



Parks and Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2020

6:00 – 6:50 pm

Present: Commissioners Gramann, Bird, Del Preto, Sokolowski, Jaszka, Jeffery and Powers
Staff: Executive Director Reuter, Director Rini, Hamilton. Bachewicz,
Executive Assistant Greninger

Topic: **Community Park**

Executive Director Reuter called this meeting to discuss Community Park. The bathroom and picnic shelter near Colony Park received new roofs and we are working on the tax exempt status.

Director Hamilton reviewed the minutes from that last meeting noting that the board would like to look into hiring a consultant. Does the board have any consultants they definitely want to complete a RFP/RFQ or any they definitely do not want to hear from? Commissioner Bird would like to hear from both large and small firms. Executive Director Reuter mentioned a couple of firms used recently by Waukegan and Winfield Park Districts. He was very happy with the firm that worked with us on Carolshire because of their experience working with grant funding.

Director Hamilton asked if the Committee would like to conduct all the interviews or just the finalists. Commissioner Jeffery noted that having conversation with the prospective consultants can yield many great ideas. Commissioner Gramann noted that interviews are very time consuming; you need to give them about 30 minutes each. She suggested interviewing the top three finalists. Commissioner Del Preto asked if the interview will include standard questions for all so we can compare apples to apples. Commissioner Gramann confirmed that the Committee would come up with the questions. Executive Director Reuter said staff can review the submitted RFPs/RFQs, checking references and select the top three for the Committee to interview.

Director Hamilton asked when the Committee would like to conduct interviews. Commissioner Bird would like to get started during the winter months. Commissioner Gramann added winter is a good time because they are prospecting for business for the coming year. Executive Director Reuter noted that community meetings would have to be held when the weather is warm, so we will want to make a decision by next summer.

Director Hamilton asked if the committee has any specifics they think must be included in the RFP/RFQ or anything they definitely do not want to see. Commissioner Sokolowski wants the park to be easily accessible to seniors. Commissioner Gramann would like to see more shelters. Executive Director Reuter noted that shelters are also an excellent revenue stream as rentals. Commissioner Del Preto asked about lighting along the path. Executive Director Reuter said the parking lot, shelter and restroom have lights. Other than that, we currently have a dawn to dusk policy. Commissioner Jaszka

noted we can think of all kinds of great ideas, but the park neighbors need to have input. Executive Director Reuter would like to see a natural play area where kids can run, jump, play and get dirty and picnic tables nearby for the adults. Commissioner Jaszka likes the idea of nice fields and an obstacle course. Director Rini suggested benches for the seniors to sit and rest while walking. Commissioner Bird asked how to deter vandalism. Director Hamilton said we eliminate things like mirrors that always get damaged, but when there is vandalism and it is cleaned up every time, the vandals get tired of it. We help them realize it's their park and then they come to appreciate it, buy in from the residents.

On a different topic, Commissioner Bird noticed how much use Horizon Park gets and the how popular disk golf has become. We should sell the disks to patrons.

Commissioner Sokolowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50. Seconded by Commissioner Powers. All in favor. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reuter
Executive Director