



PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

**Thursday, January 16, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

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

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 4. NATURAL AREA ORDINANCE REVISIONS**
- 5. CRITERIA/PROCESS FOR NAMING/RENAMING PUBLIC PLACES**
- 6. STAFF UPDATES**
 - a. Capital Improvement Projects**
 - b. Robert Crown Center Invocation**
 - c. Parks Strategic Plan**
 - c. Canoe Launch Grant**
 - d. Summer Camp Registration**
 - e. Department Reorganization**
 - f. Evanston Park Foundation Recruitment**
- 7. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

Order & Agenda Items are subject to change. Information about the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Board is available at: www.cityofevanston.org/government/boards-commissions. Questions can be directed to 847-866-2914. The City of Evanston is committed to making all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Any citizen needing mobility or communications access assistance should contact 847-866-2916 (Voice) or 847-448-8064 (TTY).



MEETING MINUTES

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Thursday, November 21, 2019

6:00pm

Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave.

Members Present: T. Long, E. DeStefano, D. Michelin, E. Moran,
J. Bryan

Members Absent: J. Greenberg, D. Barreto, D. Featherson, P. Gregory

Staff Present: L. Hemingway, K. Hawk, A. Allyn, A. Kellogg, T. Carter

Others Present: J. Brinkmann, L. Brinkmann, M. Rosinski, B. Janes

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present, E. DeStefano called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17

Action: The motion to accept the minutes was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

L. Brinkman spoke in support of the honorary street name sign application submitted by Alderman Don Wilson, honoring Thomas H. Brinkmann. Alderman Don Wilson was unable to attend tonight's meeting to speak on behalf of the application but shared his support with staff. M. Rosinski suggested that staff add the Board's monthly meeting packet online in addition to the agenda and minutes. She also asked about the process for city park redevelopment projects. L. Hemingway explained the process.

HONORARY STREET NAME SIGN APPLICATION – Thomas H. Brinkmann

Action: The motion to approve the application designating the portion of Lake Street, between Asbury Avenue and Wesley Avenue, with the Honorary Street Name Sign, "Thomas H. Brinkmann Way" passed.

PROCESS FOR NAMING / RENAMING PUBLIC PLACES

L. Hemingway reminded the Board that part of their responsibility is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on the request for public place names. He also shared that a request will be coming to the Board to rename a park and asked that the Board review the current criteria in the city code for naming public places to see if it needed to be updated. After brief review members found the current criteria to be very subjective and low bar for such a major decision. There has to be a high standard for naming a public place. This is something that really has to be vetted and the person's past really has to be understood and there needs to be community interviews. Members also expressed concern with changing the name of a public place.

L. Hemingway said he will take a look at criteria used by other communities and share with the Board so we can continue the conversation at next month's meeting.

ATHLETIC FIELD FEES

Currently our affiliate sport groups pay a per pupil participant fee to use the athletic fields. Starting in 2020 they will pay an hourly fee. Staff will meet with each of the affiliate groups to discuss the new fee structure.

2020 MEETING DATES / LOCATION

Action: The motion to approve the 2020 Board meeting schedule was approved.

STAFF UPDATES

Recreation Program Manager A. Kellogg and Recreation Program Coordinators A. Allyn, T. Carter, all gave an overview of their job responsibilities and the different programs offered in their division.

Capital Improvement Projects –

Fleetwood-Jourdain interior improvements are near completion. There is a ribbon cutting / open house scheduled for 3pm – 5pm on Saturday, January 11th. Board members are encouraged to attend.

A group of Northwestern students attended Alderman Simmons's October 9th Ward meeting where improvements to Beck Park was discussed. The students had been working on a design and analysis for the STEM park in Evanston and invited Northwestern and City of Evanston officials to attend a formal presentation of their design and analysis on December 3rd.

The new Robert Crown building B & C (ice operations and preschool area) will be open to the public January 6, 2020. Building A (all other operations) will be open to the public January 27, 2020. Demolition of the existing building & new turf field construction begins Spring 2020. The athletic fields will open and project completed by July 2020. L. Hemingway will schedule a date/time for the Board to have a tour of the new building.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:09pm. The next scheduled meeting is 6pm on December 19, 2019 at the Civic Center.

9.29.19

MEMORANDUM

From: Evanston Environment Board

Subject: Implementing Climate Action & Resilience Plan — Natural Areas

The following recommended changes to the COE Municipal Code are based on a resolution adopted by the Evanston Environment Board on October 12, 2018, and a Mayoral Proclamation dated April 27, 2019.

A. Purpose: To protect and maintain Natural Areas in Evanston’s public lands through an ordinance that

- designates a category of public lands as Natural Areas
 - defines and protects public Natural Areas
 - establishes a process for designating new Natural Areas
 - establishes a process for designating City of Evanston (COE) staff responsibility for Natural Areas
 - establishes a transparent and orderly process for planning for ecological management and maintenance and preservation of Natural Areas in cooperation with volunteers.
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B. Background

B.1 Natural Areas are defined as “public lands that are managed to provide habitat for diverse, regionally native plant and animal communities and associated benefits for humans.”

B.2 The Climate Action & Resilience Plan adopted by City Council in December 2018 pledges to preserve, restore, and expand Evanston’s Natural Areas to support both climate mitigation and adaptation.

B.3. The value of Natural Areas has been clearly demonstrated. Together with the urban forest as a whole, Natural Areas sequester carbon, slow stormwater runoff, improve air and water quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, and reduce adverse urban impacts on birds and pollinators.

B.4 The City of Evanston has previously designated public lands as bird sanctuaries and National Wildlife Federation–certified wildlife habitat and pursued and secured grants to develop bird and pollinator habitat as well as other actions such as the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge and City Council support for protection of Isabella Woods.

B.5 Natural Areas must be protected and managed for continuing health. They do not manage themselves.

C. Recommendations for additions to municipal code

C.1 Natural Areas defined and designated. Natural Areas are public lands that are managed to provide habitat for diverse, regionally native plant and animal communities and associated benefits for humans. Each Natural Area shall be mapped and represented on COE GIS and other appropriate systems so boundaries are clear.

C.2 Natural Areas Officer. The Director of the Public Works Agency shall designate a Natural Areas Officer who is knowledgeable about ecological land management to oversee designation, boundaries, and ecological management of Natural Areas and activities of Natural Area volunteer community stewards.

C.3. Permissible use. Natural Areas may be used for passive recreation and educational activities that do not significantly impact soil, vegetation, or wildlife. As the Natural Areas Officer determines, animal or plant controls may be used in the Natural Area according to his/her specifications and in compliance with COE policy. The Natural Areas Officer may authorize additional actions or prohibitions in Natural Areas regarding planting plans, reconfiguration of vegetation and paths, and similar activities. Other COE staff with responsibilities related to public lands, such as parks, shall consult with and follow policies and procedures established by the Natural Areas Officer with regard to Natural Areas.

C.5 Preservation of Natural Areas. Any modifications proposed for Natural Areas are subject to prior review and approval by the Natural Areas Officer and the Evanston Environment Board. Such modifications may include but are not limited to changes in boundaries, management plans, and proposed uses.

Notes

A. Natural Areas as of Fall 2019

Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary (Ward 7)

Ladd Arboretum Natural Area (Ward 7)

Harbert Park Natural Area (Ward 2)

Morton Civic Center Habitat Garden (Ward 5)

Twiggs Park Channel Overlook (Ward 5)

Hinman Avenue Bioswale (Ward 3)

Note: Natural Areas may include but are not the same as parks certified by the National Wildlife Federation. As defined here, emphasis is on ecological management, which includes ongoing community volunteer involvement in stewardship activity.

B. The most relevant section of existing code appears to be 7.10. In addition, because Natural Areas may be located within public parks, sections of code related to parks will need modification. It also needs to be made clear that Forestry and Greenways (now located within Public Works) must be included in planning and design of parks and Natural Areas they are responsible for maintaining. Example:

7.9.4. Parks Rec & Community Services Board [section on duties]

Provide direction for the planning, design and maintenance of all playgrounds, ~~parks~~, recreational facilities, ~~and open spaces~~ owned and/or leased by the City of Evanston; and

D. Violations of section B.4 (Permissible Use)

Is an additional provision needed to address possible violations? Or is this covered elsewhere in the code?

E. Outreach and inclusion

The Environment Board encourages the Natural Areas Officer to work with community groups throughout Evanston to identify additional Natural Areas, aiming for at least one in each ward.

7-9-4. - POWERS AND DUTIES.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Board must:

- (A) Perform the duties prescribed by 65 ILCS 5/11-95-1 et seq., as amended. Specifically, the Board must:
 - 1. Provide direction for the planning, design and maintenance of all playgrounds, parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces owned and/or leased by the City of Evanston; and
 - 2. Provide direction for the development, supervision, and operation of all recreational programs and activities operated by the City of Evanston and/or its authorized affiliates;
- (B) Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on the request for public place names, in accordance with the following standards:
 - 1. The close association of the individual proposed with Evanston;
 - 2. A distinguished career in which high service has been rendered to or distinction brought to Evanston;
 - 3. A reasonable relationship between the importance of the place being named and the distinction of the person whose name it will bear;
 - 4. The condition imposed by the donor of lands or funds to be used in the public place; and
 - 5. No public place should be named after individuals deceased less than five (5) years except where a donation of land is made or an individual donor has contributed significantly for development of the public place;
- (C) Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on the request to establish an honorary street name; and
- (D) Create subcommittees, as necessary, in furtherance of the Board's purpose.

(Ord. No. 81-O-16, § 2, 7-25-2016, eff. 1-1-2017)

PRCS Project Status Report
January 10, 2020

Project Name	Description	Status
Beck Park Expansion	Expand park south to Church Street, incorporating former Shore School site.	Building demolition performed by Morton Grove Niles Water Commission as part of the new pumping station. New restroom will also be part of that project. Construction in progress.
Ecology Center Crawl Space Improvements	Relocate and/or modify plumbing lines in crawl space to reduce maintenance expenses / pipe freezing	Project scoping in progress.
Fleetwood-Jourdain Interior Improvements	Improvements to public areas and office spaces	Construction in progress.
Foster Field	Improvements to baseball fencing, perimeter fencing and maintenance access drive	Construction complete.
Harbert Park Renovations	Improvements to basketball court, lighting, play equipment and new picnic shelter	Construction contract awarded. Work scheduled to begin in winter/spring 2020.
Levy Center HVAC Improvements	Replace rooftop units and upgrade BAS	Design in progress.
McCullough Park	Improvements to park and playground	Public engagement in progress.
Robert Crown Center	Replace the Robert Crown Center	Construction in progress.