

The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Caron at 7:02pm. at the Jewett Park Community Center. Attendance was taken and the following were:

Present: Brown, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin, Serota (5)  
Absent: None (0)

And there was a quorum in attendance. Also present were Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director; Laura McCarty, Jay Zahn, staff members.

### **MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

### **Enrollment Analysis and Demography Report**

The Village of Deerfield, School District 109 and the Deerfield Park District partnered in the recruitment and selection of a demographer firm to prepare an enrollment analysis and demography report for the agencies. Staff was involved in identifying desired data to best serve the community. Some data was shared at the Planning Retreat. The report will serve the park district well in developing, refining and maintaining services and programs.

### **Jewett Park 2.0 Phase II Planning**

Staff has been working with Planning Resources, Inc. to develop an updated "as built" reflection of the section of Jewett Park recently completed along with a concept or two for the planned renovation of the northern half of the park. Input from the board will help define the proposed components of the project prior to holding required public meeting(s) in accordance with the IDNR grant program criteria. This process will occur during the summer.

One interesting possibility to add to the project is an outdoor fitness component. Commissioners viewed a presentation provided by the National Fitness Campaign for an adult targeted fitness court. The addition of outdoor fitness to the project will be a favorable component for the grant application. Commissioners didn't feel that this was appropriate equipment for Jewett Park due to concerns over space and demographics. Suggestions were made do add exercise equipment like at Maplewood Park to other parks and to program the fitness equipment at Maplewood Park.

Another component to consider, or in place of the NFC court, is the provision of challenge course equipment. A few examples of youth and adult courses from one supplier were provided. The information provided is the list price for the equipment only. Realistically the total cost of the unit(s) would be at least twice the equipment cost as it would require installation costs and site prep and surfacing. Many challenge course set ups provide an artificial turf surfacing for safety, aesthetics and proper footing. President Caron suggested including this in a plan and get community feedback on the idea at the public hearings for the project.

Commissioners reviewed the original Master Plan and the two different concepts developed by PRI for the northern end renovations. Staff should be able to have an updated concept by the July meeting.

### **Historical Museum Discussion**

As you may recall, one of the outcomes from the Mitchell Park re-naming process was the exploration and feasibility of developing a Historical Museum in Deerfield. The concept revolved around creating a museum to provide a

chronological history of Deerfield including the issues in the late 1950's, early 1960's. The Mitchell Park Advisory Committee identified this as a possible project to explore.

Since the re-naming process of the park, staff has been conducting research on what other communities have and what entities may be behind their respective operations. A few site visits were also conducted. Provided were some notes regarding that research. The feasibility of a museum was also approached in the district's 2021 Community Survey. Provided were the associated results in regard to a museum being supported with a property tax increase and importance. The museum received very little support.

Over the course of time since the project's mention, Director Nehila has received very few inquiries about furthering the project's viability. Some local agencies have provided some possible committee members and some have not. Realistically, the operations and stewardship of a museum would be best suited as a joint project with public agencies. No public agencies have reached out to share a defined leadership role in the facility development. As he does have some contacts in relation to a potential committee, he would like to provide them with an update on the status of the project.

Also provided was an estimate on the potential cost of developing a museum at the 911 and 921 Wilmot Road area where the 2 original model homes from the proposed Floral Park development are. The park district owns and rents out the homes. The estimate of \$1.4 million is based on demolishing one home for parking and stormwater and an addition to the other home. The estimate is a few years old at this point and the costs are anticipated to be much higher today and going forward.

Director Nehila believes the pursuit of a historical museum by the park district is not a priority and the district should continue its focus on pandemic recovery initiatives. Treasurer Patinkin commented that he thought it was a phenomenal idea, but it requires the support and input of every body politic in the village, and if there is no support amongst them, we should let the idea go. Commissioner Serota commented that she doesn't see it being used and therefore there would be no return on investment. She also commented that the space could be used for something such as community gardens when the houses are eventually demolished. Commissioners directed Director Nehila to send a letter to interested parties explaining why the museum concept isn't moving forward.

### **Other Items**

#### **Shepard Park Renovation Project**

The bid opening for the Shepard Park Renovation Project was held today, June 2. Three bids were received. The base bid and the alternate for 2 additional courts came in at \$786,000. The second alternate was removed from the project and helped to generate more interest. Gewalt Hamilton has recommended doing the drainage as a separate project. Bid award for this project will be an agenda item for the June 16 board meeting.

#### **Mari Krasney Retirement Recognition**

Mari Krasney will be recognized on June 16 with a Retirement Reception from 4-7pm followed by attendance at the board meeting.

#### **Park Avenue Improvement Project**

The village's plan for the renovation of Park Avenue has been updated. The plan includes a 5-foot wide instead of the carriage walkway.

#### **Deerfield Golf Club**

The golf course was extremely busy over the holiday weekend with 280+ golfers on Saturday, 290+ golfers on Sunday and 315 golfers on Monday.

Motion made by Vice-President Cohen, seconded by Treasurer Patinkin, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 8:50 p.m. Voice vote as follows:

AYES:            Cohen, Patinkin, Brown, Serota, Caron (5)

NAYS:            None (0)

Motion passed in a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary