



MEETING MINUTES

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Thursday, April 19, 2018

7:00pm

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Room 2402

Members Present: J. Bryan, D. Michelin, D. Stein, J. Brown, H. Garcia, R. Mayne

Members Absent: E. DeStefano, D. Campbell, D. Barreto

Staff Present: L. Hemingway, B. Dorneker

Others Present: R. Bush

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present, J. Bryan called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2018

Action: The motion to accept the minutes was approved with amendments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

R. Bush inquired about the status of the dog beach and asked if there would be way to financially assist Evanston residents to use Wilmette's dog beach. L. Hemingway explained Evanston will not have a dog beach this year and there is no money in the budget to assist residents with paying to use Wilmette's dog beach.

CIP REPORT

B. Dorneker gave an overview of the capital improvement monthly report. D. Stein expressed concern with the City spending money to redevelop Garden Park. He said the City needs to revisit their decision to restrict parking spaces at Garden Park. We shouldn't spend money to redevelop a park that won't have parking access.

ROBERT CROWN UPDATE

On May 1 from 3pm to 7pm, the City will host a vendor fair where participants can learn about the project's scope of work, anticipated trade opportunities, expected building materials and the construction schedule. The official ground breaking is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, Jun 22. There is also a Robert Crown fundraising event that evening.

HARLEY CLARKE UPDATE

On March 12, City Council adopted Ordinance 42-O-18, authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease of City-owned real property (known as the Harley Clarke Mansion) located at 2603 Sheridan Rd. with Evanston Lake House and Gardens (ELHG). The lease is for 40 years and ELHG will be required to raise \$2 million in funding over three years and then make code-related improvements to the mansion, opening the property for public use by May 2023.

STAFF UPDATES

Approximately 2,000 people showed up for the Marshmallow Drop – way more than was expected. Staff met to discuss how to improve the event for next year.

Evanston-approved food trucks have been invited to operate at James and Lovelace park in order to support participants and family members attending youth athletic programs Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and weekdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Evanston Environmental Association will have their annual fundraiser, Nature Night Out (formerly known as The Green Ball), which will take place at the Ecology Center on May 18.

Beach tokens are now on sale. The department is having challenges with hiring enough life guards this season. The South Blvd beach bathrooms will be renovated by Memorial Day. Lakefront dredging will begin this week. This season, Krave (the lakefront concessionaire) will be operating at 3 locations instead of six.

Smylie Brothers has made a request to terminate their lease for recycling center.

The City is facing a General Fund deficit of approximately \$3 million in 2019. The City Manager is planning to undertake a priority-based budgeting process for the 2019 budget in order to ensure that programs match the City's priorities.

The City needs a long term strategic plan for its park system to assist staff with planning for park and recreation improvement projects. The last park strategic plan was done in 2001. The department will recommend a strategic plan as part of next year's budget.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

D. Michelin mentioned that Verdell James has done extensive research regarding the proposed water pump station project at 2525 Church St. He also created a video with Malkia Gardener that can be seen on Evanston Live. D. Michelin encourages the Board to take a look at the video, which he thinks is very interesting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:08PM. The next scheduled meeting is 7pm on May 17, 2018 at Fleetwood Jourdain, 1655 Foster St.