

**MINUTES OF A THE FACILITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON APRIL 12, 2023 5:34 P.M.**

Present: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Ruttenberg, President Grossberg

Absent: None

Also, Present: Brian Romes, Executive Director, Mitch Carr, Deputy Director of Facilities and Operations, Dan Voss, Director of Parks, Liz Gogola, Director of Communications and Marketing, Jeff Smith, Director of Planning and Projects, Mari-Lynn Peters, Director of Finance, Amy Murrin, Director of Recreation and Facilities; Ryan Ochs, General Manager and Superintendent of Golf Operations; Amalia Schwartz; Planning Manager; Roxanne Hejnowski, Executive Coordinator

Guest Speaker: None

Vice President Freeman joined the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Danny Cuniff Park Pickleball Project Update

Executive Director Romes reported that staff are painting and installing temporary pickleball nets at ten (10) tennis courts at Danny Cunniff Park. Staff are also purchasing software that allows the customer to see when courts are open for use. It's not a reservation system. Staff also had a follow-up discussion with Mr. Saslow to discuss the long-term vision for a possible dome at Danny Cunniff Park and how to fund that project.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know when the temporary pickleball courts will be open for use and when this will be communicated to the community.

Executive Director Romes reported that the temporary pickleball courts will be open for use as of Memorial Day weekend. Director Gogola is developing communications for the community.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if sound reduction screens will be installed.

Director Voss reported that sound reduction screens have been ordered and staff are hoping to have them installed by Memorial Day Weekend.

Commissioner Bernstein requested that staff include that in the communications to the community.

West Ridge Park and Site Project Update

Manager Schwartz reported that at the Facility and Recreation Committee on November 4, 2022, Holabird and Root presented the results of the preliminary planning services looking at how to address the aging West Ridge Center. At this meeting, the Committee recommended consulting with a firm to conduct a

financial and operational assessment to identify priority spaces. Since then, Staff has been working with BerryDunn to complete the assessment. Manager Schwartz provided highlights from the BerryDunn report noting that:

Gymnastics has limited competition; usage is heavy between ages 2-8, however the program does not reach the highest market between ages 9-11. This program does not recover cost; however, this is a priority program that needs a dedicated space.

Early Childhood has a lot of competition with a shrinking market, however there is a unique fit in the market. This program has a cost recovery but adding more rooms wouldn't have a significant impact on recovery, so it's recommended for these programs to have multiuse spaces vs. dedicated.

Arts there is a lot of competition, so staff are exploring ways to meet a need for affordable skill-based classes. These programs do not recover costs, and there is little potential for cost recovery, as a result growth for these programs are not recommended. Like early childhood it's recommended for these programs to have multiuse spaces.

Manager Schwartz reported that staff are proposing an open house later this month. The intent of the open house is for Architects, Holabird and Root, to share their analysis findings, site plan, and recommendation with the community where the new facility will be constructed on the site.

The Facility and Recreation Committee requested that Holabird and Root share their open house presentation materials with the Park Board of Commissioners before scheduling a community open house. Staff will share open house materials from Holabird and Root with the Park Board. Based on feedback from the Park Board an open house may be scheduled in the near future.

Other business

None.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary