



Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
Lincolnwood Village Hall – Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 12, 2018
DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Park Board Members: Laura Tomacic, Maria Leberis, Carol Oraha, Art Lovering

Parks and Recreation Department Staff: Laura McCarty, Melissa Rimdzius

Village Board Liaison:

Village Staff:

Audience:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion Tomacic/Leberis approve the meeting minutes of the April 10, 2018. 4-0. Motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/LETTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration of a Request to Name the Basketball Courts in Proesel Park after WNBA Basketball Player, Jewell Loyd

McCarty – Provided background regarding the final details of the naming project

- **Naming project will include:**
 - The purchase and installation of two benches that would be installed near the basketball courts in Proesel Park
 - A bronze plaque placed a plaque near the benches. The plaque will include verbiage provided by the family about Jewell Loyd
 - Once the project is complete a ceremony to recognize the naming of the basketball courts will be scheduled

Board Discussion –

- Expressed desire to have this done right as it will be in the park for a long period of time
- Confirmed this will be on the agenda next month
- Discussed an opening ceremony that will accommodate Ms. Loyd's schedule and the good weather
- Discussed how this is representative of an amenity naming that follows the policy

On motion Lovering/Tomacic approve a Recommendation to Name the Basketball Courts in Proesel Park After Jewell Loyd, WNBA Basketball Player. 4-0, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

**A. Discussion Concerning Land East of the Channel at Centennial Park
McCarty –**

- Seek Park Board direction on developing the land east of the channel at Centennial Park
- Land is leased by the Chicago the Park District through MWRD
- Lincolnwood was never contacted when this land was leased, it was done when CPD took over Thillens Stadium
- CPD says they have plans to develop a park
- Village Attorney suggested that we present a potential plan to develop this land (Touhy to Pratt) as a first step to attempt in relinquishing this land

Board Discussion -

Lovering – Confirmed the location and that this is an attempt to reacquire the land

Leberis – Asked how the land relinquishment process works

McCarty – Stated that a lease would need to be established

Board – Discussion regarding who pays a lease on the land and who owns the land (MWRD). No proof of lease, only a staff memo.

McCarty – Stated that there is no proof of a lease, only an internal memo. The Village attorney recommended the Village establish a plan if the Village would like to acquire the land.

Lovering – Commented on the inaccessibility of this piece of land to Lincolnwood Residents

Leberis – Questioned the use of Centennial Park as people seem to ride through the park more often than hang out in it.

Lovering – Commented that the Board previously recognized the limited use of the land due to the narrow width. Commented on the use of the bike path both north and south of Lincolnwood. Stated that he is unsure of how many people will go to the park, except for rentals.

McCarty – Presented a possible plan provided by the engineer, which includes two soccer fields and a small playground.

Lovering – Commented that a walking path could be considered. It wouldn't be utilized much by Lincolnwood Residents, but would keep the land for the Village's use.

McCarty – Listed benefits of the plan

- Additional and dedicated soccer fields that can be offered to the community for rental and generate revenue
- Expand the park system acreage

Lovering – Asked if it was enough space for soccer fields

Rimdzius – Confirmed soccer fields will fit as depicted in the plan, but that there will not be much open space along the sides of each field.

Leberis – Asked about a dog park at the location.

McCarty – Commented that there may be another location within Lincolnwood for a dog park. Spoke more about the Centennial plan as depicted. Stated the cost would be approximately \$700,000 to develop the land per the possible plan.

Lovering – Asked what Chicago's plan is for the land?

McCarty – Stated that the Village does not know and has not seen the plans

Lovering – Commented that residents of Lincolnwood could still use the park if it were developed by Chicago. What is the advantage to having more park acreage?

McCarty – Grant possibilities and NRPA Standards

Lovering – Commented that it would be a nice spot for a fitness course and that he likes the idea of it being developed but not paying much for it due to limited use

Tomacic – Commented that education would be needed as residents may not know that land is Lincolnwood

Oraha - Confirmed

Oraha – Asked if Chicago has a concrete plan.

McCarty – No

Lovering – Commented that he would hate to give away land that could be sometime used by the Village of Lincolnwood

Oraha – Asked about the history of trying to determine the lease and land use.

Tomacic – Commented that \$700,000 is a lot of money

Lovering – Commented that Lincolnwood residents do not typically use that side of the park.

McCarty – Stated that tonight is to start the discussion and does not require a decision

Lovering – Asked if the Village could sell the lease to Chicago Park District and if value could be derived from that.

Oraha – Commented that Chicago Park District doesn't do anything with the land

Lovering – Commented that Chicago Park District wouldn't be able to develop it if we acquired it.

McCarty – Commented that Chicago Park District might possibly develop it in the future.

Lovering – Commented that even if the Village develops the land, the park would be branded as a Chicago Park District park due to the location

McCarty – Asked the Board if the development is not a consideration, would the Board still like the land

Lovering – Commented that he would rather it be developed by Chicago, rather than the Village own it and not do anything with it.

Leberis – Commented that the land would not make the Village much money because it is in an odd spot

Lovering – Commented that he would rather see more spent on the parks near the Valley Line Trail.

Oraha – Commented that it would be nice to keep the land, if the plan did not cost as much as currently presented.

Leberis – Commented that she doesn't think many residents would utilize the park.

McCarty – Commented that another other approach would be to attempt to acquire the land without a plan to develop.

B. Discussion Concerning the No Dogs Allowed in Parks Policy

McCarty –

- Staff is seeking direction on thoughts about updating/amending the Village Ordinance to allow dogs in the parks under specific conditions
- Village Ordinance states that dogs are not allowed in parks, unless it's in connection with an amusement license or if it's at Centennial Park
- Centennial Park and the Recreational Paths are the only locations dogs are currently allowed within the Lincolnwood park system
- Consider amending the Village Ordinance to allow dogs in the parks under specific conditions such as:
 - Specified leash size (i.e. leash must no more than 8 feet long)
 - Dog must be under control of its owner at all times
 - Restricted areas dogs would be not be allowed (i.e. within playgrounds, baseball and soccer fields, tennis courts, shelters, etc.)
 - Any dog in a Village of Lincolnwood park must have a pet license tag issued by the Village of Lincolnwood or another municipality
 - Owners of dogs must pick up and dispose of any waste produced by the dog

Lovering – Commented that only one dog on a leash per person should be allowed in the park, if a change is considered.

Tomacic – Commented that a change in the Ordinance seems like it could open a can of worms. Also commented that some owners don't pick up after their dogs.

Leberis – Commented that a change in the Ordinance would open a can of worms. She is concerned people won't pick up after their dogs in the park.

Lovering – Asked for which park does this matter.

Tomacic – Commented about a non-resident being turned away from Lincolnwood Fest with their dog. Asked how this would affect Lincolnwood Fest.

McCarty – Commented that restrictions for events can be included.

Lovering – Commented that there are people who do not like dogs.

Oraha – Commented that her family takes their dog everywhere, but sees both sides of the issue.

Lovering – Commented that he prefer the Village develop a dog park as a designated place for dogs.

Leberis – Commented that a dog park might be the best solution

McCarty – Asked if the Board wants to consider allowing dogs on paved walkways within the parks?

Lovering – Questioned why someone with a dog would need to cut through the park, perhaps for a baseball game or another activity within the park.

Lovering – Against it

Leberis – Against it

Tomacic – Against it

Oraha – Sees both sides

Lovering – Commented that the Board is not wild about a change in the policy. Commented that there are great options to walk dogs on the trails.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -

None

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS -

None

Tomacic – Commented that a couple residents asked her why pool wasn't open on Memorial Day since swim team had been swimming there for a week.

Oraha – Commented that residents also asked her that

McCarty – Commented on the beautiful weather over Memorial Day weekend. Stated that Swim Team does not require as many staff as needed to open the pool. Commented that this is something staff has discussed and has considered trying in the future.

Lovering – Commented that it would not be safe as we do not yet have the staff available. They are part time, predominantly students, and still in school. We cannot open if we do not have the safe levels of staffing.

Rimdzius – Commented on staff training timeline and the additional work that takes place at the facility during the swim team stroke clinic.

Lovering – Commented that a resident would like the Village to plow half of the bike path next winter

Rimdzius – Commented that the truck and plow that plows the paths is too wide to allow for only half of the path to be plowed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT -

As noted in report

Lovering – Asked if a partial-summer pool pass would be offered

Rimdzius – Not at this time

Lovering – Asked about the Memorial Day Parade

McCarty – Commented on the Parade and the event

McCarty – The July Park & Recreation Board meeting will take place in Police/Fire Training room.

Lovering – Commented that he is concerned about the overpass

McCarty – Stated that there is an issue in the IDOT approval of the bridge structure.

Leberis – Asked if there was a concern about collapse.

Lovering – Commented that it was a different type of structure in the recent collapse in another

state

McCarty – Stated that the Village is still planning for the project to be completed for end of summer or early fall opening date

STAFF REPORTS

- A. SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND FACILITIES - RIMDZIUS**
As noted in report
- B. RECREATION SUPERVISOR – ANTOSZ**
As noted in report
- C. COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING COORDINATOR – VERING**
As noted in report

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Park Board Minutes prepared by: Melissa Rimdzius, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

Park and Recreation Board President:

Signature



Date

8/14/18