

Minutes of a Regular Session of the Board of
Park Commissioners of the Downers Grove Park
District held on September 16, 2021 at the Recreation Center,
4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove, IL 60515

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Bender, Dahlstrom, Kotula, Mahoney, 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 Facilities, Kevin Rozell; Superintendent of Planning, ADA Coordinator, Paul Fyle; Superintendent of Technology, Chris Kapus; Clerk, Adine Wrzesinski

ABSENT: Commissioner McDonnell
* * * *

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Changes to the Agenda: None

Visitors: Chris Kapus introduced the newest member of the DGPD, Eric Robles. Eric is an IT Technician for the Park District. Geoff Penman, introduced Jake Rivera. Jake is a night time custodian at the Rec Center.

Ken Lerner is attending the meeting tonight regarding the Walnut Park Master Plan presentation.

Written Correspondence: Executive Director, Bill McAdam has received a letter regarding the amount of use at the Lincoln Center playground. Both our programs – preschool and LINK use this for recess as well as the church school. Staff from Lincoln Center has been working with school staff and trying to spread times out for public usage. We will continue to monitor the park usage. The Park District received another letter concerning the use of the term Adults instead of Seniors for programming. This is an industry that all Seniors are gravitating to Adult Programming. All the programming is still there and will respond to the letter. Lastly, the Park District received emails regarding the condition of the pickleball courts. As you recall the last board meeting, Staff presented a short and long-term plan to address the condition and the quantity of pickleball courts. We will be responding to all the emails received.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Executive Director Bill McAdam listed the items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2021 Regular Session Meeting and September 2, 2021 Workshop Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Payment of Bills – In the amount of \$881,964.59
- Approval of Ball Machine/Ball Washer/Blower/Enclosure project per the Board's previous concurrence at the April 2, 2021 Workshop meeting
- Approval of Ordinance #1298 – An Ordinance declaring certain Park District personal property as surplus and authorizing sale or disposal

Commissioner Bender made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented including the payment of bills in the amount of \$881,964.59. Commissioner Kotula seconded the motion.

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

ACTION ITEMS - None

BOARD BUSINESS

President Comments – None

Commissioner Comments –None

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Director –No report

Recreation – The report was included in the Board Packet.

Golf –The report was included in the Board Packet.

Marketing – The report was included in the Board Packet.

Planning- The report was included in the Board Packet.

Parks –The report was included in the Board Packet.

Finance/IT – The report was included in the Board Packet.

SEASPAR –No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –None

NEW BUSINESS – Board Review and Input on Staff’s plans for public engagement in drafting a Master Plan for Walnut Park – Executive Director, Bill McAdam discussed that Staff’s goal this evening is to present to the Board the framework of the process to engage the public to work and come up with a final master plan for the Walnut Park project. When we discuss Walnut Park, it encompasses Walnut Park, the buffer zone, the existing prairie, and the existing part on Belmont and Walnut. After tonight’s discussion we will start the public engagement process. Once that is complete, we will adjust the plan accordingly, bring it back for Board Review and then have the Board approve the Master Plan. Director of Marketing & Community Engagement, Dawn Hartman began the discussion that after today’s meeting the Park District will be launching a new Walnut Park webpage where we will have today’s video presentation for people to view and we will have an online feedback form. We will also have the draft renderings available for viewing and we will have information on upcoming public open houses. We will hold the meetings at Walnut Park in the pavilion, have print outs and large boards of the renderings. If we have rain on the day of the open house, then it will be held at the Rec Center. Commissioner Dahlstrom commented on the dates and times that two open houses are during work hours or during heavy traffic hours. Dawn responded if we needed to add another date, we can. The dates are Tuesday, September 28th from 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, October 6th from 12-2 and Saturday, October 9th from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Commissioner Dahlstrom asked how long will the feedback form be online? The response was that it will be a very long time. As the plan develops, we can change the feedback form and questions. Executive Director, Bill McAdam gave a presentation on the Walnut Park Draft Master Plan. He explained that the drawings were a result of the community survey done over the last 5-6 years on what the Park District needs. He thanked the Alter Group and Wight & Company for putting the plan together. The district has spent no money putting this plan together. Bill McAdam showed the Board where the existing soccer field, pavilion and prairie buffer are. He explained that the prairie buffer exists to buffer the Belmont Prairie. Commissioner Dahlstrom asked if the prairie buffer is untouchable? Bill responded that it needs to function as the buffer. The dome will help with the active activities that we hear from the community and our partner groups. A lot of our affiliates and other organizations go outside of Downers Grove for indoor practice. The outdoor fields will be artificial turf and will be multi-purpose. In the natural areas, there will be walking paths that will connect together. Commissioner Dahlstrom asked are we not able to use the natural area for additional programming or can we move the walking/bike path through the middle of the buffer? We could add additional paths but cannot build a structure. Commissioner Bender asked would the nature center programs focus on the prairie or focus on the both the prairie and what is going on in the buffer area? Bill responded both. We can create more open space and maybe focus on the wildlife that is in the area. Commissioner Dahlstrom asked if the active area dome and fields, is that to house local athletics or regional athletics? Bill responded that there is a full size football field, smaller courts for volleyball, pickleball, etc. We would recommend that in the master plan we have a feasibility study that is done if

it can support itself. This will be for the local athletes but it will take a regional approach for different gatherings for a small concert, trade shows, etc. Commissioner Mahoney asked what are the stages over the years? Bill responded that starting with the natural area is probably the area where we will see movement most quickly and get it accomplishment internally. We need to put together a restoration plan. We would also apply for grants and inquire about outside funding in the natural area. The outdoor fields can be a separate stage and of course the dome would be the largest and most difficult stage. Ken Lerner from Pierce Downers Heritage Alliance had a few comments on the natural area. He mentioned that the Staff is well aware of the concerns and the importance of preserving that area and then he said there is an opportunity here and should incorporate something to utilize the buffer area and the adjacent area more effectively to highlight this wonderful resource we have in Belmont Prairie. Ken talked with a couple of experts and there are some challenges there but maybe develop it into a savannah like landscape. Ken is very grateful for being part of the planning project.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None

Commissioner Mahoney announced that the next Park District Workshop Meeting will be held October 7, 2021 at the Recreation Center, Multi-Purpose Room.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Kotula, Secretary
Downers Grove Part District



DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT

September 16, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Recreation Center, Multi-Purpose Room

AGENDA

Public participation instructions:

Computer Access – Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86993609963>,
Meeting ID: 869 9360 9963

**Phone Access, Audio Participation for Chicago Region: 1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago),
Meeting ID: 869 9360 9963**

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.

EMAIL 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

- A. CONVENING THE MEETING
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 4. Changes to the Agenda

- B. COMMUNICATIONS
 - 1. Recognition of Visitors
 - 2. Written Correspondence

- C. CONSENT AGENDA
 - 1. Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2021 Regular Session Meeting and September 2, 2021 Workshop Meeting
 - 2. Treasurer’s Report
 - 3. Payment of Bills – In the amount of \$881,964.59
 - 4. Approval of Ball Machine/Ball Washer/Blower/Enclosure project per the Board’s previous concurrence at the April 2, 2021 Workshop meeting
 - 5. Approval of Ordinance #1298 – An Ordinance declaring certain Park District personal property as surplus and authorizing sale or disposal

- D. ACTION ITEMS - None

- E. BOARD BUSINESS
 - 1. President Comments
 - 2. Commissioner Comments

- F. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS – no board reports will be discussed
 - 1. Executive Director
 - 2. Recreation
 - 3. Golf
 - 4. Marketing
 - 5. Planning
 - 6. Parks
 - 7. Finance/IT
 - 8. SEASPAR
- G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- H. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Board Review and Input on Staff's plans for public engagement in drafting a Master Plan for Walnut Park
- I. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
- J. **THE NEXT DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT PARK BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 7, 2021, AT THE RECREATION CENTER, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**
- K. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION
 - 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) 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
- L. RECONVENE FOR ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION (If Necessary)
- M. 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 September 16, 2021 Regular 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 October, 2021 and said Minutes are to become a part of the official record of said Park District.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF October, 2021



Robert E. Kotula, Secretary
Downers Grove Park District

