

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING  
MAY 10, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. President Grossberg.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Freeman, President Grossberg

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Smith; Director Peters; Director Voss; Director Gogola; Director Murrin; Director Hall, Manager Schwartz; Manager Good, Manager Kutscheid, Manager Noonan, Coordinator Hejnowski

**Guest Speakers:** Danielle Wilson, Recreational Consultant BerryDunn; Eric Risinger AIA Principal, Holabird and Root; Rusty Walker, Design Principal Holabird and Root

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**ADOPTION OF THE BEACH AND BOATING SAFETY WEEK PROCLAMATION**

President Grossberg reported that the Park District of Highland Park manages four (4) lakefront properties including Rosewood Beach as our dedicated swimming beach, and Park Avenue Boating Facility, as our dedicated recreational boating facility. With the summer swimming and boating season beginning Memorial Day Weekend, the Park District, along with the City of Highland Park, wishes to approve the following Beach and Boating Safety Week Proclamation drawing attention to beach safety practices all summer.

President Grossberg read aloud the Beach and Boating Safety Week Proclamation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaplan and seconded by Commissioner Ruttenberg to adopt the Beach and Boating Safety Week Proclamation declaring May 20 - 29 as Highland Park Beach and Boating Safety Week.

**Roll Call:**

**Aye:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Freeman, President Grossberg

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

**FONTANA-PASQUESI PARK NAMING UPDATE**

Director Gogola reported that at the April 18, 2023, Finance Committee Meeting, staff presented a proposed donation of \$250,000 from Larry Fontana-Pasquesi to rename Cloverdale Park in honor of his family and other Italian families that settled in Highland Park beginning in the early 1900s. Based on feedback from the Finance Committee, staff met with Mr. Fontana-Pasquesi to determine a contract term limit. Director Gogola introduced Mr. Fotana-Pasquesi.

Mr. Fotana-Pasquesi shared his Italian history and how it corelates to Highland Park.

The Park Board of Commissioners thanked Mr. Fotana-Pasquesi for attending tonight’s meeting, sharing his history, and his generous donation to rename Cloverdale Park.

Director Gogola reported an agreement will be drafted and shared with Mr. Fotana-Pasquesi and the Park Board of Commissioners. The name will be laid down for sixty (60) days before being formally approved by the Park Board of Commissioners.

**WEST RIDGE PARK AND SITE PROJECT UPDATE**

Manager Schwartz reported at the Facility and Recreation Committee Meeting on November 4, 2022, architects with Holabird and Root presented a report on Preliminary Planning services to address the aging West Ridge Center facility. The report included visioning and strategic planning, site analysis, program assessment and preliminary concept design. At the conclusion of that meeting, The Committee recommended staff conduct an additional recreation program assessment, including a market analysis and financial cost recovery analysis for programs associated with a new or renovated West Ridge Center facility.

Over the past four (4) months the Park District has been working with consultants from BerryDunn to complete the recreation program assessment. The draft assessment has been reviewed by staff, the Park Board and Holabird and Root to further inform the West Ridge Center and Site Preliminary Planning report.

Mr. Risinger, Holabird and Root, reviewed the market study reconciliation to construct a new building on the same site.

Commissioner Ruttenberg would like to know the additional costs to implement safety measures required by schools, when those costs are available.

Commissioner Kaplan would like to know the square footage of the current West Ridge Center.

Mr. Risinger reported that the current square footage of West Ridge Center is 45,000 square feet. Currently, several spaces are vacant when not in use. The new building will have a reduced footprint; however, rooms will be developed with efficiency, so that they are always in use (multiuse design).

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know the calculations used to determine storage space.

Mr. Risinger reported that furniture and programming equipment were used to calculate storage space needs.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if the new building will provide flexibility for future expansion.

Mr. Risinger reported that the building will have intuitive spaces with the intention of future expansion. Also, if this project is awarded PARC Grant Funds, the footprint would expand to 34,000 square feet.

Lastly, Mr. Risinger shared a map of the development zones at the site, identifying building space, green space (athletic fields, playgrounds, etc.) and parking.

Mr. Ruttenberg would like to know if the athletic field reconfigurations are included in the project budget.

Manager Schwartz reported that the athletic field reconfigurations are not funded in this project, it would be an item in the master plan.

As for next steps, Manager Schwartz reported that the proposal will be presented at the May 16 Finance Committee. Staff are looking to award a design contract for the next phase in June. This aligns with the PARC Grant submission deadline.

Staff received consensus from the Park Board of Commissioners to gather a proposal from Holabird and Root based on the market study reconciliation to construct a new building on the same site.

## **CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES**

### ***A. Centennial Ice Arena Facility and Site Renovations project***

Manager Schwartz shared images of the exterior improvements showcasing the facility entrance and vestibule, the parking lot turn around and pedestrian pathways. She also shared images of the interior renovations showcasing the lobby and front desk area. There are a few changes orders left to finish the exterior façade.

***B. Moroney Park Playground Improvements Project***

Director Smith reported that construction began on May 1, 2023, and shared images of the demolition. He shared a project timeline, reporting that staff anticipates the project will be completed in late June.

***C. Park Avenue Breakwater and Boat Ramp Project***

Director Smith shared images of construction on the breakwater and boat ramp area, showcasing rebar and concrete being placed in the breakwater.

***D. Larry Fink Memorial Park Baseball Field Improvements project***

Director Smith reported that the bid opening was held last week. The Park District received two bids; both came in significantly higher than the project budget. Staff are exploring value engineering options to help reduce costs. An update will be provided at the May 16 Finance Committee Meeting.

**REVIEW OF VOUCHERS**

Director Peters reported that there were no significant items to report on.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None.

Vice President Freeman left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Kaplan, to adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of Section 2(c)1: The employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.

**Roll Call:**

**Aye:** Commissioner Bernstein; Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Ruttenberg, President Grossberg

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Vice President Freeman

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 7:24 p.m.

The meeting reconvened into Open Session at 7:35 p.m.

**Action From Closed Session If Any**

President Grossberg reported that the Park Board of Commissioners met in Closed Session under Section 2(c)1: The employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.

Consistent with the Executive Director's Employment Agreement, A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg, and seconded by Commissioner Kaplan and approved by a unanimous vote to increase to the Executive Director's annual compensation retroactive to January 1, 2023, not to exceed \$183,120.00.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Kaplan and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Roxanne Hejnowski*

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary