



**MINUTES OF THE OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT PECCIA PARK
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
PARK SERVICES
FEBRUARY 9, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Mike Reid
Vice-President Khemarey Khoeun
Commissioner Susan Aberman
Commissioner Michael Alter
Commissioner Minal Desai

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn
Office Manager Park Services Dima Kirland
Landscape Supervisor Stephen Ames
Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker
Parks Supervisor John Gacki
Park Specialist Peter Haben
Park Specialist Jim Hallm

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Khoeun called the public hearing of the Board of Park Commissioners for the improvements at Peccia Park to order at 7:02 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Vice President Khoeun introduced herself, President Mike Reid, Commissioner Susan Aberman, Commissioner Michael Alter, Commissioner Minal Desai, Executive Director Michelle Tuft, and Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn.

PECCIA PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND PARK AMENITY UPDATES

Mr. Guynn presented the design for Peccia Park playground and other amenities. The renovation plans include eliminating the brick seating island to create more space for the playground equipment. The tree in the playground and its border will stay. Bench pads and benches will be added around the border of the playground to add more seating. Additionally, ramps will be added for accessibility purposes. The new playground equipment is an upright structure that includes double tube slides, a larger spinner, and a rocker car. The bigger and smaller structures have climbing structures. The swings will include the expressions swing which is a parent and tot swing.

Timeline – the demo will be done by staff and will begin as soon as the snow clears. Demo includes removal of the sand, equipment, and footings. Installation of the playground should be completed by the end of July. The sand surface will be replaced with engineered wood fiber surfacing.

The basketball court will be repaved, and staff will paint new lines.

Native perennial plants will be planted on the berm facing the expressway. Additional trees may also be planted. Staff member, Genevieve Nano, is attempting to secure a grant through ComEd. Some examples of native plantings that will go on the site are Prairie Phlox, Early Wild Rose, Blue-Eyed Grass, Little Bluestem, Rosin Weed and others. Plantings are planned for the fall.

A Little Free Library, a new District program, will be added to the park. The website has additional information and ways to volunteer. The library will be installed in March/April.

Other amenities to be added are new garbage cans, benches, and tables. The benches are memorial benches.

The water fountain near the basketball court will be removed and the one near the playground will be replaced.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

A resident asked why the playground surfacing was wood chips and not rubber surfacing. Mr. Guynn explained that wood chips are more common and widely used. Rubber surfacing is \$18 - \$20 per square foot versus wood chips at \$3 per square foot. This cost savings was used to maximize the amount of playground equipment.

A resident inquired about adding recycling bins. Mr. Guynn stated there is not a plan to do so but will look at adding one by the basketball court. Executive Director Tuft explained the problem with recycle bins is they become contaminated and the park district does not have enough staff to separate it out and unfortunately it becomes contaminated and ends up as garbage.

A resident asked if the volleyball court is staying, Mr. Guynn said there are no plans to remove it.

A resident asked if the planters would have new flowers. Mr. Guynn said flowers get trampled around playgrounds, the focus will be to add plantings along the drain area on side facing the expressway.

The plastic stone will be replaced with wood timbers.

A resident asked if the playground would have specific climbing features. Mr. Guynn replied that yes, the new structure will have climbing features. The resident asked for more tables in the other corner of the park. Mr. Guynn he would look to see if that is feasible. It does not seem feasible at this time because tables must be accessible.

A discussion took place about sidewalks, bike paths and traffic on Frontage Road. These features need to be discussed with the Village of Skokie. The Park District only takes care of the park. Sidewalks in the park might be possible. Executive Director Tuft said she would provide the resident with a Village contact.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Vice President Khoeun thanked the residents for their questions and comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Khoeun thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Mike Reid
President

Michelle Tuft
Secretary

Vision Statement

The Skokie Park District envisions a community where all of its residents enjoy a high quality of life through leisure time pursuits, beautiful open spaces, and first-rate facilities.

Mission Statement

The Skokie Park District will realize its vision through teamwork, community partnerships, sound fiscal management, and creativity in every area of its operation.

Core Values

The Skokie Park District will fulfill its mission through:

- Commitment• Integrity• Innovation• Service •Openness •Environmental Stewardship •Inclusiveness