



**MINUTES OF THE OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT POHATAN PARK
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
PARK SERVICES
FEBRUARY 9, 2021 - 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 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 Pohatan Park to order at 6:30 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.

POHATAN PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND PARK AMENITY UPDATES

Mr. Guynn presented the design for Pohatan Park playground and other amenities. The playground will be updated. The new playground equipment will include climbing nets, and cars. The swings will include two belts swings, one enclosed tot swing, and a plastic molded swing.

The basketball court will be repaved by a contractor and lined by staff.

The old brick patio will be removed and replaced with concrete.

Surfacing will change from sand to engineered wood fiber.

Staff will remove the sand, the equipment, and the footings. The contractor will install the equipment and staff will install the new surfacing.

New garbage cans, benches, and a table will be added.

A Little Free Library, a new District program, will be added to this park. The park district website has additional information and ways to volunteer.

Two color options were presented for the attendees to vote on. Option 2 was the preferred option.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Residents were concerned about people leaving large amounts of food under the evergreens which attracts rodents and other animals and suggested putting out signs to educate people. Mr. Guynn said we can have the park monitor visit the park more frequently. Mr. Guynn also encouraged the residents to call the police non-emergency number after dark.

Residents were concerned about the lack of light. They said there is a lot of activity happening at night, including drug-dealing. Executive Director Tuft suggested working with the police on activities that happen at night. Additional lighting can also have negative consequences and may attract people to play basketball after the park closes. Mr. Guynn offered to talk to the Village of Skokie about additional lighting. Executive Director Tuft said that she and Mr. Guynn will have to further investigate adding lighting to the park. Executive Director Tuft said she would update the residents via email on the lighting decision. The park is in Lincolnwood, so streetlights would have to be discussed with the Village of Lincolnwood.

Another resident asked about changing the basketball court from full to two half courts by placing the hoops back-to-back. Mr. Guynn replied that we are not looking into doing this now, mostly because it is cost prohibitive.

The water fountain was discussed. Mr. Guynn said the plan was to remove the water fountain. A resident disagreed with this plan and said that many residents would miss having the water fountain. Executive Director Tuft and Mr. Guynn will discuss this with staff and possibly alter the plan from removing the water fountain to replacing it. Mr. Guynn will reach out to the residents via email to inform them of the final decision.

Residents also reported that there is dog poop all over and people are not following the rules. The District will increase the park monitor visits to watch this when possible.

The District plans to add landscaping to the site on the expressway side berm to cut down on the noise and to improve the view of the park from the expressway. No trees will be removed.

The playground surface will be engineered wood fiber, it is more common and cost effective than poured in place rubber surfacing.

CLOSING COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Kheun thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 6:54 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