



MEETING MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

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

6:00pm on Thursday, November 17, 2022

Members Present: K. Machut, D. Michelin, P. Gregory, R. Bush, E. Shevick

Members Absent: D. Featherson, M. Rosinski, J. Bryan

Staff Present: A. Thompson, M. Callahan

Other Present: D. Agnew

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Quorum present and meeting called to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: The motion to approve the October 20 meeting minutes with amendments noted by E. Shevick.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / BUSINESS

Tennis / Pickle Ball

Resurfacing of the tennis courts at Burnham Shores Park, Bent Park, Robert Crown Park and James Park, will be delayed until April-June 2023 because asphalt is not readily available. Sometime in December staff will host a meeting for representatives from the Tennis groups and the Pickle Ball groups to provide input on how to move forward with these four courts.

R. Bush mentioned a news segment that talked about how pickle ball makes a different sound than tennis and suggested that a separate meeting be scheduled for people who live within 500 feet of each of the tennis courts to provide input as well.

Swim at Your Risk

At last month's meeting the Board was asked develop reasons they think swim at your own risk should or shouldn't take place during the beach off season, and to put in a referral to make the recommendation to the City Council. R. Bush said this is a legal question that should be referred to the city's legal department to decide what signs, if any, should be displayed at the beaches during the off season.

Action: The motion passed to refer this to the City's Legal Department and City Council to make final decision on what signs are appropriate at the beaches.

STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

CIP Report

The Board received a written status report of current capital improvement projects.

5th Ward Campus Meeting Dec, 2022

A Thompson encouraged the Board to attend the 5th Ward Campus meeting where concept designs of four potential options for the Fifth Ward school campus and Fleetwood-Jourdain will be presented.

Consulting Firms

A Thompson pointed out that there are three studies currently taking place in the department: Hiron was hired to determine community desired programs and activities at Gibbs Morrison and Fleetwood Jourdain; Cordogan Clark was hired to determine the best option to utilize the space where the 5th Ward school will be built; and Agency Landscape + Planning was hired for planning services related to the Park and Green Space Strategic Plan.

Beach Accessibility

Staff met with Chicago Park District about pros and cons dealing with beach accessibility. Prior to the meeting staff was planning to have mobility mats extend into the lake but learned that that would require 1-foot spikes driven into the underwater sand to hold the mats down, which can become loosened in inclement weather and become a safety hazard. So instead, the mats will stop short of water. The department plans to buy additional mats to extend the path horizontally across the beach, so people with wheelchairs, strollers or any other mobility needs can access different areas of the beach. We will need to roll out a public awareness campaign that lets people know about these changes.

Outdoor Ice Rink Operation

This winter outdoor ice rinks will be installed at Foster Park, Baker Park, Ackerman Park and Dawes Park Arrington Lagoon.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

E. Shevick feels strongly about looking into getting bathrooms in more parks. It's an equity issue, a public health issue and possibly falls under ARPA funding. A Thompson said the City Manager recognizes that this is an issue and it's something the City Council is looking into.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:05pm. The next scheduled meeting is 6pm, December 15, 2022 at the Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd.