

APPROVED

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD FROM 8-10 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 20, 2016 IN THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOUSE, LOCATED AT 908 SEWARD STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS LONG-RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Present: President Michael Drennan, Vice President Ann Covode, Rob Bady, Dan Coyne, Pat McCourt

Also Present: Director of Parks & Recreation Brian Rosinski, Corporate Secretary/Office Manager Anna Christina Nelson, Programs Director Kari Lindquist,

Kari Lindquist was facilitator for the meeting, held to discuss commissioners' suggested priorities for capital improvement in the park district. Kari asked each commissioner to present his/her preferred idea for a capital improvement project, then have other commissioners ask questions related to that project. Brian Rosinski suggested that finance options be included with each proposal, adding that grants could be an option.

Michael Drennan suggested starting a new gardening program in Leider Park, which he believes would help build community and add premium gardens to Ridgeville's current gardening areas. Michael said new gardens would give condo and apartment dwellers an opportunity to garden. He believes the southwest corner of Leider Park would be a good location because it gets excellent sun. He estimates it would cost \$15,000 to access water from the water fountain already in the park.

Pat McCourt suggested improving the Art Studio, the building just east of the Community House, because little money has been spent on the building at the location of park district headquarters and part of our "campus." Brian Rosinski said he believes a drinking fountain and bathrooms (that would be handicapped accessible) should be added outside of the building.

Dan Coyne expressed support for the commissioners' consensus following their October walk-through of the parks, that the top capital improvement priority should be adding new playground equipment in Brummel Park.

Rob Bady proposed putting a "skate spot" (for skateboarders) in Leider Park. He added that the American Ramp Company has built more than 2,000 skate spots throughout the country. He said Elks Park too isolated for a skate spot and a Leider Park location would be easier for police to observe. Rob said skateboarders should be included in any planning sessions. He estimates the cost would be \$60,000 and a private party has said he/she will provide 70% of the funding. Someone on the City

of Evanston Recreation Department's advisory board said \$35,000 in city funds may be available for the project.

Ann Covode would like to see a band shell and bathrooms in Elks Park to bring more activity to that park. Ann complimented a similar project in Libertyville.

Michael Drennan said the board is considering repair/replacement of the parking lot at the Community House. Estimates range from \$22,000 to \$162,000. He suggested that Ridgeville eliminate the "heat island" created by a blacktopped parking lot by replacing it with an aggregate compound (cost: \$55,000). Pat McCourt suggested patching the parking lot and Ann Covode recommended waiting until decisions are made that could change the size of the parking lot.

Michael Drennan suggested that recycling containers be placed in each park.

Dan Coyne would like to have handicapped-accessible restrooms in every Ridgeville Park.

Rob Bady suggested that each Ridgeville basketball hoop have a glass backboard. He mentioned there are cracks in park district basketball courts and suggested that staff and board members investigate a new surface that has been used on courts at Kingsley School and Lincolnwood School.

Ann Covode said architect Susan Rundel could be a resource if the board decides to move ahead with improvements in the art studio. (Susan helped with plans for the renovation of the kitchen in the Community House.)

Dan Coyne said a referendum to ask Ridgeville residents to approve a tax increase for park district capital improvements could be considered.

It was the consensus of the board:

--that no additional bids be obtained for improvements to the parking lot at the Community House at this time.

--that staff put together estimated cost of new playground equipment at Brummel Park and to move this project forward.

--that committees be formed to explore suggested improvements at the Art Studio (**Ann Covode + Pat McCourt**) and Leider Park (**Rob Bady + Michael Drennan**)

Dan Coyne suggested that someone be hired to do an assessment of each Ridgeville building.

At 10 a.m. the meeting was adjourned

Minutes taken by Commissioner Patrick McCourt