



**PARK SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE  
LARAMIE PARK REDEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARING  
PARK SERVICES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018  
6:00 PM**

**Present from Skokie Park District:**

Mike Reid	Vice President, Board of Commissioners
John Ohrlund	Executive Director
Mike Rea	Superintendent of Parks
Michelle Tuft	Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities
William Schmidt	Superintendent of Business
Stephen Ames	Landscape Supervisor
Jeff Hacker	Operations Supervisor
John Gacki	Parks Supervisor
Jim Hallm	Horticulturalist
Dima Kirland	Park Services Office Manager

Vice President Mike Reid called the meeting to order 6:02 pm. Vice President Reid welcomed and thanked everyone for attending; approximately sixteen adult residents plus several children were in attendance. Mr. Reid then introduced staff in attendance.

Executive Director John Ohrlund welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Ohrlund said all present will have an opportunity to comment on the redevelopment design. Mr. Ohrlund said that OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition Development) grants are now available and the District will be applying for a \$400,000 grant. The District will need to match the grant with at least \$400,000 in other funds. Mr. Ohrlund introduced Joe Brusseau from Hitchcock Design Group to make the presentation of the conceptual design for Laramie Park.

Mr. Brusseau presented the concepts/ideas that included the following:

- New playground to include swing area, 2-5 year old and 5-12 year old areas
- Family fun area to include an outdoor ping pong table and baggo games
- Gazebo/shelter with picnic tables, litter receptacles, benches
- Fitness stations
- Splash pad, sports themed, interactive
- Pickle ball courts, very popular
- 8 ft. asphalt path to loop around the park

- Additional parking, several options were discussed
- Rain garden
- Synthetic turf to the west diamond infield, new back stops, dugouts
- Re-lamping existing ballfield lighting with LED is being considered
- Existing shelter will remain

Citizen's comments included:

- o Likes the concept because it will develop parts of the park that are under utilized
- o Lighting the east ballfield may result in more usage
- o Additional security lighting
- o Playground to include age based, existing playground does not have that
- o Parking was thoroughly discussed, concern that this will overpopulate the park and parking becomes a nightmare during busy events
- o Encourage soccer tournaments to have alternate parking, that's when it gets pretty bad
- o Possibly institute a neighbor parking permit for the street with restrictions
- o Possible Holiday Inn to allow use of their parking lot
- o Parking will be a challenge but not impossible
- o Additional parking near the existing shelter
- o Parking lots will be screened with landscaping
- o Small dog park
- o Small concession shed
- o Announcers box
- o Maintenance concern about splash pad
- o Middle of west field has drain which can be dangerous
- o Synthetic turf for the outfield is very expensive

The OSLAD grant application is due October 1. Mr. Brusseau and Mr. Ohrlund described the award process, and anticipate that if awarded, construction could start in late 2019 or early 2020.

Mr. Ohrlund thanked everyone for all their input. He said the presentation will be posted on the District website in the next week.

Vice President Reid thanked the citizens for their input and assured the people that there will be additional public hearings if the District is awarded the grant.

Vice President Reid adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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Susan Aberman  
President

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John V. Ohrlund  
Secretary