

**MINUTES OF A THE FACILITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON JUNE 7, 2023, 7:04 P.M.**

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

Absent: Commissioner Kaplan

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Gogola, Director Peters, Director Murrin, Director Smith, Director Voss, Interim Director of Recreation Reyes, Manager Schwartz

Guest Speaker: None

Additions to the Agenda

None.

West Ridge Park and Site Project Update

Manager Schwartz reported that the Park District is applying for the 2023 Park and Recreation Construction (PARC) grant application for \$2.8M in funds to build a new community center at West Ridge Park. The existing West Ridge Center does not currently meet the needs of the community or region. The building has ADA and security deficiencies, life/safety concerns, limits recreational services, and the poor building infrastructure is apparent upon entering.

With increasing needs and costs of construction, the Park District’s budgeted funds are not expected to cover the full cost of West Ridge Park’s new community center. Without grant support, recreational programs will be cut from the project. The recreational core programs planned for the new West Ridge Center include gymnastics, youth enrichment, and visual and performing arts. The rooms proposed as part of this grant support mission-critical programs such as after-school programs, summer camps, and a variety of other recreational activities that serve approximately 5,504 enrollments on an annual basis. She shared a concept floor plan that highlights the square footage that the PARC grants would fund.

Centennial Ice Arena Project Update

Executive Director Romes reported that the entire project has been very well received, however, the one challenge the District has faced is the size of the locker rooms. Executive Director Romes reported that the locker rooms were 224 square feet before the renovation. One of the goals of the renovation was to address the restrooms in the locker rooms so that they would be ADA-compliant, and the stalls would be gender-neutral. In doing so, the additional space needed to make the restrooms in the locker room ADA-compliant and gender-neutral reduced the open space of the locker room, which user groups feel the space is too tight.

He shared a long-term solution concept developed by Woodhouse Tinucci and a short-term solution, which utilizes the multipurpose room as a temporary changing space during hockey games until the long-term locker room adjustments are completed. Staff does not have costs for the proposed locker room adjustments developed by Woodhouse Tinucci.

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The committee does not support the proposed concept developed suggesting the locations of the doors are problematic and asked staff to follow up with the architect to develop other concepts.

Other Business

Commissioner Bernstein commended staff as the seasonal facilities look great, they are being heavily utilized, and he has received numerous compliments from the community.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary