



## Elk Grove Park District Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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October 8, 2020

6:00 p.m.

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President O'Malley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: President O'Malley, Commissioner Biedke, Commissioner Cooke, Commissioner Souder (arrived at 6:09pm), Commissioner Walz

Staff: Ben Curcio, Brad Sholes, Tim White, Kelly Carbon, Tiffany Greene

### **DISCUSSION ON DOG PARK**

Executive Director Curcio stated he attended a Planning Hearing on September 28, which is the first step in the process to get approval to turn part of Udall Park into a dog park. Approximately 25 residents attended the meeting but only 11 or 12 residents expressed their concerns of this location. Some of their concerns included parking, the number of people it would bring to that area, dog noise, smell and curb appeal. Director Curcio stated this location was chosen because out of all the parks in the Village, Udall would be the least impactful.

Commissioner Walz asked how many times over the years the District tried to build a dog park. Director Curcio replied two times. The first one was at Powell Park, but the neighboring residents did not want it built in their neighborhood. The second dog park was actually constructed at Morton Park but FEMA shut it down because it was built in a flood plain and waste was going into the creek. Commissioner Walz said that dog parks are not a trend. The Park District does not chase trends, this is something that has been on the radar for fifteen years.

President O'Malley said that some residents are not opposed to a dog park, they just don't want it in their yard.

Director Curcio said to address their concerns of large crowds the dog park may attract, the District can control the number of people allowed to enter with the key fob. We can program the gate so the key fob would not work after a certain limit has been met. He added that he thinks it may be more crowded in the beginning when it is new, but then will level out over time.

President O'Malley asked if residents would be allowed to register before non-residents, and what the fee would be. Director Curcio responded that registration can open to residents first just like our regular programming. Director Greene added the proposed fee would be \$25 for residents and \$75 for non-residents with a maximum of three dogs per household. The registration would be valid May through April the following year. The fee would not be prorated and membership would not be transferable. The hours would be dawn to dusk, 365 days a year. President O'Malley questioned if \$25 was too low and asked if staff benchmarked other towns for fees as well as maintenance. Director Greene responded that she did and found that Buffalo Grove charges \$20 for residents, Bartlett charges \$30, Arlington Heights and Mt. Prospect share the dog park and they charge \$50 for residents only.

As far as maintenance, three of the six Districts responded. Two of them mow once a week and the other, which is 6.5 acres, mows twice per week. Director White said our schedule could be adjusted based on the need.

Director Curcio said he collected emails from residents that attended the last meeting and wants to plan a town hall meeting, maybe at Garden Terrace. After all concerns are addressed, Director Curcio will go back to the Plan Commission for them to make a recommendation for the Village to approve.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Fox Run: Director Curcio said the golf course demolition is going smoothly. We are still waiting for a permit from MWRD, which will hopefully come by next week. The contractor cannot continue digging for the new foundation until then.

Director Curcio said the temporary clubhouse trailer has gotten good reviews. It includes a front desk with a bar behind it, a gaming area with 5 machines, and plenty of seating. Basic food will be offered as soon as we get approval from the Health Department.

Commissioner Cooke asked if there will be outdoor signage for the bar and gaming. Director Carbon replied she is meeting with Divine Signs tomorrow to order those signs. President O'Malley suggested approaching Gold Rush first to see if they will contribute to the cost of those signs.

President O'Malley asked what the hours will be in the winter. Director Sholes that winter hours are still being decided but as long as the golf course is open, it will be business as usual.

Chelmsford: Director White said the demolition has begun. Most of the building is down with just the gym still standing.

Property Tax: Director Sholes stated we are back on budget with property tax collection.

President O'Malley inquired about inviting State Representatives Moylan and Mussman to a Committee of the Whole meeting. Director Curcio replied he has nothing set up, but Representative Mussman attended the Skate Park grand opening.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Greene shared that there are 90 total applicants for the Fitness Center position. Interviews will be scheduled for October 20-October 22.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Souder moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Commissioner Walz seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Biedke, Cooke, Souder, Walz and President O'Malley

Nays: None

**Motion Carried**