

Minutes of a Workshop Session of the Board of  
Park Commissioners of the Downers Grove Park  
District held on January 7, 2021 via Zoom Conferencing

Before roll call Executive Director, Bill McAdam read that the meeting will be conducted by audio or video conference without a physically present quorum of the Downers Grove Park District Board of Commissioners because of the disaster relief. Bill McAdam asked each Board member if they can hear and see everyone in the Zoom conference. All Board Members confirmed.

Call to Order                      Commissioner Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Dahlstrom, Kotula, Mahoney, McDonnell; Executive Director, Bill McAdam; Director of Human Resources, Marian Olund; Director of Recreation, Dave Haring; Director of Finance & Technology, Erik Brown; Director of Parks and Planning, Geoff Penman;; Director of Marketing & Community Engagement, Dawn Hartman; Superintendent of Planning, Paul Fyle; Clerk, Adine Lenon

ABSENT:                              None                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

Changes to the Agenda:              None

Visitors:                              None  
  
\*                      \*                      \*                      \*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**WALNUT PROPERTY SURVEY RESULTS** – Bill McAdam mentioned that Staff is looking for any input from the Board with the Question and Answer sheet. The intention is to send the Question and Answer sheet directly to the individuals that reached out to the Park District with questions as well as posting it publicly on the website. As we gather more public input, the website will be updated. Dawn Hartman was introduced and began the discussion on the Walnut Property survey results. She mentioned that the Park District used Survey Monkey to gauge the interest of specific amenities. The survey was available from December 9 through December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The top 5 desired indoor amenities were: Walking/jogging track, multi-purpose space, sports training & performance, 100x60 year synthetic turf and indoor tennis courts. The top 5 desired outdoor amenities were: Walking/jogging path, bike path, playground, dog park and tennis courts. President Mahoney asked where were the tennis courts on the 2017 survey? Staff responded that it was lower on the list. President Mahoney also asked if the Park District talked about possible locations of a dog park? Bill McAdam responded that the Park District hasn't found a great location for a dog park. Commissioner Dahlstrom asked if we can put a bike lane on Warren Avenue and on Walnut going east/west and north/south respectively and tie into the bike trails? Bill responded that we can tie into the property itself and avoid Walnut from that standpoint but be able to tie in by the railroad tracks to a non-street that could get you to Belmont. That maybe a place to start. Bill also mentioned that the natural areas came up a couple of times and highlights an opportunity for the Park District with Belmont Prairie Buffer being there. The idea of the Buffer is that it is a wall keeping invasive plants out of the Prairie. He thinks there is an opportunity here to improve the buffer and to make it function appropriately. All the Board members thought the summary was excellent. Dawn mentioned that a separate page will be created on the website that will host all the information. Bill thanked Dawn for all of her efforts and thanked the Board for their input on the Walnut Property.

**PRINCE POND UPDATE** – Paul discussed that construction started in early December and work completed to date includes installation of the new concrete ramp leading down to the shelter, removal and re-installation of the brick patio and shoreline restoration along the east edge of the pond. While installing the construction entrance into the pond, the contractor discovered what they believe is "peat" underneath the sediment. Unfortunately, peat is too soft to allow heavy equipment so the contractor will not be able to push the sediment with a bulldozer. The proposed solution will involve using large mats made from wood beams to create a level surface that can support an excavator along the east edge of the pond. Due to the increase in volume of material to be removed, there will be an additional cost for removal and disposal of this material. The Village of Downers Grove staff have proposed amending the Memorandum of Understanding, to increase the amount of Village funding, in order to allow removal of the additional material. The MOU amendment would include an additional \$126,500 in funding to be provided to the Park District. The MOU will be drafted by Village staff and should be ready for Park

Board approval at the January 21, 2021 Board meeting. President Mahoney asked if this meant that this project will not be done on time? Paul responded that they are hoping to still be on schedule or maybe extend it by a month. She also thought a letter should go out the neighborhood but Paul reminded the Board that a letter has been sent before the project started and that the website is always being updated as well as the signage at Prince Pond. The Board came to a consensus for the amendment of the MUO with the Village.

**MISCELLANEOUS** – None

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** – None

**FINAL ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. following a motion made by Commissioner McDonnell and seconded by Commissioner Kotula.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: Commissioners McDonnell, Kotula, Dahlstrom, Mahoney  
                                  Nays: None  
                                  Absent: None

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Kotula, Secretary  
Downers Grove Park District



**DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT**

January 7, 2021

7:00 P.M.

*Administration Building, 2455 Warrenville Road,  
Downers Grove and by Zoom Conferencing*

This meeting will be conducted by audio or video conference without a physically present quorum of the Downers Grove Park District Board of Commissioners because of a disaster declaration related to COVID-19 public health concerns affecting the jurisdiction of the Park District. The President of the Board of Commissioners has determined that an in-person meeting at the Administration Building, 2455 Warrenville Road, with all participants is not practical or prudent because of the disaster. Commissioners, Staff and chief legal counsel will not all be physically present at the Administration Building, due to the disaster. Physical public attendance at the Administration Building may be limited, so alternative arrangements for public access to hear or view the meeting are available here:

Public participation instructions:

**Computer Access – Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88492851081>, **Meeting ID: 884 9285 1081**

**Phone Access, Audio Participation for Chicago Region: 1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago), Meeting ID: 884 9285 1081**

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE DURING THE “RECOGNITION OF VISITORS” PORTIONS OF THE MEETING. FOR EASE YOU MAY ALSO EMAIL YOUR COMMENTS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING TIME AND YOUR COMMENT WILL BE READ ALOUD ON YOUR BEHALF. SEND COMMENTS TO [CKAPUS@DGPARKS.ORG](mailto:CKAPUS@DGPARKS.ORG).

EMAIL [CKAPUS@DGPARKS.ORG](mailto:CKAPUS@DGPARKS.ORG) IF YOU ARE HAVING PROBLEMS LOGGING IN TO THE MEETING. THE MEETING WILL ALSO BE AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, AS PROVIDED BY LAW

**WORKSHOP AGENDA**

- A. CONVENING THE MEETING
  - 1. Call to Order
  - 2. Roll Call
  - 3. Changes to the Agenda
  
- B. COMMUNICATIONS
  - 1. Recognition of Visitors (see above for instructions)
  
- C. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - 1. Walnut Property Survey Results
  - 2. Prince Pond Update
  - 3. Miscellaneous
  
- D. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS (see above for instructions)

***E. THE NEXT DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT PARK BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD JANUARY 21, 2021 VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING***

**F. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (If needed)**

1. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussion whether a particular parcel should be acquired, pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act
2. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act

**G. FINAL ADJOURNMENT**

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
COUNTY OF DUPAGE        )

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Robert E. Kotula, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I am the Secretary in and for the Downers Grove Park District, DuPage County, Illinois; that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Minutes from the January 7, 2021 Workshop Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. Said Minutes were duly passed by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Downers Grove Park District at a regular meeting on the 21st day of January, 2021, and said Minutes are to become a part of the official record of said Park District.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF January, 2021



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Robert E. Kotula, Secretary  
Downers Grove Park District

