Commissioners approval of Ordinance O-2023-27-10, An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Conveyance of Personal Property Belonging to the Cary Park District. Second by Stanko.

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

The second Direction Item was Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA), Environmental Report Card. Mach stated the IPRA Environmental Report Card was last approved in February 2021 and should be reviewed and completed every three years to stay in line with Distinguished Accreditation standards.

Mach walked the Board through the report card and scoring noted that the Park District's overall score of 90%, which is in line with previous scores.

Stanko moved to recommend Board of Commissioners approval of the completed 2024 Update – IPRA Environmental Report Card, as corrected. Second by Carasso.

Stanko commented it is impressive the Park District continues to score high and remains an environmental leader in the field.

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

The third Direction Item was Job Description, Executive Director. Jones stated as a best practice of the Park District and following Distinguished Accreditation guidelines, the job description of the Executive Director should be reviewed by the Board every 5 years and was last reviewed in March 2019. Jones explained there were no major changes to recommend other than a revision under Personnel Management to change the job title of one of the positions listed, and the addition of the word "Park" before "District" throughout the document.

Carasso moved to recommend Board of Commissioners approval of the job description of the Executive Director, as revised. Second by Frangiamore.

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

Victor asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.



Daniel C. Jones, Secretary
Park District Board of Commissioners