

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
July 21, 2008**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting on Friday, June 13, 2008 in the Rose Administrative Center, 2000 Belvidere Street, Waukegan, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Motley.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Durkin, Duffy, Sarocka and President Motley. Also present was Executive Director Greg Petry. Commissioner Foley was excused from the meeting.

III. Public Portion

The attendees were informed that concerns and comments expressed at tonight's meeting were to be limited to the sports complex. In addition, speakers are to state their name and address at the beginning of their comments, which are to be limited to two minutes. Comments are to follow the presentation.

IV. Topic

President Motley introduced the design team members. They are: Bob Hamilton, Doug Holzrichter, Paul Wiese, Dave Olson and Dave Ridderhof. He then stated that Mr. Petry would facilitate tonight's meeting, as he will excuse himself at 7:45 for a city council meeting. He noted that tonight's presentation is the culmination of much work and collaboration between the sports groups and others. The mission statement for the project was read.

Mr. Petry then informed the group that the concept/layout to be presented was at a high level, and not completely detailed. He introduced Paul Wiese, who reviewed the drawing on display and noted that, for reference purposes, there were drawings in the packet distributed to each attendee prior to the start of the meeting. Mr. Wiese stated that the work product is the result of input from the commissioners and the client and is designed to blend with the environment, natural surroundings and features of the site.

Starting with the east side, he went through the elements of the drawings, noting the ample parking and field use as indicated. He noted that plans include lighting of the Championship Field for use at night. He then drew attention to the play environment for use by younger siblings of those using the fields. Parking was noted to be central to the various areas, and he pointed out the location of planned sand volleyball courts.

Continuing, he stated that the dark blue through the center of the site is a natural creek which will serve to help regulate the flood plain. He then spoke about the wetland habitat, trail loop system and walking trail on the drawing. The pond is a part of the stormwater system and will support fishing, canoes and paddleboats (planned for future phases) as well as use as an irrigation sources for the fields.

Moving west on the drawing, he discussed additional multipurpose grid fields, with up to 17 to be located on this site. There is a short three minute walk to the fields via the central pathway, which is at a slightly lower elevation. Dark blue bands located in the parking areas are bioswales, which will allow ecological sensitivity with the site improvements. The red squares on the drawing are restrooms and visitor shelters. There is an additional play environment on the west side of the site. Plans call for native plants and shade on the perimeter.

The four field softball complex will be located here to ensure proper drainage, with home plate at the highest elevation. There is a natural ridge line, with two of the fields draining to the east and two to the west. This should provide for the most available playing time for the field and locating them to the south keeps them away from homes, as lighting is planned.

The goal is to build in revenue potential and crowd control mechanisms for the championship field. Plans are to include a splash pad or spray ground in the play area. There is additional possible revenue through rental of the picnic shelters.

With the presentation completed at this time, those with questions/comments were as follows:

Bill Sultan, 314 Douglas Avenue, Waukegan - compliments to the WPD on this, is a youth soccer coach and a golfer.

Jerry Helinski, 214 Sheridan Court, Waukegan - suggested moving the fences out in order to accommodate more age groups and make the fields truly multipurpose.

Margaret Carrasco, 532 N. Lewis Avenue, Waukegan - asked if the Championship Field would be limited to use by Robert Morris College and if goals for both junior and adult soccer leagues would be available (yes to both).

Melissa Juarez-Ehlers, 2025 Kellogg, Waukegan - Inquired about accessibility for the physically challenged. Mr. Petry noted that the project will meet all ADA standards.

Susan Smock, 8312 Evergreen Court, Fox Lake - asked about the closest roads to the complex.

Jeff Lovinger, 2340 Steeplechase - asked if fields other than the Championship will be lighted (yes) and about the turf (synthetic on Championship, others natural) and about concessions onsite. Mr. Petry noted that the sports groups may run concessions for fundraising support and various approaches are being studied.

Laura Main, 38518 N. Waveland, Wadsworth - is a soccer coach and nearby homeowner, does not want to live under spotlights. Mr. Petry responded, noting that Musco Lighting is very familiar with working with communities, she will not experience a problem. In addition, more trees will be added at the border of the property for privacy.

Jose Manyan, 87 Woodland Drive - asked about the plans, not final as of now.

Theresa Hansen - would like to see a play area in the four pod field section along with an extra restroom by the Championship Field.

Bob Morrison, 601 Colville Place, Waukegan - asked about commencement of construction timing. Mr. Petry replied that plans call for site demolition this fall with grading and tree moving. 95% of the work is to be done in Spring of 2009, and plans are to open in 2010.

Mr. Petry noted that credit for the project goes to Bob, for his foresight to spearhead efforts on a referendum, which results in no tax increase associated with this project.

Joanne Callahan, 412 Greenwood, Waukegan - used to own a real estate office, is glad to see this project, rather than another subdivision.

Mr. Petry invited those with questions to speak with the design team members after the meeting, or call him.

V. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Durkin, seconded by Commissioner Duffy. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Petry
Acting Secretary