

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

President Herrera Giron provided justification for holding the meeting remotely based on the October 15, 2021 Disaster Declaration by Governor Pritzker.

II. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

President Jacqueline Herrera Giron

Treasurer Jeremiah Johnson

Commissioner Anton Mathews

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Vice President Janet Kilkelly

Commissioner George Bridges

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director Jay Lerner

Executive Assistant Sally Sandine, Superintendent of Community Relations Teddy Anderson, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Jon Beckmann, Superintendent of Recreation Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Parks Quincy Bejster, and Attorney Mandi Florip.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

V. REVIEW, DISCUSS, DECIDE

A. Presentation on Bike Share Program

Mr. Girmscheid provided a presentation to the Board regarding a potential bike share program. Staff has researched similar programs throughout the County. Grayslake has the first bike share program in Lake County. There are four partners involved: CLC, Grayslake Public Library, the Village of Grayslake, and Grayslake Park District. Their program hosts 12 bikes over 4 stations and is a pilot program. They have had great success with minimal vandalism.

Staff reviewed a turn-key option with Koloni, the company which would manage the program. This would include 40-bicycles. Potential locations include Carnegie Museum, Rose Splash Zone, Larsen Nature Preserve, and Bevier Park. The system is set up so that you don't have to return to the station you began at. The bikes are user-friendly and the user experience is easy to use. It does require a smart phone to download the app and pay for the bike. If a bike is not returned, Koloni is responsible for apprehending the bike.

This would provide a community wellness and low-cost transit option. The District can set the rental pricing costs. Rates can be hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly. The bikes can be branded to promote the District. Other partners can be invited in.

There are also potential liabilities with this program. Waukegan's road and path infrastructure are not ideal for bikes. This could increase our risk exposure. The cost would be borne wholly by the District if we did not find a partner. The District does not know the demand. The City of Waukegan researched a similar program with an alternate company but no community input surveys were done. We also do not know what type of vandalism or theft issues we may have.

Treasurer Johnson asked about possible litigation or legal costs other municipalities have faced that have this program. Staff noted that they can ask PDRMA to request the information. President Herrera Giron asked for a comparison from a community with similar demographics to Waukegan. She also asked if the City of Waukegan would be interested in partnering. Mr. Lerner stated that in the past the City had asked if the District would be interested in their bike share program but there have been no recent discussions. President Herrera Giron asked staff for information on risk exposure, demand, and what other committees with similar demographics to Waukegan have experienced. Commissioner Mathews asked staff to gather usage information from Grayslake. President Herrera Giron asked if Koloni hosts scooters as well. They do not at this time.

B. Discussion of Splash Zone Fees for 2022 Season

Mr. Beverly told the Board that staff is looking for advisement on fees and significant service level changes. Ms. McDonald reminded the Board that residents were allowed to access the Splash Zone free of charge. This led to challenges such as lack of respect to the facility as well as staff including cleanliness of facility, respect of locker rooms and dirty diapers and clothes left on the floor. Another major issue were adults entering the facility with the wrong intent. For example, staff had to deal with assault charges throughout the summer. One in particular included a Waukegan resident who entered the facility solely to pepper spray her boyfriend and then leave. The District needs to steer away from this behavior to keep it safe. Staff recommends a minimal fee of \$4 for residents and \$6 for nonresidents. Adults would be free if entering with a child. Adults without a child would be \$10. The District believes this minimal fee will generate respect from attendees and keep the facility safe for patrons.

The District offers full day summer camp and wants to deter individuals from using the Splash Zone as a summer camp. Patrons should be visiting the facility to use it for its intent.

Commissioner Mathews asked how many people visited. Ms. McDonald stated that the facility saw a little less than 6,000 visitors this summer. Staff anticipates a higher usage level next summer. Treasurer Johnson asked what the District will use as an age cutoff for adults. Staff stated that other District facilities use 18 as the cutoff but suggested that the Board may want to discuss this further as it relates

to the Splash Zone in particular. President Johnson asked if the District has a seasonal pass. Staff stated that they do have that available for residents and non-residents. Commissioner Mathews asked how many staff members are at the Splash Zone. Staff described the staffing levels previously used but noted that the staff had to be constantly realigned to address the disrespect aimed toward the facility and staff. Staff discussed rates charged by neighbor Park Districts, which are much higher than the proposed fee.

Commissioner Mathews asked if the police have been patrolling this park. Staff noted that the police were called there quite often but staff handled situations as they came up. President Herrera Giron asked how many times the police were called to the Splash Zone over the season. Staff stated it was on average twice per week.

President Herrera Giron asked for clarification about adults entering the Splash Zone without a child. Staff noted that there is a section for adults and they actively monitor all who use the facility.

C. Capital Improvement Project Discussion

Mr. Lerner stated that on top of the normal capital improvements which are included in the District's upcoming budget, staff anticipates receiving additional funding, which may allow additional capital projects to be considered.

Throughout the last year, staff has received a variety of recreational ideas and suggestions for future CIP projects. They have vetted several of these suggestions that they believe would be a benefit to the community if the CIP funds become available.

Board feedback is requested on the potential items and staff will pursue further planning work if there is interest from the board on a particular project.

High Ropes Climbing Course

- Unique to the area and offers family recreation
- Potentially located at Hinkston Park or Rose Park
- Estimated cost of \$625,000

A Smaller Version of a Top Golf Facility

- Make golf available year-round and is a popular trend (Hoffman Estates Park District is opening a similar facility this November.)
- Located at Bonnie Brook incorporated into the driving range area
- Estimated cost of \$950,000

Rental Bikes

- Located at Rose Park, Carnegie Museum, Larsen Park, and Bevier Park
- Estimated cost of \$80,000 per year

Dugdale Park Renovation

- Includes walking path, new playground, restrooms, parking lot & field improvements, savanna nature area
- Would apply for OSLAD Grant in 2022 to assist and begin work in FY 2023/24
- Estimated cost of \$2,250,000

Bonnie Brook Patio

- Update and provide the dining patio a designated area that is separate from the cart path
- Estimated cost of \$250,000

Treasurer Johnson stated that he thinks the high ropes course and top golf facility would be a great fit for our community. President Herrera Giron asked for an explanation of the proposals. Commissioner Mathews stated that top golf is extremely popular right now and there is nothing like this in Lake County. He also likes the idea of a high ropes course, as it would be an attraction in our County. He asked if staff would consider putting a high ropes course in a different park, as Hinkston and Rose both have a lot of attractions already. Staff stated that they arbitrarily added those parks because of space but would consider other options. Treasurer Johnson asked if it would be possible to keep the nature aspects of our parks in the ropes course rather than removing trees and shrubs. President Herrera Giron asked staff if they would like a priority list from the Board and provided feedback on each of the capital projects.

Each of the commissioners provided their preliminary priority list of the capital projects presented. Staff will gather more information about the projects.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Board of Commissioners Meeting: November 9, 2021 at 4:30 pm

President Herrera Giron asked if the Board wanted to continue remotely or return live. Mr. Lerner noted that the Board generally only meets once in November. Treasurer Johnson suggested this be tabled until the full Board is present.

VII. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mathews thanked staff for all of their hard work and dedication. He attended the Best of the Best awards and congratulated Steve Sadin from the News Sun and North Shore Gas. He thanked staff for doing a great job with the chess program. He has received a lot of good feedback on this. He stopped by the spooky treats event at the Jane Adams center and enjoyed the event. He also attended the Go Waukegan walk and thanked staff for the great job they did in organizing this. He attended the Dia los Muertos celebration and noted it was packed. He thanked our communications team for covering Senator Johnson's healthcare event this past weekend. He continued to encourage everyone to stay vigilant in the fight against COVID-19.

Treasurer Johnson thanked everyone for the work they do.

President Herrera Giron thanked everyone for their patience with her technical difficulties. She attended the Dia los Muertos before the celebration and enjoyed the display. She thanked everyone for their work on this event.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Mathews moved, seconded by Treasurer Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

AYE: Mathews, Johnson, and Herrera Giron

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges and Kilkelly

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandi Florip
Secretary