



**Village of Lincolnwood  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Meeting held in Village Hall Council Chambers**

**Board Meeting  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
7:00pm**

**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes from the February 8, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
- III. Audience Participation and Letters/Notes/Emails from the Public
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
  - A. Dog Park Discussion and Overview
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Commissioners' Reports
- VIII. Director's Report
- IX. Staff Reports
- X. Adjournment

Posted: March 3, 2022



**Village of Lincolnwood  
Parks and Recreation**

**Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
7:00pm**

**Council Chambers  
Lincolnwood Village Hall – 6900 North Lincoln Avenue**

**Draft MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Tucker:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM.

**PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

Chair Person: Courtney Tucker

Park Board Commissioners Present: Leah Brennan, Sokol Delisi, Kenneth Malca, Laura Tomacic, Art Lovering

Village Board Liaison: Grace Diaz Herrera

Parks and Recreation Department Staff: Karen Hawk, Anna Koperski-Walsh, Colleen Broderick, Katie Gaughan

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2022 BOARD MEETING.**

On motion Tucker approves the meeting minutes of the January 11, 2022 Park and Recreation Board meeting. 6-0, motion passes.

AYES: Tucker, Brennan, Delisi, Malca, Tomacic, Lovering

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

**III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AND LETTERS/NOTES/EMAILS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No audience participation

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Discussion Regarding the 2022 Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

**Koperski-Walsh:** Presents information from memo included in the Board Packet.

#### **Board Discussion:**

- Comment on how it will be nice to bring it back and it will be easy to be outside and spread out; time to get back to a point of normalcy
- States how he hears from his neighbors how great this parade is; suggests having more attendance would be nice, perhaps promoting it more
- Suggests that people watching the parade could then follow in it
- States how he watched a parade and as people watched, they then joined in and followed at the tail end and in our case, would all end at Proesel Park, getting more participants in the ceremony
- States that the parade he watched was quite large and had other components involved, such as food and drink
- Comment on how another community decorates the kids' bikes and that they ride at the end of parade- this could be cool for Lincolnwood
- Asks if the Lincolnwood Band could participate
- Suggestion of a Parks and Recreation float
- Inquiry to new staff of prior experience of parades and what could be added/brought to Lincolnwood's
- Comments that adding the children's bike parade at the end could be an idea and then maybe there could be a contest for best decorated bike
- Suggestion of handing out flags
- Comments on previous experience at a parade how kids paraded around at a tennis court and there was a contest
- Presents idea on a drone taking pictures from overhead
- Suggests pictures of each child and decorated bike and all pictures can be posted in a Lincolnwood Reporter so that each gets recognition
- Presents idea of a house-decorating, such as front porch, for Memorial Day and perhaps there's an incentive for first place, second place and third place
- Offers comment on how well done Evanston's parade is; suggestion of Fourth of July Parade
- Agreement from several members of the Park Board that they would be willing to be involved in Memorial Day Parade
- Statement that Lincolnwood Schools really need to be involved
- Offers to reach out to band instructor at son's school
- Offers to reach out to choir director at child's school

#### **Koperski-Walsh:**

- Asks about the size of parade
- Explains that Memorial Day Weekend is the pool's opening weekend it is a busy week but perhaps there is another way to be more involved and

- exposed
- Explains how getting stakeholders and local businesses involved is important
- Asks Park Board if there would be interest into be involved in Memorial Day Parade
- Recaps a few key points: bike parade at the end of the parade and adding something addition to it, such as a bike around the tennis courts, perhaps with some social media involvement.
- Suggests live-streaming the Memorial Day Parade
- Recaps several commissioners say yes to being involved in the parade
- Agrees that school involvement would be great and explains why band hasn't recently been involved

**Hawk:**

- Explains that her experience with parades is limited but details how she has helped organize groups to walk in the Evanston parade

**B. Discussion Regarding Increasing Aquatic Center Non-Resident Season Pass Cap**

**Gaughan:** Presents information from memo included in the Board Packet.

**Board Discussion:**

- Asks that the graph be better displayed, as it was not detailed out
- Questions what the cap is at the aquatic center
- Asks for more details on how often higher numbers are met at the aquatic center
- Asks for clarification as to why the aquatic center is projecting a loss with financials, such as an increase in minimum wage and capitol improvements and not to do with operational management/costs
- Presents the idea that the reason the aquatic center reached its maximum in non-resident passes was because of the uncertainty in surrounding communities and whether their community pools were opening
- Asks if this could be a trial year with bumping non-resident passes to 2500
- Questions what minimum wage is
- Asks for further clarification on the negative for the 2022 year, did it have to do with additional expenses from concession stand
- Asks how many resident passes were sold in 2021
- States that the money is needed but questions if pool will become overcrowded; asks if deck chairs can come out on an as-needed basis
- Asks for clarifications on how non-residents can enter pool
- Expresses concern that more people in the pool will possibly lead to more behavioral issues
- Asks for clarification on a family pass and how it counts- such as a family pass for eight

- Asks about a senior couple pass and qualifications
- Asks to look into a more sound policy as to pricing for resident and non-resident pass pricing
- Asks for a report regarding pass suspension regarding behavior issues
- States that there needs to be a no-nonsense approach in terms of behavior at the aquatic center it needs to be taken seriously
- Provides feedback on how space at the aquatic is used, such as kids taking up space to play sports which limits the space for patrons

**Gaughan:**

- Explains capacity at the aquatic center is 1000 people
- Estimates that it is not typical to be in the 700-900 people range; busiest days are roughly 750 people on the very busiest of days
- Provides that if she recalls correctly, a typical daily attendance is 550, and that is throughout the entire day
- Replies that there was excitement from people to get out of their house with the pool opening which translated to pass sales; there was uncertainty with other municipalities; explains the non-resident guest/pass issue so perhaps that drew non-residents to purchase a pass
- Explains that last summer was the first summer with the new fee structure, which was a slight reduction in cost, so that could also be a contributing factor
- Describes how the weather was beautiful last summer and how passes were continuing to sell in July
- Replies with yes, this summer would be a pilot program with the increase in non-resident passes and staff would see how the summer went and evaluate from there
- Explains that safety of the pool is the number one priority so capacity will never surpass the capacity of 1000 inside the aquatic center
- Replies lifeguards are at \$13 and guest services and maintenance is \$12 and that returning staff bumps up by \$.25
- Stated that resident memberships in the summer of 2021 brought in \$85,639
- Replies that we can look into keeping some deck chairs away but storage is a problem of where the chairs would be kept; further explains that stacking and dragging chairs is part of the reason they are breaking as often as they are
- Explains that a non-resident can get into the pool if they are with a resident or with a pass-holder
- Replies that there are troublesome groups that do come in but the management team and park patrol and the police are all involved
- Explains the protocol on how the problematic kids are handled at the aquatic center
- Explains that a family pass for eight does count as eight passes, not just one for the entire family

- Details how a senior couple pass is for those that are both ages 55 and greater
- States that in 2021, 1,662 resident passes were sold
- States that staff can keep track of pass suspensions
- Replies that staff can look into using the grassy knoll and putting chairs back there so that its additional space and not a space used for sports

**Koperski-Walsh:**

- Explains the pie graph details to the Park Board
- Explains that the large items are shade structures, deck chairs, drinking fountains, new LED lights; the projection of a loss does not tie into the new equipment at the concession stand

**Hawk:**

- Explains that capacity is 1000 at any given time, not total entries all day, strictly patrons
- Explains the operational needs that will need to be addressed along with ongoing maintenance along with the increase in minimum wage which will continue until 2025
- Replies that minimum wage is \$12 per hour
- Asks for consensus of the Board to move the non-resident pass cap to increase to 2500 with 2022 being a pilot season
- AYES: Tucker, Brennan, Delisi, Lovering, Malka, Tomacic

**VI. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

**Tucker:**

- Friday, January 14th, Commissioner Delisi and she attended a zoom conference along with other Parks and Recreation Commissioners and they received good feedback and it was nice to be involved in that way

**VII. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**

**Lovering:**

- Asks how Olivia’s position has been filled/how it’s going

**Brennan:**

- Congratulates Parks staff on state wide recognition of award from conference
- Comments on the snow piles in the park and details how the kids love the play in the snow piles that are deliberately created

**Malca:**

- States how when he walks his dogs around the parks, there is a patch between the pool and L Woods and how there is a pocket where there is a lot of garbage, such as Monster cans and beer cans. Asks if a light or camera can be installed to bring this space to more attention.

## VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Hawk:

- Welcomes Colleen Broderick as the new Recreation Supervisor. She has been with the Parks and Recreation Department since September 2021 and we are excited to have her join our team
- Announces that Katie Gaughan will be leaving our team as she has accepted another job
- Explains to Board that they will be receiving a Statement of Economic Interest in March and to be on the watch for it
- Explains Agency Showcase at Conference and that the Village of Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation placed First in Overall Marketing Campaign for the 2021 Turkey Trot and Second Place in Large Format Marketing for the banner boxes that are outside of the pool. It's great to be recognized at the state level!
- Lincolnwood Fest Update- planning process is underway and staff is hoping to meet with the vender in the next week and with the event manager that has been assigned. Staff will come back to the Board to see if anyone would want to volunteer.

## IX. STAFF REPORTS

### Koperski-Walsh:

- Welcomes Colleen to the team!

## X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:33PM

Motion to adjourn: Tomacic/Delisi

AYES: Brennan, Malca, Tucker, Delisi, Tomacic, Lovering

NAYS: None

Park Board Minutes prepared by Julie Glowacki

Park and Recreation Board Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date



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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Parks and Recreation Board

**FROM:** Anna Koperski-Walsh, Superintendent Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** March 8, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Dog Park Discussion and Overview

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### **Background**

As far back as the early 2000's, The Village of Lincolnwood has considered the concept of a dog park in the Village's Capital Improvement Plan. In 2009, the Park and Recreation Board advised staff to review the ordinance prohibiting dogs in public parks and playgrounds. Staff surveyed surrounding communities regarding both how they handle dogs in parks and dog parks. The result of this survey led to the approval of a recommendation for a variance to Ordinance 6-3-9(B) allowing dogs to be on leash in Centennial Park and on the Village's two multi-use recreational paths. At the June 12, 2018 Park and Recreation Board meeting the Board members expressed concern for Ordinance 6-3-9(B) and commented that a designated dog park might be a better solution. At that meeting, a discussion was held regarding the land on the east side of the channel as a potential dog park site.

During the August 28, 2019 Village Board Long Range planning meeting, two Village Board members shared that there continues to be interest from the community in a dog park in Lincolnwood. The Village budgeted to include a comprehensive plan for a dog park during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the plan was put on hold. As part of the 2022-2023 budget, Parks and Recreation staff have included expenses for a Comprehensive Master Plan to develop a blue print for the future of the Department, which includes the possibility for a dog park.

### **Requirements**

By definition, a dog park is a park for dogs to exercise and play off-leash in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owner. Dog Parks in Cook County operate under the regulations of Cook County Animal and Rabies Control. Requirements include canine health documentation, park features, park monitoring, park enforcement and administration expectations. Cook County also requires the physical nature of the area include:

- Fully fenced and secured entrances against accidental opening
- Prominently displayed rules at the entrance



- Dogs must be leashed entering and leaving the park
- Village must institute a set of site plans to be approved by the Cook County Administrator
- Adhere to the Animal Control Act (510 ILCS 5/1 et. Seq.)

In addition to Cook County, the Humane Society of America recommends that the ideal dog park include:

- **At least 1-5 acres** – large enough for the park to not become overcrowded and small enough to keep the park well-controlled
- **Good drainage** – to prevent muddy conditions which could make the space undesirable
- **Water fountain** – Dogs need access to water while exercising and utilizing the park
- **Shade** – to prevent overheating which might occur on some of the hotter summer days
- **Access for people with mobility devices** – inclusion is essential so all owners and dogs can enjoy the park
- **5-6 foot fencing** –fencing should be high enough to keep dogs from jumping over
- **Benches for pet owners** – so owners can stay around longer to relax and supervise their pets
- **Signs to clearly display rules** – typically placed at the entrance/exits
- **Parking lot close by** – to make it as easy as possible for community members to enter the park
- **Buffer zone** - natural landscaping around the dog park creates a boundary between the park and neighbors to reduce noise

### **Advantages and Disadvantages**

There are both pros and cons to creating a dog park within a community. One of the biggest advantages to a dog park is the socialization of dogs with other dogs, dogs with people, and people with people. Pets are often times considered members of their owner’s families and dog parks are a great way to provide social interaction for both the owner and pet. Similar to humans, exercise for dogs is important for them both physically and mentally, and can lead to less destructive behaviors. Dog parks also allow for owners to be physically active with their pets.,

Dog parks have educational advantages as well. Not only can they be a great location to offer dog training programs, but dog owners can learn from other dog owners and how their dog reacts to other dogs. As mentioned earlier, only at Centennial Park and on the two multi-use recreational paths in Lincolnwood are dogs allowed on-leash. Having a dedicated park for dogs could lessen the chance of dog owners letting their dog off-leash in other parks.

One of the significant concerns with a dog park is the potential danger from aggressive dogs. Even with dog park rules and policies in place, owners may not always be able to predict how their pet will react towards other dogs or humans. Additionally, dogs can carry unknown parasites and diseases and can spread them to other dogs or humans. This is especially concerning if there is a fight between dogs. Another concern stems from the owners lack of understanding of the rules. Owners may not pick up after their dogs, may leave their dog unattended, or even allow their dog to engage in inappropriate behavior. As a result, dog parks pose a potential liability that could result in a lawsuit.

Lastly, noise pollution and overall environmental pollution is a concern. Depending on the location of the park, the noise from the park could have a significant impact to the neighborhood it’s located in. Additionally, if the park is not well designed or maintained, dog waste will create odors and may have potential bacteria contamination runoffs.

### **Considerations**

In addition to the advantages and disadvantages, there are a variety of other items to consider. Dog park construction and maintenance can be costly. Based on a 2017 study by the Village of Brookfield, a 1 acre park with benches, agility equipment, signs and waste stations would cost approximately \$32,000. It is anticipated that a similar sized park with comparable amenities today would cost upward of \$45,000. However, the costs would vary depending on the size, location, fencing styles, equipment and furniture.



The Village should also consider the overall of upkeep of the park. The total cost of the upkeep will vary significantly depending on the size, landscape, hardscape, fencing, equipment and furniture. Such items to consider are:

- **Ground Covering** – grass, artificial turf, rock, mulch
- **Fencing** – chain link, metal, plastic, height, multiple fences for separate areas
- **Dog Equipment** – drinking fountain, washing station, agility
- **Furniture** – benches, shade structures, drinking fountain, restrooms
- **Maintenance** – waste receptacles, facility and equipment repairs, plumbing, daily maintenance – cleaning and inspection



The upkeep will have potential financial implications for the Village and may require additional staff time to maintain. To mitigate some of the costs, it is common for dog parks to have a user fee. The fee goes towards the upkeep of the facility and helps regulate dog park users. It is also common practice to have key card access only dog parks, which allows for park operators to identify who is using the facilities and help mitigate potential issues. The average user fee is \$50 for residents of the community. Depending on the park, some communities only allow residents or have a higher rate for non-residents. In some cases, the dog parks are maintained and operated by multiple communities. This help lessen the overall cost of the park operations for each community. Skokie and Evanston, and Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights each have a shared dog park.



The location is one of the most important factors when considering construction of a new dog park. Lincolnwood currently has 12 parks and three multi-use paths. The majority of the parks are less than one acre in size, including the existing park amenities such as playgrounds, basketball courts and tennis courts. The two largest parks are Centennial at just over 17-acres and Proesel at over 22-acres. Proesel park land is owned by the Village of Lincolnwood and Centennial Park is leased. The Village could consider constructing a dog park in a non-park location, but space is limited.

### Community Research

Dog parks have gained popularity over the years. As a result, many agencies have incorporated them into their communities and updated their policies and codes to involve dogs. The chart below provides details of 14 communities with dog parks. The chart includes the location, size, hours of operations, fees, amenities and other specific park details.



Name	Location	Size	Hours	Special Hours	Fee for Dog	Additional Dogs	Resident Only?	Features/Notes
<b>Pooch Park</b>	3220 Oakton St. Skokie, IL 60076	2.7 Acres	5AM - 10PM	Cleaning Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1-3:30PM	\$50	\$10	No	ADA, Activity Shelters, Dog Cleaning Stations, Dog Water Fountain, Parking
<b>Beck Lake Dog Park</b>	East River Road & Central Road, Cook County, IL 60016	40 Acres	Dawn to Dusk	NA	\$60 Cook County Residents/ \$120 Non- Residents	NA	No	Large pond, outdoor shelter, 9 miles of trails (leash required on trails)
<b>Prairie Wolf</b>	Entrance is on Waukegan Road (Route 43), south of Old Mill Road and north of Half Day Road (Route 22) in Lake Forest	44 Acres	6:30AM - 7PM (or sunset)	Opens at 11AM on Wednesday 2 times monthly	\$50 Lake County Residents/ \$150 Non- Resident	\$20/\$75	No	Daily rates available, access to five parks with membership ( Duck Farm Dog Park, Independence Grove, Lakewood, Prairie Wolf, Waukegan Savana)
<b>Best Friends Dog Park</b>	22096 N Pet Ln, Buffalo Grove, IL, US, 60089		8AM to Dusk	NA	\$49	Same	No	Grass only with fencing, key access, based out of dog boarding
<b>Community Bark West</b>	1001 Zenith Drive, Glenview	6 Acres	6AM - 9PM	NA	\$65/145	\$40/\$80	No	Walking path, water fountains, benches, shelter, card entry, parking, and waste disposal. Two fenced areas for all dogs and small dogs.
<b>Paws Park</b>	2800 W Oakton Ave. Park Ridge, IL	NA	Mon-Fri 7-9pm, Sat 8- 9pm, Sun 9-9pm	NA	\$65/\$85	\$15/\$20	No	Grass only with fencing and benches
<b>Northbrook Dog Park</b>	2490 Dundee Road Northbrook, IL	2.5 Acres	Sunrise and sunset	Wednesdays opens late for cleaning	\$55 Residents Only	\$25	Yes	Benches, two fenced in areas, dog wash, drinking fountain, key access
<b>Canine Commons</b>	1500 W. Central Road, Mount Prospect, IL	1.82 Acres	Dawn to Dusk	NA	\$50 Residents and Partners only	NA	Yes	Grass only with a large dog area and small dog area, shade, benches and waste receptacles, Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights Residents only
<b>Centennial Dog Beach</b>	225 Sheridan Rd. Winnetka IL 60093	NA	Dawn to Dusk	Weather permitting	\$50/\$200	\$25/\$50	No	water fountain, hose, swimming area, street parking, benches and waste receptacles
<b>Chicago</b>	31 Locations Total	Varies	Dawn to Dusk	NA	Free	NA	No	Varies, most are mulch and concrete, benches, shade structures, beach

**Overview of process**

It is anticipated that as part of the comprehensive master plan process, a dog park and location will be discussed. The Park and Recreation Board will play a key role throughout both the master planning and dog park process. The Board will be involved in most aspects of planning including, but not limited to community meetings, surveys, engage with the community, advise and make recommendations to the Village Board, help identify common goals and advocate for community desires and needs. It is also anticipated that the master plan process will begin in late second quarter or early third quarter of 2022 pending Village Board budget approval.

**Discussion**

Staff is seeking a discussion with Park and Recreation Board regarding a potential dog park in Lincolnwood.