



Call to Order:

President Cagle called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Eric Anderson, Debbie Gallagher, Jason Heisler, Karen Johnson, Linda Mattias, Sara Michehl, Cathy Cagle

Legal Counsel: Scott Puma, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni and Krafthefer, P.C.

Staff: Jason Herbster, Executive Director, Erik Jakubowski, Superintendent of Park Services, Amy Olson Manager of Park Planning and Development, Tina Becke, Superintendent of Business Services, Kurt Reckamp, Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary

Citizens: John Pletz, Jessica Beverly, Jon Carson

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Matters from the Public:

Presentation: Jon Carson, Trajectory Energy gave a presentation to the Board regarding a 35–40-year lease of 35 acres of Sunset Meadows for a solar farm. Mr. Carson noted the District would receive additional revenue and utility bill savings for the District, residents and businesses. He highlighted the site is eligible for a pollinator habitat provided by the Illinois Planned Pollinator Habitat on Solar Sites Scorecard and would be provided by Trajectory Energy. A timeline for this project was reviewed. The project would take approximately five years to complete.

Commissioner Michehl asked if current drain tiles or standing water would affect the solar power. Flowing water would be an issue. There would be no problem with standing water, Commissioner Cagle asked if there would be improvement to the ecology of the lake if the drainage tiles were removed. A study would determine the removal of tiles.

Commissioner Michehl asked about maintenance of the panels and the pollinator habitat. Trajectory Energy would be responsible for panel maintenance and the contractor would be responsible for the habitat.

Commissioner Anderson stated a lease agreement should be based on the cost of electric. Mr. Carson explained the lease would be based on the dollars saved on the utility use.

Commissioner Gallagher asked if this project would need to go to bid. Attorney Puma answered no, as it would be a lease agreement.

Attorney Puma advised notifying current lessee who farms the property prior to moving forward with this project.

Direction Items:

Comprehensive Master Planning Process

The Board received a copy of the Comprehensive Master Plan ETC Needs Assessment Survey. Executive Director Herbster stated overall, staff is happy with the results and highlight the following.

- Received 365 surveys
- Need to spend more time maintaining the parks. Della Park being one of the parks in need.
- Participation in recreation programs seemed low but is uncertain what is a good number. Staff need to increase the numbers.
- 94% stated the quality of the District's programs were excellent.
- 39.2% responded they were too busy or did not have time to use the facilities.
- 71% responded they prefer the program guide and website to learn about the District's offerings
- 44% responded there has been no change in the value of parks, trails, open spaces and recreation due to COVID. 52% felt there was a positive change.
- 29% responded very satisfied and 44% responded satisfied with the overall value their household receives from the District
- 11% responded to supporting the development of an indoor baseball/soccer training facility
- 21% ages 55-64 responded to the survey
- The top investment priorities included an indoor and outdoor pool, walking trails and running track.
- 100% Seniors responded there are unmet needs for recreation programming for the 55+years age group
- Concerts in the Park had the highest rating for investment of programming

Executive Director Herbster asked the Board to contact him with feedback on the survey. He will bring the Board's concerns to the next staff meeting with Hitchcock Design.

The Park Board suggested discussion on the following areas: use for Shamrock Hills, i.e., camping, programming for seniors, community center, consolidate facilities and discussion pending the lease or sale of Northwestern Health and Fitness, additional park shelters and areas.

Comprehensive Master Plan Parks Maintenance Facility Condition Assessment

Williams Architects conducted a conditions assessment of the Parks Maintenance Facility. The assessment showed a need for more space for staff and equipment. A need to fence the outdoor equipment area was noted. The Board discussed planning for a new facility and to utilize the current facility for addition programming. Commissioner Michehl requested a needs list from staff. Executive Director Herbster suggested contacting the City of Crystal Lake regarding the possibility of adding on to the City Building for Park Maintenance use. Commissioner Gallagher stated a centralized location would be ideal for a storage facility. She was not in favor of building on to the existing facility.

Additional Discussion:

Executive Director, Jason Herbster

Committee Meeting of the Whole: The 10-year Capital Replacement Schedule will be on the February agenda for discussion. Project roll-overs and the Haligus Park project will be included.

The Board expressed their concerns and directed staff to contact the references for Trajectory Energy, contact other agencies with solar farms and research other competitors.

Adjourn:

Commissioner Gallagher moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Matthias. All were in favor.

Approve: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary