

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS
OF THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT
VIRTUAL MEETING
ZOOM MEETING ID: 977 7453 7826 PASSWORD: 378558
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Commissioner Jones called the Regular Board Meeting of the Prospect Heights Park District to order at 7:06 p.m.

Commissioners present:

Ellen Avery
Vicki Carney
Betty Cloud
Karl Jackson
Tim Jones
Eric Kirste

Also Present:

Christina Ferraro – Executive Director
Julie Caporusso – Superintendent of Recreation
Dino Squiers – Superintendent of Facilities & Parks
Marc Heidkamp – Director of Golf Operations
Annette Curtis – Superintendent of Finance & Planning
Edlyn Castil – Admin Services Mgr./Recording Secretary

Commissioners absent:

None

A quorum was present.

Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Correspondence

There was none.

Recognition/Welcome

There were no guest presenters in attendance.

Public Comment

The following public comments were received via email and entered into the record:

David Rys

Paul Gebert, 1105 Drake Ave., Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Janet Albrecht

Leslie Smith, 1102 Oak Ave., Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Steve Drake

Sheri Piccolo

Marilyn Breden, 101 Prospect Drive, Prospect Heights, IL 60070

The following residents commented:

Kathy Quinn – commented that the project is not family-friendly and unsafe; keep open land and increase the park useability.

MJ Meier – commented that the proposed project does not belong in the subdivision.

Samir Mahtani – commented that his family likes to walk their dogs in the park, wants open space, opposed to the development.

Approval of Minutes**Regular Board Meeting – August 25, 2020**

There was a request to correct the spelling of Commissioner Kirste's name throughout the meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Avery and seconded by Commissioner Cloud to approve the August 25, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: Commissioner Jackson

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Announcements (Meetings)

The next regular board meeting will be held on October 27, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Park District Treasurer's Report**Cash Report #8**

Payroll	Checking/sweep	\$ (1,874.35)
Vendor	Checking/sweep	\$ (14,266.58)
General/Sweep	Checking	\$ 1,928,744.43
ATM	Checking	\$ 26,213.03
Investment	Checking	\$ 2,470,537.73
CD Investment	Maturity 1.8.2021	\$ 356,981.03
Totals		<u>\$ 4,766,335.29</u>

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Kirste to accept the Treasurer's Report – Cash Report #8 dated September 22, 2020 in the amount of \$4,766,335.29. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Approval of Warrants for Payment

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Cloud to accept Warrants for payment as submitted for Vendor Warrants #8, 8A, and Payroll 17, 18 in the amount of \$305,773.67. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Superintendent of Finance and Planning Report

As submitted.

Attorney's Report

There was none.

Administrative/Operational Summary

Executive Director – as submitted. Executive Director Christina Ferraro also reported that she continues to work on acquiring the deed for the Grounds property at OOC, working with residents to create “Arts in the Park” which will be about a 7-week public display at Lions Park.

Superintendent of Recreation – as submitted.

Superintendent of Facilities and Parks – as submitted.

Director of Golf Operations – as submitted.

Recreation Supervisors – as submitted.

Unfinished/Ongoing Business**GMRC Feasibility Study**

- **Taskforce Recommendation**
- **Acceptance of Feasibility Study Report**

Executive Director Christina Ferraro reported that the Taskforce met twice to determine the cost and feasibility of a new recreation center and discussed the reasons to do so. Their general opinion was to move forward with a 45,000 sq. ft. design or something comparable. Staff is recommending moving forward with process to potentially distribute a Community Survey and do more research on process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirste and seconded by Commissioner Cloud to allow staff to continue work to engage the public for the GMRC Feasibility Study. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Consideration of Agreement for Exchange of Land at/adjacent to Muir Park

Commissioner Jones reported that the subcommittee has a meeting scheduled with Lexington in early October to further discuss negotiating the purchase and sale agreement of the land at/adjacent to Muir Park. Staff has received some conceptual drawings from the landscape designers and are reviewing the options and costs involved. More information to follow.

Board Member Vacancy

Commissioner Jones reported there were two interested residents and both have withdrawn their interests. The board decided to not appoint someone for the vacant position at this time and wait for the vacancy to be filled during the upcoming April 2021 Consolidated Election.

New Business**Application for Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program**

Superintendent of Finance and Planning Annette Curtis is seeking board approval to submit an application for the Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program. Currently the District does not have a tree inventory or a management plan. Both of which are needed for proactive maintenance and park redevelopment. The grant proposal of \$20,000 focuses on our 14 parks and not the OOC. \$10,000 will be in FY2021 for this program.

New Business (continued)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Cloud to allow the Superintendent of Finance and Planning to continue with the grant application. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Approval of revised Investment Policy

Superintendent of Finance and Planning Annette Curtis recommended approval of the updated Investment policy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirste and seconded by Commissioner Carney to approve the revised Investment Policy. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Approval of Financial Institution and Investment Advisors

Superintendent of Finance & Planning Annette Curtis reviewed a list of financial institutions and investment advisors. She is recommending Board approval of the financial institutions and investment advisors per the Investment Policy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Avery to approve the list of financial institutions and investment advisors. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Approval of Prescribed Burns Fall 2020 and Spring 2021

Executive Director Christina Ferraro reported the NRC is requesting permission to conduct prescribed burns in November and December and in Spring 2021. Staff is requesting approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Avery and seconded by Commissioner Cloud to approve the NRC prescribed burns Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Approval of Sprinkler System for Lions Field

Executive Director Christina Ferraro discussed that staff was approached by PHYBS about installing an automatic sprinkler system on Lions Field. Staff recommends the Board approve cost not to exceed \$3,000 to install the Daily Rain Inc. sprinkler system on Lions Field. PHYBS has agreed to pay the other half of the installation and will reimburse the District for water usage. The agreement between the District and PHYBS will be amended to reflect this.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Cloud to approve an automatic sprinkler system on Lions Field for a cost not to exceed \$3,000. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
The motion carried.

Committees of the Board

The Personnel Committee reported they are currently reviewing the updated Personnel Policy Manual that the Park Attorney's have reviewed and updated. The committee will present their recommendations at a future board meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Kirste and seconded by Commissioner Cloud to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 7:58 p.m. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Carney, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Edlyn Castil, Recording Secretary

Secretary: _____
Ellen Avery, Prospect Heights Park District Secretary

Edlyn Castil

From: David Rys <davidmrys92@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Edlyn Castil
Subject: Muir Park

I oppose the Land swap deal. Itl increase traffic on our streets were we have no sidewalks. Its already dangerous as it is having to walk a dog, child, family on the street with no sidewalks, imagine after increased traffic, and not by a little but im sure traffic will be a big increase. I also oppose any deals being made during this pandemic when so many residents dont know how to use Zoom meetings so you wont get the full scope of how many people disagree with this land swap.

Edlyn Castil

From: Pgebert299 <pgebert299@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:03 AM
To: Edlyn Castil
Subject: Vote NO on the proposed land swap for John Muir park

Hello Prospect Heights Park District,

The proposed development at John Muir park would be a disaster for the park district. When there were games at the park (pre Covid pandemic) the parking lot would be full. The proposed development reduces the amount of parking spots would would make it that much harder for residents of Prospect Heights and Wheeling to use the park as there would not be places for people to park. The space available to the residents would actually shrink. The soccer field would no longer exist. How is that a good thing?

Also, the proposed development destroys the wetland and would remove many trees that help alleviate flooding in the area. The Park District should strive for keeping open spaces and not be a part of a high density development that adds nothing to the surrounding neighborhood.

The Prospect Heights Comprehensive Plan section Natural Resources and Infrastructure Goals and Objectives states:

- * Preserve and enhance natural resource amenities and open spaces that are important to the community such as the Isaak Walton Park and Slough, Hillcrest Pond and Walnut Woods Park.
- * Create development controls to protect natural resource sustainability and the rural open space character.

The Plan's section Natural Resources and Infrastructure Policy Statements states:

- * Identify additional opportunities for open space and parks within residential neighborhoods. Consider creating easements and setbacks for current natural features to allow for public access and greater utilization of these resources.
- * Provide better access for pedestrians and cyclists to existing parks and open space.

How is helping to facilitate a high density development helping Prospect Heights achieve its goals for natural resources? It would be great if the park district made the park bigger and put in some public restrooms and a water fountain. Another ball field and/or some additional playground equipment on the site of the old school would greatly benefit the area residents. It would become a real destination park which some other towns have but is lacking in Prospect Heights.

Please vote NO to any land swap to help keep Prospect Heights a desirable place to live.

Thank you for your assistance and support!

Paul Gebert
1105 Drake Ave

Edlyn Castil

From: Janet Albrecht <jalbrecht22@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Edlyn Castil
Subject: Muir Park development

To all involved in decision making regarding Muir Park Development, I respectfully request you give fair and serious consideration to the residents concerns over this Lexington development, many of whom have lived here for 30 years or more, and cherish our park and wooded area.

Prospect Heights last newsletter proudly declared their tree city certification. I ask you to honor that and not allow a land swap that would fell ALL the mature trees at Muir Park for this Lexington development.

This dense development does not benefit the surrounding neighborhoods and will negatively impact our way of life for our community.

Please consider how you would feel if this was your neighborhood. I sincerely hope the residents voices and concerns are fairly considered.

Janet Albrecht

Sent from my iPhone

Edlyn Castil

From: Leslie Smith <leslie0673@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Edlyn Castil
Subject: Muir Park Neighborhood

My name is Leslie Smith and I am a home owner in Prospect heights and I oppose the Lexington Homes developement. This developement will effect our neighborhood greatly with a very large increase of traffic in and out of our area. I am unable to attend the meeting today but would like to express my oppsosition.

Thank you

Leslie Smith

*1102 Oak Ave
Prospect Heights*

Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone

Edlyn Castil

From: drakesteve@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 11:54 AM
To: Edlyn Castil
Cc: Christina Ferraro
Subject: Lexington Invades Our Neighborhood
Attachments: Picture 1.jpg; Picture 2 (002).jpg; Picture 3.jpg; Picture 4 (002).jpg; Picture 5a.jpg; Picture 6.jpg

Prospect Heights Park District

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this note to the people on the PHPD board who will be charged with the responsibility of deciding whether to accept the Lexington land swap proposal or not. We now know that the City PZBA board voted unanimously against all of the Drake subdivision residents and the surrounding area residents on the John Muir property objections, to recommend the proposal as presented by Lexington, with the exclusion of one of the many requested variances. Lexington said they will take their chances with the City Council. I want to make sure that you understand how ridiculous this proposed development really is. The more I study this proposal, the more I am convinced it is blatant discrimination and greed. I know that is a serious accusation, but enough is enough. I grew up in this neighborhood since I was 4 years old and bought a house in 1982 and raised my kids on the same streets that I played on. To say I am disappointed with the way the PZBA handled the rezoning case is an understatement for the ages.

I appreciate that the PHPD does not usually deal with these kind of issues and they are mostly dealt with by the city government, however you might be the only fair minded individuals who can put a stop to this madness. I'm trying to figure out if the mayor is the one behind this or is it the whole city council, or maybe they are not for it. I'm not sure, but there has been cases of missing documents, posted only after the attorney questioned them on it. Exhibit 01, which would have explained a whole lot, a whole lot earlier. It was the original application by Lexington and they kept it from the public. There are unanswered emails to the city staff asking if there is a TIF involved and what is the current status. There appears to be improper or even illegal interference involving PZBA commissioners. It will all come out if we have to take this to court. I don't want to do this. It will be embarrassing to the City of Prospect Heights. But, Enough is Enough!

There is so much wrong with this proposal, but I want to focus on one issue that the PZBA totally ignored. The safety of using the streets! You have heard that the proposal would nearly double the amount of traffic the 69 unit plan would have on our 74 home subdivision. That is not exactly true. It is much worse than that. What you may not be considering and Lexington doesn't want you to think about, is that we already have major impact on our streets right now by the Village of Wheeling multifamily housing and single home residents, even before the proposed extra 69 townhomes. That is why KLOA, the expert hired by Lexington didn't even address the impact on pedestrian safety. They did two one hour test samples on February 6th 2020 and that was only on counting vehicles. The number one priority to me is the safety of those using the streets, because our streets are very narrow and they are also our sidewalks. Our streets are only 3' wider than our most narrow driveways and many of our driveways are actually wider than our streets. Does that sound like a good scenario for adding more vehicles and walking, running, biking, rollerblading, walking dogs, teaching children to ride a bike for the first time, kids using scooters, skateboarding, Pushing Strollers, etc.. ?

We have, right now, 18 additional Wheeling homes using our streets for the activities I just mentioned. 3 on Elmhurst Rd., 3 on Maple Ln. and 12 on Hintz Rd. That's just the single family homes in addition to our subdivision homes. The multifamily impact is much more. We have 4 six- unit apartment buildings and a 3 townhome building on Maple Ln.. Add in one church that has two parking lots that unload to Maple Ln. I'm just warming up. Now let's look at the

south end of the neighborhood. There are 3 large apartment and condominium complexes in Wheeling, totaling 36 buildings on the west end that add potentially hundreds of users to our streets. They also walk through our neighborhood to get to school. (Add Wine Tree Apartments and Polo Run to the list on the east, they use the JM park path). They come out at Oak to Drake Terrace, then down Prospect, turn on Maple and either cut through the church parking lot or walk to Hintz Rd. to get to WHS. Why don't they walk down Rt. 83? Because the city has decided that we are not a priority with future plans nowhere in sight. They put sidewalks to Hersey on Willow Rd. (2 lane- 30 MPH), Schoenbeck Rd. (2 lane- 35 MPH) to the grade schools, with grant money they received from a program called "Walk To School", but discriminate against our neighborhood because I guess it's the Wrong School To Walk To. If the kids don't want to walk through our neighborhood they either have to walk in a dirt (mud) path or walk down the middle of a 4 lane state route (4 lane - 40MPH). WHS has been there for 56 years! Enough is Enough.

And now, we are supposed to just accept another 69 townhomes on our streets, and only our streets, because there is no other way in or out of this dud of a development. I challenge anyone to show me where else in PH has anything even close to this been done before. Has PH ever rezoned a R-1 and made it a R-2. Of course not. Is this the future of Prospect Heights? Destroy our identity to get an increase in population? They can't even follow the City code and present this as a R-1A, like the same building is at Rob Roy. What's that about? Trying to avoid more variance requests? Is there any other subdivision in PH that has this much external invasion of their streets? Is that fair? This needs to stay an R-1.

I know you are used to dealing with park district matters and they are nothing like what I've been just ranting about, however you happen to be stuck in the middle of this nightmare and I'm hoping you are just like me and my neighbors, that being citizens of a City we are proud of and understand you can't ignore 'we the people' to try and solve a difficult land use issue by placing the burden squarely on one group. We are tired and fed up with the lack of respect. To anyone of you considering voting yes for this land swap, I ask if you would meet with me first. I think I can convince you with facts to vote NO. I thank all of you for the job you do on running our parks and thank you for hearing me out. There is so much more to expose about this project.

The money is not worth a child's life. I wouldn't want my name on the agreement authorizing this gross injustice to common sense, safety and fairness. The guilt knowing we didn't have to greatly increase the chance of an accident, but I thought otherwise, would haunt me forever if God forbid tragedy strikes.

Attached are pictures, which says it all.

Sincerely,

Steve Drake

drakesteve@comcast.net

(847) 650-9497

Edlyn Castil

From: Sheri Piccolo <tns9900@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Edlyn Castil
Subject: Muir park

Hello.

My name is Sheri Piccolo and I reside at 1102 Oak Ave in Prospect Heights. I am writing you today to let you know I am in opposition to the Lexington Homes development of the old JFH school. I am currently out of town and unable to attend the meeting today. This project would change the status of our neighborhood and do not support the plans for this development.

Thank you

Sheri Piccolo

Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone

Edlyn Castil

From: Marilyn B <craftycanuck213@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Edlyn Castil
Subject: MUIR PARK

My husband John, and I, along with our 74 plus, neighbours, are completely against, what you are trying to do, to ruin our neighbourhood. We moved here (101 Prospect Drive) 5 years ago, as we liked the quiet area, people walking, with children, pets, etc. Now, if this big mistake passes, that will all change. Our streets are not wide enough, for construction, and truck traffic, and will be ruined, in short time. I read an article (Opinion Page - Chicago Sun Times, Sept. 14th) In Chicago alone, due to climate change, shrinking urban canopy, thousands of trees, we're lost. The loss of trees, will create more heat islands, more flooding, and poorer air quality, because trees soak up water, and filter pollutants, from the air. The loss of trees also carries psychological cost, as neighbourhoods no longer get the emotional boost of the shade, and beauty of trees, birds, and other wildlife. We do not need to have 234 trees removed, just for someone's greed. The majority should rule.....not money (if that is the case) We need more open space, not more ugly buildings, among our homes. Thank you. If possible, could this just be read amongst the committee? I would rather not speak, openly, as I am new at this. I will be on the phone, as I do not have Zoom. Thank you for your time. Marilyn Breden