



**DRAFT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

Chandler-Newberger Center, 1028 Central St.

6:00pm on Thursday, July 20, 2023

Members Present: D. Michelin, R. Bush, M. Rosinski, J. Bryan, E. Shevick, J. Totch,  
P. Gregory

Members Absent: K. Machut

Staff Present: A. Thompson, M. Callahan, M. Poole, L. Biggs, S. Levine  
L. Ruiz

Other Present: J. Zitren

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**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

With a quorum present the meeting was called to order.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Action:** Motion Passed: Approval of the June 15 meeting minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Sliding Scale for Recreation Fee Assistance**

Staff recommends replacing the current fee assistance program with a sliding scale to provide a more equitable fee assistance program to community members. If approved by the Board, staff will present to the City Council for final approval.

**Action:** Motion Passed: To approve the sliding scale as presented

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Proposed 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

L. Biggs provided information on the proposed 2024 CIP outlining some of the major challenges relating to park and facility projects due to having no funding source set aside for parks and facilities and the need for additional staff.

She recommends that the City begin regular annual or bi-annual investment in the following categories to keep parks in a safe and usable condition:

- ADA Improvements
- Court resurfacing
- Fence replacement
- Lighting modernization
- Pathway resurfacing
- Playground equipment replacement

Typical facility improvements that the City should be investing in regularly include:

- ADA improvements
- CARP implementation (lighting modernization, vehicle charging, electrification)
- Flooring
- Interior space renovations such as kitchens, locker rooms and restrooms
- Roofing
- Tuck-pointing

She plans to provide the proposed 2024 CIP information to other boards and commissions for reference and to hear feedback. The Board is encouraged to reach out to their Councilmember to share their concerns and suggestions.

## **STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES**

### **New Disability Rights and Advocacy Manager – Lauren Ruiz**

L. Ruiz introduced herself and shared information on her work history. She was promoted from Special Recreation Program Coordinator to the new Disability Rights and Advocacy Manager. In this role she will be a resource for anyone with a disability and has questions about accommodations and accessibility in the city of Evanston. She will also work with the ADA Advisory Committee to help the city follow its ADA Transition Plan.

### **Intergovernmental Agreements with Skokie Park District**

Agreement on shared use of the Park Property, including the construction and maintenance of athletic fields and an enclosed dog exercise and play area (Pooch Park).

This item was tabled last month to find out why the city didn't negotiate a fee for the use of the water. There is also a provision that hasn't been changed that allows the dog park time to be shared equally between the city and Skokie Park District. A Thompson said the city doesn't pay for the water, we supply it. So the way it is written in the agreement is grammatically correct. R. Bush is disappointed that the Board's recommended changes were not made to the agreement.

## **COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

J. Bryan is happy to see the new Bent Park tennis courts being used quite a bit. He also noticed a tennis coach is there 3 to 4 hours every day and doesn't think he's signed up with the city. A Thompson recognizes this is a problem.

E. Shevick announced that the Evanston Park Foundation is planning its first fundraiser in October to raise money for a bathroom project. The Foundation would also like to sponsor a staff person to attend this year's National Park and Recreation Association Conference in Dallas, Texas. They've also paid to have a porta potty placed in 8 different parks during the summer. Their goal is to get at least one permanent structure bathroom in every ward

J. Totch would like to see more porta potties along the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade route.

M. Rosinski asked about a potential partnership with the department and Dicks' Sporting Goods. A Thompson said she just learned about it and has to do some research. She was not aware of a partnership and would not have agreed to it. M. Rosinski displayed an art piece that M. Meyers would like to donate to the city, to be installed at the dog beach, but wasn't sure who to ask for permission. A Thompson said because it's art, it's a collaboration between the Arts Council and Parks and Recreation (if in a park space) and Public Works. Staff is in communication and will get back M. Meyers.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 7:53pm. The next scheduled meeting is 6pm, August 17, 2023 at the Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave.