



**MINUTES OF THE OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT SHABONEE PARK
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
PARK SERVICES
FEBRUARY 11, 2021 - 6:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Mike Reid
Vice-President Khemarey Khoeun
Commissioner Susan Aberman

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 Jim Hallm

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Khoeun called the public hearing of the Board of Park Commissioners for the improvements at Shabonee Park to order at 6:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

SHABONEE PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND PARK AMENITY UPDATES

Mr. Guynn presented the design for Shabonee Park playground and other amenities. The new playground equipment will include a 5–12-year-old structure, a 2–5-year-old structure, a small rocker, and a swing set. The swings will include two belts swings, one enclosed tot swing, and a plastic molded swing.

Surfacing will change from sand to engineered wood fiber.

The brick pavers, picnic tables, and patio will be removed to allow for additional playground equipment.

An accessibility ramp will be added.

All the demo work will be done in-house. Staff will remove the sand, the equipment, and the

footings. The contractor will install the equipment. Staff will install the new surfacing. The demo will begin as soon as the snow clears. Installation of the playground should be completed by the end of July.

The asphalt path will be replaced with a concrete walkway.

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

Two color options were presented for the attendees to vote on. Option 1 had the most votes.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Residents inquired about the surfacing and why it will not be rubber surfacing. Mr. Guynn said the woodchips are more common and cost effective than poured in place rubber surfacing.

A resident inquired about expanding the basketball court. Mr. Guynn said the basketball court was recently color coated and there are no plans to expand it with this renovation. Mr. Guynn said he would consider that in the future.

There are no plans to cut out any green space, it will remain as is.

Residents are concerned the path is too close to the basketball court making it unsafe for people walking on the path. Mr. Guynn said he will take another look, and if possible, will redesign the path away from the basketball court. The garbage can by the basketball will be replaced. Mr. Ames said they will prune back the apple tree near the basketball courts as much as possible.

Some residents said they would miss the sand surfacing; the neighborhood kids love to dig in it. Mr. Guynn said he would investigate adding a sandbox near the playground.

Residents asked about adding a pickleball court in the field. Mr. Guynn there are no plans currently but could be considered in the future. There are pickleball courts nearby at Lawler and Laramie Parks.

Resident inquired about the field and reported there are dips on the northwest end. Mr. Guynn reported there are no plans to do any changes to the field, but staff will fix the dips on the northwest end.

Residents asked to keep the sledding if possible.

Residents asked for correct signs regarding dogs in the park. Mr. Guynn said staff will look at the signs that are posted and replace them if necessary.

Residents inquired about adding a stop sign. The stop sign is a Village issue.

Residents also inquired about adding a bocce ball court on the northern or western side, it is a game that will bring the neighborhood together. Mr. Guynn said he would investigate doing this. Staff could possibly do it themselves.

A resident said that Shabonee was a historical figure with a fascinating history and thinks it would be a good opportunity to portray his history in the park. Executive Director Tuft agreed and said that she would have the Museum Supervisor and Historical Society research it.

A bags feature will not be added at this time.

CLOSING COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Khoehn thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 6:25 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