

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS  
OF THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
ZOOM MEETING ID: 960 4842 6746 PASSWORD: 443169  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Jones called the Regular Board Meeting of the Prospect Heights Park District to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present:

Ellen Avery  
Vicki Carney (virtual)  
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.

Commissioner Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Cloud 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.

**Recognition/Welcome**

Commissioner Jones welcomed the attendees and Lori Vierow of JSD Inc who joined the meeting virtually.

**Correspondence**

A thank you letter was received from SLSF and NWSRA for assisting to make their annual Women's Golf Outing a success at Old Orchard Country Club once again.

A letter was also received from Colony Country subdivision resident complimenting Marc Heidkamp and all he does for Old Orchard Country Club.

**Presentation**

Lori Vierow of JSD Inc. was virtually present and presented two conceptual designs for Muir Park.

Concept A includes the proposed parking from the Lexington development with additional spaces for a total of 38 parking spaces, a ½ acre dog park, walking path with fitness stations along the path, picnic tables, large shelter, outdoor ping pong, connect four, bocce ball court, bean bag court, seating areas, shade sails with chill spinners, "great lawn" where you can sit and view the stage, play area, two pickleball courts, planting areas throughout, additional landscaping along the sides, and connection to Wheeling's Pleasant Run Park.

**Presentation (continued)**

Concept B includes a redesigned parking with 40 parking spaces, a walking path, ballfield (225 ft with 60 ft baseline), new backstop, two areas for player seating, protective fencing, spectator seating on both sides, large shelter, two pickleball courts, seating, open plaza area, stage and a sloped hill and connection to Wheeling's Pleasant Run Park.

Commissioner Jones asked the Commissioners if they had any questions or comments. Commissioner Cloud asked how would the park district maintain the equipment for the games (ping pong, bags, etc.) and also commented that there is inadequate parking for that park. Lori responded patrons may bring their own or other districts provide inexpensive equipment or loan the equipment to the patrons.

Commissioner Carney asked what are the estimated costs for both the conceptual plans presented. Executive Director Christina Ferraro replied that both conceptual plans are very rich concepts and include many amenities. The goal for this meeting is to present the conceptual plans to gather feedback and return next month with a refined plan. The cost for the plans presented can range anywhere from \$700,000-\$1.2 million depending on the amenities that are included.

Commissioner Jones stated that this is the first time the board is looking at these plans. He asked the board to review the plans that were presented and choose their top three amenities. They are all great ideas but will not be financially feasible. He suggested that the Muir Park subcommittee have continued discussion with Lexington regarding the financials. He would like to see a park that benefits all the residents.

**Public Comment**

There were three emails received prior to the board meeting and were read into record. The emails were from Paul Gebert, Jane Albrecht and John Albrecht.

The following public commented during the meeting:

Paul Gebert – asked where is the money coming from the proposals? Commissioner Jones provided a little background about the property. The Park District, School District 23 and NWSRA looked into purchasing the property and redeveloping it to meet the needs of all three entities. However, the cost at the time to purchase the property and renovate it was too high.

Michael Linzing, 1017 Drake, Prospect Heights - urged all to listen to Alderpeople Kathleen Quinn and Michelle Cameron's comments at the last City Council meeting as to why this is an irresponsible project.

Kathleen Quinn – indicated to her understanding Lexington would not pay for park equipment.

**Approval of Minutes****Regular Board Meeting – October 27, 2020**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Kirste to approve the October 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes 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.

**Acceptance of Minutes****Finance Committee Meeting – August 4, 2020**

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Kirste accept the August 4, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 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.

**Announcements (Meetings)**

The next regular board meeting will be held on December 15, 2020 7:00 p.m.

**Park District Treasurer's Report****Cash Report #11**

Payroll	Checking/sweep	\$	(348.13)
Vendor	Checking/sweep	\$	(45,388.66)
General/Sweep	Checking	\$	1,920,563.09
ATM	Checking	\$	26,613.00
Investment	Checking	\$	2,471,928.44
CD Investment	Maturity 1.8.2021	\$	356,981.03
		Totals	\$ 4,730,348.80

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Avery to accept the Treasurer's Report – Cash Report #10 dated November 17, 2020 in the amount of \$4,730,348.80. 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 #10, 10A, and Payroll 21, 22 in the amount of \$467,626.49. 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. Commissioner Jones reminded the Board that first 2021 Budget presentation.

**Attorney's Report**

There was none.

**Administrative/Operational Summary**

**Executive Director** – as submitted. Executive Director Christina Ferraro asked the Board to review the 2021 Board Meeting schedule. They will vote on the approval of the meeting schedule at the next board meeting. Christina is working with Julie Caporusso with the state wide restrictions regarding programs and facility usage.

**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**

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

Commissioner Jones stated he and Commissioner Avery have met with Lexington a couple times. The proposed conceptual plans great but are also pretty expensive. He asked for Commissioners to provide their input to Christina Ferraro by December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Cloud wanted to clarify that whether the park district decides to do the land swap or not, City Council has approved the Lexington Development.

**New Business**

**Approval Resolution 11.17.2020 Truth in Taxation for Levy Year 2020**

Superintendent of Finance and Planning Annette Curtis commented that the park district is requesting less than 5% and no public hearing is required. Finance Committee has reviewed and staff is recommending for the board to adopt Resolution 11.17.2020 Truth in Taxation for Levy Year 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Avery to approve Resolution 11.17.2020 Truth in Taxation for Levy Year 2020. 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**

There were no reports.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Avery to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 7:54 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

Mr Tim Jones, President  
Prospect Heights Board of Commissioners

Dear Mr. Jones,

My name is Jim Obrien.

I live in a townhouse on the second fairway of the Old Orchard Country Club in the Colony Country subdivision.

I have lived here for more than 25 years and shortly after retiring, became a full-time member of the golf Club.

My late father was also a member before me & played here at least twice a week for decades.

As a resident of the Prospect Heights Park District, I have thoroughly enjoyed playing at such a wonderful place.

Old Orchard is not only a true gem in its own right but a tremendous asset to the surrounding area.

I am sure you are proud to have this property in the Prospect Heights Park District.

I decided to write you because the other night while walking the course after sunset, I noticed a light coming from

the bushes on the ninth hole. As I approached the light, Marc Heidkamp appeared from behind them.

When I asked Marc what the heck he was doing, he responded that he was repairing the fountain light.

He informed me that the residents truly enjoy the light at night from their balconies.

During my years as a resident & especially since becoming a member, I have observed Marc Heidkamp doing incredible tasks that are way beyond the call of duty. Especially during the Covid 19 pandemic, he has been touring the grounds daily & stopping to talk to residents, encouraging them to play & enjoy the club.

It is quite obvious to all that he's working nonstop to assure that Old Orchard remains an exceptional place to play.

We all appreciate not only his dedication to the club, but to the residents as well.

He's never too busy to stop & talk, while still maintaining his commitment that the grounds we look out upon

every day remains beautiful. His commitment has even helped our property values as resale prices are as high as they have ever been. During a pandemic!

There are many courses I have seen & played on this year that don't hold a candle to Old Orchard.

I feel compelled to remind you how fortunate you are to have such a tremendous employee.

As a former owner of a family business for over 30 years, I understand the value of employing a superstar.

Watching Marc do everything at the club is an inspiration to his staff & his team.

He does what great leaders do. He leads by example.

And he has a knack for leaving clients as well as team members smiling.

As a resident as well as a member I thought it important to let you know what a tremendous asset you have.

I am confident you are aware of his talent & dedication to the community as well as to the Club.

Kindest regards,  
Jim



## Edlyn Castil

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**From:** Paul Gebert <pgeberty299@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 8, 2020 8:20 PM  
**To:** Commissioner; Edlyn Castil; Nick Helmer; mcameron@prospect-heights.org; kquinn@prospect-heights.org; wmorgan-adams@prospect-heights.org; pludvigsen@prospect-heights.org; mdolick@prospect-heights.org  
**Subject:** Say NO please to the land swap and the high-density Lexington homes proposal please

Mayor Helmer, Aldermen, and Park District Commissioners,

At the last City Council meeting the Council all agreed that Halloween trick-or-treating should still take place. Why would you agree to this? Probably because otherwise all the kids will be disappointed. Halloween only comes once a year, right? How do you think these same children will feel if you vote yes to build these monstrosities and take away a park where they can play soccer and have a field to run around in and explore, maybe even fly a kite? Putting in a development like what you are proposing is a PERMANENT thing. The open land that is there now will never come back. That soccer field and the wooded area next to it will be gone FOREVER.

Please remember what it was like for you as a child. I remember as a kid going to a park, meeting new friends, and having fun on the playground equipment. Please think of your children and grandchildren, if you have any. I remember hearing that at least one of you took your children to this very same park where they used to play soccer which you now want to get rid of. On Friday young kids were running around under the trees and having a good time. Why would you want to take that away from them? Just because you don't live in the area anymore or your kids have grown up is NO EXCUSE to get rid of a park. What about the future children and grandchildren of our city?

I see absolutely no benefit to nearby Prospect Heights and Wheeling residents in having this development built with all the risks that go along with it. Let's keep some open land where the children can play and create memories, just like you did as a child. Think of the children and please vote NO to this project. Thank you.

Paul Gebert

1105 Drake Ave

Prospect Heights

## Edlyn Castil

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**From:** Janet Albrecht <jalbrecht22@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 3:24 PM  
**To:** Commissioner; Edlyn Castil; Christina Ferraro  
**Subject:** Muir Park Land Swap

Dear Park District Commissioners,

I implore you to please say no to the land swap of Muir Park and loss of open space and felling of over 200 plus trees, including the beloved wooded area, at Muir Park.

Please say no to Lexington Builders overly dense 69 townhouse development that will negatively impact the lives of the surrounding residents and our community.

Please honor the Prospect Heights residents top rated priority to preserve open green space and acquire land as laid out on page 57 of the March 2018 Prospect Heights Park District Comprehensive Master Plan.

Kind regards,  
Janet Albrecht

Sent from my iPhone

## Edlyn Castil

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**From:** John Albrecht <johna606@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 3:36 PM  
**To:** Commissioner; Christina Ferraro  
**Cc:** Edlyn Castil  
**Subject:** Please Save John Muir Park

Dear Prospect Heights Park District Executive Director and Board of Commissioners,

Please vote against the John Muir Park land swap with Lexington builders. This park and the wooded area that separates it from Pleasant Run Park is beloved by the surrounding residents and others neighbors that frequent the park. Approving the Lexington builder proposal will turn a large portion of the popular open space into a retention pond (swamp) and concrete parking lot, and will set in motion the destruction of 200+ trees, many of which are 40 to 80 years old. Lexington's plan will replace these beautiful trees with 2.5" diameter sticks that will take decades to provide the shelter and shade of the existing trees.

Please vote to leave John Muir Park alone.

Thank you,  
John Albrecht