



**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT LYON PARK
PARK SERVICES
September 3, 2025 - 6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman, Vice-President Ezra Jaffe, Commissioner Elsa Fischer, Commissioner Courtney Williams

Others Present: Executive Director Michelle Tuft
 Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn
 Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava
 Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm
 Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker

CALL TO ORDER

President Susan Aberman called the public hearing of the Board of Park Commissioners for the improvements at Lyon Park to order at 6:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Director Michelle Tuft introduced herself, President Susan Aberman, Vice President Ezra Jaffe, Commissioner Elsa Fischer, Commissioner Courtney Williams and Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn. Mr. Guynn introduced his staff-Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm, Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker, Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava.

LYON PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND PARK AMENITY UPDATES

Mr. Guynn opened the presentation by noting that the playground has been in use for nearly thirty years and is now due for replacement, including both the playground itself and its amenities. He proceeded to present the proposed new design for Lyon Park playground along with related amenities.

Mr. Guynn stated that in order to fit in the new playground structure the sandbox will be minimized to 8 feet x 8 feet and a portion of the sidewalk on the south end of the playground will be removed to allow for additional playground space. All benches, picnic tables and garbage cans will be replaced with new ones. No trees will be removed for the project, except one tree that is diseased.

The new playground equipment will have two structures: one 2–5-year-old playground structure and one 5–12-year-old playground structure. The structures will feature climbing

structures, slides, and swings.

Mr. Guynn said concrete work will be done where large cracks exist, both near the playground and in the back section of the shelter.

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

Demolition of the playground will start in late Fall, with installation planned for early Spring and an expected opening in early June.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

A resident asked about the firepit's removal at the park. Mr. Guynn replied that, as with other parks, the firepit will also be removed from Lyon Park.

A resident inquired about the playground surfacing. Mr. Guynn explained that the new surface will consist of engineered wood fiber, with the existing material being removed and replaced. He acknowledged that several residents have expressed a preference for rubber surfacing; however, its cost is \$25-\$27 per square foot compared to \$7-\$8 per square foot for engineered wood fiber. The savings from selecting engineered wood fiber are allocated towards enhancing the quality of the playground structure.

A resident asked if all the benches are coming out. Mr. Guynn stated that all benches will be replaced.

A resident inquired about the possibility of replacing the benches in the shelter. Mr. Guynn responded that the benches currently in place have newer frames and tables, which were installed during the summer.

A group of residents requested that more swings be added to the playground structure. Mr. Guynn responded that he would look into options for adding additional swings.

A resident requested that the pathway be marked with distance signs to indicate how many miles are covered. Mr. Guynn agreed to address this request.

A resident inquired about the possibility of adding a car structure similar to the one at Lorel Park to the playground. Mr. Guynn responded that it may be challenging to implement but agreed to investigate the feasibility and proceed if possible.

A resident inquired about court repaving. Mr. Guynn replied that the basketball courts were repaved two years ago and the tennis courts last year.

A resident praised the landscape supervisor for the field maintenance and set up- pre/post games. He stated that the crew does a fantastic job on the maintenance, and it is so nice to see. Mr. Guynn thanked the resident for acknowledging the hard work and stated that is nice to hear.

ADJOURNMENT

President Susan Aberman thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President



Michelle Tuft
Executive Director

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