

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD WORKSHOP
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 26, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

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

Staff Present: Executive Director/Secretary John V. Ohrlund

CALL TO ORDER

President Aberman called the Workshop of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

The 2014-2019 Comprehensive Master Plan is due for updating within the next year. Executive Director Ohrlund discussed the progress and items completed over the past several years and provided a proposal from Hitchcock Design Group for the next update. President Aberman recommended a geo-mapping process using available registration information to determine if any gaps exist in recreation programming with a goal to determine barriers in participation. Various methods of acquiring public input were discussed including a possible survey at the Festival of Cultures, paper and on-line surveys, public hearings and a tear out survey in a program guide.

Timing of a plan update was discussed. It was recommended to complete the plan update by the end of 2019. Staff will investigate providing geo-mapping information over the next month. Executive Director Ohrlund will contact Hitchcock for an alternate proposal utilizing more staff time for some aspects of the update. An April Board Workshop is anticipated to finalize decisions on how to proceed. Commissioner Khoeun recommended annual updates be provided to the Board in the future.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

Methods and timing for the recruitment of the District's next Executive Director were discussed. The IAPD director search proposal was reviewed and found to be an acceptable vehicle for the search. Vice President Reid recommended a mid-August start with the desire to have a selection made by early December. The existing job description was provided for review.

BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The structure of the various standing and advisory committees of the Board was discussed.

Vice President Reid suggested that the advisory committees are not functioning as planned, lack focus and are not reporting back to the full Board as intended. He feels that the Diversity Advisory Committee has become a public forum rather than a functioning advisory committee and that appointed committee members are rarely in attendance. Commissioner Yanes discussed progress of the Diversity Advisory Committee and the advantage of networking with various community groups. Commissioner Alter said the original goal of the committee was to determine why various groups are not participating in District programs, and how to change that. Commissioner Khoeun noted that the Community Engagement and Outreach Advisory Committee has also not functioned as originally planned and she has had more success by meeting with individuals one on one. It was suggested that a staff person would be a more appropriate avenue to coordinate these diversity and community outreach functions for the District. It was recommended that this subject be part of the comprehensive plan process; to determine how best to solve this issue and whether to do so through a part time or full time employee dedicated to this function. Commissioner Khoeun suggested checking how other park districts are dealing with these issues, checking in particular with Champaign/Urbana. Returning to the four original Board committees (Parks, Recreation, Finance and Marketing) was recommended. With committee structure in flux the advisory committees will be on hiatus.

OLD BUSINESS

A potential change in the ordinance related to dogs in parks on leash was discussed. Commissioner Alter recommended a public hearing, as only one side of the issue has been heard thus far. A date for a public hearing was discussed and determined to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The regular Board meeting will be rescheduled to 7:30 PM. The announcement of the public hearing should indicate it is for public input only, and that no Board action will take place either at the public hearing or the Board meeting to follow.

Staff was asked to research a DNA testing system in place in Indianapolis and Boulder, Colorado where owners of dogs not picking up after their pets are fined. Director Ohrlund expressed reservations and said staff will investigate.

NEW BUSINESS

An educational forum for recycling of plastic bags was discussed. The District could host the forum in corporation with the Village of Skokie Garbage Committee Trash Committee.

The new website was briefly discussed. Commissioner Khoeun asked about providing a contact number to call when residents are having difficulty registering for programs.

ADJOURNMENT

President Aberman adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President



John V. Ohrlund
Secretary