

The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Cohen at 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices of the Deerfield Park District located in the Jewett Park Community Center. Attendance was taken and the following were:

Present: Caron, Cohen, Lapin, Patinkin (4)
Absent: Antokal (1)

And there was a quorum in attendance. Also in attendance was Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director; Bob Taylor, Linda Anderson, Tony Korzyniewski, staff members; Bob Collins, Planning Resources Inc.; Ben Kutcheid, Studio Park Ave.; Bill Steward, Susie Cutler, Ron Schwartz, Michael Norwesh, Tom Bickmore, Joab Silverglade, residents.

Matters from the Public

President Cohen welcomed visitors and guests to the meeting. All visitors and guests were in attendance for the Jewett Park 2.0 Final Concept Plan discussion.

Jewett Park 2.0 Final Concept Plan

Bob Collins, Planning Resources Inc., (PRI), begin the presentation with an explanation of the process involved in getting to the final concept plan. PRI held focus groups with skate park users and our affiliate groups; interviewed park users in the park; used Mind Mixer to gather feedback online; and met with staff and the board to gather input. In June, PRI brought two preliminary concept plans to the board for review. Board and staff provided input and the final concept plan being presented tonight has incorporated the suggestions from that meeting.

A couple of highly requested items that came out of the feedback from park users was requests for pickleball courts and a multi-generational use.

PRI reviewed each of the new and existing features of the plan. The main features include new circulation pattern to the south parking lot; improved and modernized skatepark; terrace seating with amphitheater; improved ADA access and circulation through the park; expanded walkway along the east side of the park; modified baseball fields to improve maintenance; natural area; art exhibit area; seating area; decorative fountain; pickleball courts; and gaga pits. All of the areas are designed to be ADA accessible.

President Cohen asked if the gaga pits were permanent or temporary. Director Nehila responded that we could go either way. Currently we have temporary pits set up at all the school locations. They are a very popular component of any playground renovation we have done at the schools.

Neighbor asked if the existing grass area would be concreted over to accommodate the gaga pits. PRI responded that we do envision them being on a paved surface, but they could be on the plaza area and moved to accommodate other uses.

Neighbor asked if these pits are better suited for a school location instead of a center of town park. PRI responded that it was one of the features requested in the public input.

This is a great feature for the 7-14-year-old age range that doesn't have a lot of representation at the park. President Cohen commented that our philosophy is to have something for everyone.

Neighbor commented that we should be trying to accommodate more age ranges than just 3-14-year old range. PRI commented that they have attempted to do just that with the seating areas, natural areas, pickle ball courts; the council ring; and the performance pavilion.

Neighbor expressed concern over the noise generated from the pickleball courts as well as possible lights for the courts. President Cohen stated that there would not be additional lighting in the park. He also stated that the park district is always very conscientious of the neighbors and will consider some type of sound barrier.

Neighbor asked if trees would be cut down to make room for the pickleball courts. Commissioner Caron responded that no trees will be impacted and up until a couple of months ago there was a house where the pickleball courts will be. President Cohen commented that we are purchasing these homes to improve the functionality of Jewett Park. We took an area that was already concrete, wall board, electrical etc. and converted it to recreational use for two groups of people all within the footprint of the house that was there.

Michael Norwesh asked if there were plans to place lights at the skatepark. President Cohen stated that adding lights is very hard to accomplish in Deerfield. He stated that there are no plans at this time to put lights at the skatepark. The skatepark will need to be renovated in the future but can't say that lights will be part of the plan.

Commissioner Caron explained that this is a conceptual plan and we are not going out to build right now so the features and exact layout of the skatepark will come later. President Cohen explained that the park district has money budgeted in 2019 for the skatepark renovation.

President Cohen explained that we are trying to finalize our Master Plan after getting input from users, staff, and our architects. There's a lot that has to be determined such as funding and maintenance considerations. At this point in time, we do not know what part of the plan will be implemented first or when.

Neighbor asked about the concert space. Commissioner Caron responded that the village has been trying to get some type of performance space in this area that could occasionally be used for community music evenings. The Northwest Quadrant plan includes this type of space. President Cohen noted that it is a small footprint in the park, but the intent is not to have loud concerts there. The park board would still have to approve anything that goes on there. Commissioner Patinkin commented that we are trying to accommodate the village's Master Plan for the quadrant and this is one of the elements in their plan.

President Cohen explained that the whole concept is that Jewett Park is going through an evolution to expand its use to accommodate other groups. Commissioner Patinkin stated that we created new green space to the west. He stated that every time we develop a park it impacts a neighbor and we recognize that and will do everything in our power to lessen that impact.

Director Nehila stated that there is screening that goes on the fencing around the pickleball courts that will help with noise as well as landscaping options.

Neighbor stated that the playground creates enough noise as it is but the gaga pits are a step in the wrong direction. It seems like this is a narrow little thing and we are trying to strike a political balance between the older people using the pickleball courts and the kids using the gaga pit. There is plenty of space at the playgrounds for all ages to use.

Treasurer Lapin asked PRI to describe the natural area. PRI explained that there will be natural plantings, additional trees, the council ring and a small shelter.

President Cohen explained that we are trying to provide more seating within the park with the addition of the council ring, the pavilion, the nature area, and the soccer seating.

Commissioner Caron commented that the preschool playground is slated for renovation beginning on Monday, August 6. This is something that we have been planning for over the past year and was not part of this planning process.

Visitors and guests were thanked for their input.

Capital Project Planning

Commissioners reviewed the Board's Long Term Capital Project Schedule. One of the items listed is the Paddle Tennis Courts. Director Nehila suggested removing the Paddle Tennis Courts and adding more Pickle Ball Courts for the future. Director Nehila questioned the Sachs Windows project. Staff commented that it is to add windows to the facility. While not an immediate priority it would be nice to brighten up the space. The board allocated \$75,000 to this project.

Director Nehila brought up the newly opened OLSAD grant program. In light of the planning process taking place for Jewett Park, we will have to keep in mind the timing of the grant application and awarding schedule. He believes the project is a strong candidate for OSLAD, understanding our timeline and associated budget allocation may change by possibly a year. This may cause a deferral of all planned projects for that same amount of time. Commissioner Caron expressed concern that we don't qualify for the grants because we don't meet the main criteria and we also have a lot of nice amenities already. Director Nehila believes this project does meet

a lot of the requirements with its improvements to existing amenities, the addition of new amenities, and the significant amount of outreach to the community performed. We only have a 60-day window to apply. We would have to postpone the project until we find out if we get the grant. Our ultimate plan is to start the project in 2019. Applying for the grant would still allow us to start the project in 2019 but we would not be able to do a phased plan. Commissioner felt that if staff was willing to do the work involved in applying for the grant then we should consider it.

Commissioner Caron stated that we need to do some type of sound barrier for the pickle courts. President Cohen stated that we should leave the plan just as it is until we decide about the grant.

We also confirmed the Community Theater allocation from an anticipated commitment to a 4-year payout. The Community Theater project is anticipated for enhancements to Caruso Middle School. After meeting with D109 representatives this week, we discovered that their anticipated Facilities Master Plan is in its final development stage. In any case, D109 is certainly open to contributions from the park district for theater enhancements. The joint project schedule for playgrounds and parking lots with D109 shows that after 2020, we'll be caught up and will have paid our share of all projects recently or being completed. The next possible joint payment, a playground, is anticipated for 2021 so we'd be prudent in planning for a contribution in 2022.

Senior Citizen Age Eligibility Discussion

As this has been a request to be brought to the board, the board was provided with a listing of Senior Citizen Age Discount Eligibilities from other park districts. Some districts have an across the board age requirement, (Glencoe, Wilmette, Wheeling, Schaumburg), and some district such as ours have different ages for different facilities/activities.

President Cohen stated that the federal government has established 65 years old as the age of a senior. We could grandfather in those that are 62 now. Commissioner Caron asked if it is more realistic to change the age over three years or is that more difficult. Director Nehila commented that it might be very difficult to track. Staff commented that we could track those that would be grandfathered in through RecTrac. Commissioners agreed that we change the senior age to 65 starting in 2020 and grandfather any existing members/passholders. This will give us a year to advertise the change. This change will be brought to the August 16 Board Meeting for approval.

Update on NSSRA Facility Development Plan

The partnership between NSSRA and the Northbrook Park District to develop a joint facility has come to a close. Northbrook will proceed with the development of their Activity Center without NSSRA being a part of that facility.

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Other

Donated Statue at Golf Course

Director Nehila was contacted by a resident that would like to donate a bronze statue in memory of his son. He was interested in having the statue placed at the golf course. Staff will work with him to find an acceptable location.

Northwest Quadrant Task Force

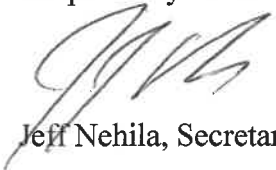
A meeting of the Northwest Quadrant Task Force is scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2018. At this time, we can share the conceptual plan for Jewett Park and receive input from the group.

Motion made by Vice-President Patinkin, seconded by Commissioner Caron, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 9:09 p.m. Voice vote as follows:

AYES: Patinkin, Caron, Lapin, Cohen (4)
NAYS: None (0)
ABSENT: Antokal (1)

Motion passed in a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary