

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT
TUESDAY, JUNE 6 at 4:00 pm
Public Hearing Session for Top Tracer Entertainment Facility

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

President Jeremiah Johnson
Vice President Anton Mathews
Commissioner Janet Kilkelly

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Treasurer Jacqueline Herrera-Giron
Commissioner George Bridges

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director Jay Lerner
Executive Assistant Sally Sandine, Director of Community Relations Shelby McDonald, Director of Finance & Operations Jon Beckmann, Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Kalina Mendez, Director of Recreation Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Sports, Fitness and Aquatics, Kaitlin Fischer, Director of Parks Quincy Bejster, and Attorney Mandi Florip.

III. PRESENTATION

Ben Richards provided an overview of the Top Tracer Golf Facility. The presentation began with a short video explaining the project and technology. Mr. Richards showed the proposed location for the facility. He provided trends and statistics about current usage of similar facilities. Mike Jesse provided an overview of the intended hours of operation, and the layout of the facility. He also reviewed the Top Tracer technology.

Mr. Richards and Mr. Jesse outlined the opportunities that the facility will create including job creation for City of Waukegan residents, family events, summer camp visits, and field trips for the local school district. Mr. Richards discussed funding opportunities including Park and Recreational Facilities Construction Act (PARC), tourism, community development, and economic development grants.

This facility would be the first of its kind in Lake County, and will build community and serve as a gathering place for Waukegan residents. It will provide opportunities for seniors, youth, and non-golfers.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Parker – Good idea for all seasons

David Patterson – Looking forward to the entertainment – good idea

Maggie Roche – Great idea, any other plans to develop there

Jeffrey French – Good to add another facility to the Park District, Great for winter months

Sue Schwab – Love the idea, great to introduce kids to the sport of golf, great entertainment that Waukegan lacks, love the idea of a local restaurant.

Rick Larsen – Totally supportive of this idea

Rick Larsen – My family has been involved in the Park District for 80 years. I see this venture as being similar to the purchase of Bowen Park from the Hull House Foundation because the Park District met lots of opposition due to the cost but 60 years later Bowen Park is nationally recognized as a jewel of a park. Have to keep looking forward. I fully support this project. Keep up the good work.

Amy Dzierla – Low-income focus for kids – Kids have access to play – kid program would be great.

Mary Ross Cunningham – This is going to be great. Something for kids, seniors, and ADA. So pleased with the Park District.

Steve Snarski – All for it, Good for all generations, nothing like it nearby. Everyone has to go to Schaumburg, nothing closer. Heard from all generations, new tech everyone likes and can do.

Maggie Roche – Love it!

Laura and Dax Miller – Interesting – Like that it will be open year-round. Hope it will encourage kids to take up golf.

Cynthia Bull – As a mother of a 2-year-old, it will be great to have a place that the whole family can enjoy. It can be difficult to find these kind of leisure opportunities without having to drive to Chicago. Excited to see the development of Waukegan.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Johnson moved, seconded by Vice President Mathews, to adjourn the meeting.

There was no discussion.

On all ayes, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandi Florip
Secretary