

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD WORKSHOP  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
JUNE 5, 2019  
6:30 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 John V. Ohrlund

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Reid called the Workshop of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 6:30 p.m., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The committee structure of the Board was discussed. Two advisory committees were created in recent years. After operating for a few years it was determined that the advisory committees were not operating as intended, as committees of residents of the District that provide assistance and advice to the Board for action/decisions by the Board. Other potential standing or advisory committees discussed included personnel, legislative, ethics and environmental. After discussion it was agreed to dissolve the advisory committees and to maintain four standing committees: Finance, Recreation, Parks, and Marketing. Diversity activities would be absorbed into all committees. Program ideas, wellness and special events would be included in the responsibilities of the Recreation Committee. Marketing would include community engagement and Parks would include environmental stewardship. Committee chairs to be appointed at the regular June meeting will be Alter, Desai, Khoeun and Aberman respectively. Appointed members of the two dissolved advisory committees need to be notified. Executive Director Ohrlund noted that the Board and Administrative Policy Manual will need to be modified to codify these changes.

**SUCCESSION PLANNING**

President Reid led a discussion concerning the recruitment and timing of hiring the next Executive Director of the district. A hire date of mid-November to early December was suggested. IAPD has provided an executive director search proposal which was reviewed by the Board. President Reid suggested that the search process begin in mid-July. The Board agreed to have IAPD complete the executive director search. Attributes for the next Executive Director were discussed, and Mr. Ohrlund passed out a copy of the existing job description. Commissioner Aberman requested that IAPD attempt to provide a diverse pool of applicants for the position. Residency was discussed including the pros and cons of a residency requirement. It was recommended that the successful candidate be encouraged to consider residency in the district.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Executive Director Ohrlund informed the attendees that the comprehensive plan process has begun with a meeting today between the staff steering committee and Hitchcock Design Group. Calendars were reviewed for scheduling of a Board input meeting in late July or August.

Executive Director Ohrlund said a proposal for modifying the entrances to the Fitness First locker rooms has been received. There were a few complaints after completion of the facility renovation that there should be a baffle created at the locker room entrances. After being in operation for several months complaints have stopped. The proposal for the work is about \$19,000. Executive Director Ohrlund recommended against proceeding and the Board concurred with the recommendation.

Executive Director Ohrlund reported that an appraisal has been received for the Garden Plot property in consideration of a potential land swap with School District 69. The school district intends to enlarge Madison School in 3-4 years and has approached the park district about swapping the soccer field area, which they own, for the garden plot area. Director Ohrlund discussed the issues related to providing soccer field space verses issues with creating a new garden plot area within the community. County property has been acquired for use for a small garden plot area, however it is not large enough to replicate the current location. The park district garden property (1.46 acres) is valued at \$760,000 and the soccer field area at the school (1.96 acres) is valued at \$1,280,000. After discussion of the pros and cons of a land swap the Board determined not to proceed with any such exchange of properties. Mr. Ohrlund said he will communicate this information to the Superintendent of School District 69.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Director Ohrlund made the Board aware of communications received recently concerning the District's occasional use of pesticides in parks including glyphosate herbicide. The current policy is found in the "Statement of Policy Concerning the Use of Pesticides in General Park Areas." He provided a written copy of this policy to Commissioner Khoeun. Mr. Ohrlund briefly explained the District's use of weed control in parks. Mr. Ohrlund suggested putting this subject on an upcoming Parks Committee agenda, and bringing in Park Superintendent Corrie Guynn and Landscape Supervisor Steve Ames to discuss the current level of use and horticultural practices in the District, impacts on potential changes, alternate products and commonly accepted standard practices. Commissioner Khoeun suggested bringing in a non-biased outside consultant to provide additional input to the committee. The district's current practices may be on the light end of the spectrum.

Commissioner Desai discussed a concern that has developed with Meyer School parents about perceived inappropriate teen use at the playground at that school. Parental social media suggestions are that if the playground at Lauth Park, several blocks away, was redeveloped the use would move there and the Meyer problem would be solved. Discussion took place that this was illogical. Discussion on the difficulty of teen programming took place.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Reid adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

---

Mike Reid  
President

---

John V. Ohrlund  
Secretary