

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 2, 2005

Call to Order at 7:00 P.M. by President Leonard Kurfirst

Commissioners present:

Leonard Kurfirst
Deborah Lyons
John White
Michael Bruck
Michael Kane
Matthew Gresge
Phyllis Osborn

Others present:

Joseph Brusseau, Brusseau Design
Jan Fiola, Corporate Design & Dev.
Carol Kania, Hinsdale DOINGS
Tara Alexander, SUBURBAN LIFE
Julia & Colin Smith, residents
Craig Himmelmann, Superintendent
Kay Schuetz, Secretary

Open Hearing Regarding Shelter Construction in Spring Rock Park

President Kurfirst advised that our first discussion this evening would be regarding the preliminary design proposals we have received from Brusseau Design Group, landscape architects, regarding our plans for the proposed shelter construction in Spring Rock Park. Joseph Brusseau discussed the site plan, where the eventual football field will be located, and then turned the meeting over to Jan Fiola who went into the details of the proposed T-shaped, 800 square foot storage building. She advised that on the strength of the soil borings in the area under consideration, 25 foot caissons are recommended under the north end of the building and 12 foot caissons under the south end, which has increased the foundation cost estimate from \$10,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Commissioners then discussed the elevations and floor plan design of the proposed storage facility and chose brick rather than cedar for the building, mainly because it is more substantial and resistant to damage in the rather secluded area of Spring Rock Park.

Mr. Brusseau and Ms. Fiola advised that they will now move forward with construction details and prepare construction documents for the proposed facility.

Residents Question HUD Funds for Shelter Construction

Residents Mr. and Mrs. Colin Smith attended the meeting to question the use of federal tax dollars to fund park improvements in an affluent community like Western Springs. Commissioner Lyons advised that the funds were from HUD (the Department of Housing and Urban Development), and that the use for which they were intended in Spring Rock Park were considered appropriate from HUD's perspective and that the new facility and shelter will be a useful amenity for the west side of the park.. Commissioner Lyons thanked the residents for their input.

MOTION: Deborah Lyons moved, with a second by Michael Kane, that we adopt Plan A 1.2 as presented, in brick, and allow WT Engineering to move forward and obtain bids and prepare eventual construction documents for the proposed shelter in Spring Rock Park, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

MOTION: Matthew Gresge moved, with a second by Michael Kane, to conclude the Open Hearing regarding the proposed shelter construction and open the regularly scheduled Park Board meeting at 7:52 P.M., which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Timber Trails Update

Joseph Brusseau of WT Engineering presented several plans for the proposed Timber Trails Park and after considerable discussion President Kurfirst questioned whether we should submit one of these new plans to Dartmoor or should we work on and update/improve the original plan we had previously received from them. It was eventually agreed that we should stay with the original Dartmoor plan and work on improving that, which Mr. Brusseau advised he would do within the next few days. Among the suggestions to be included as potential options in the updated plan are a basketball pad, one tennis court instead of two, improvements in the football field area and fewer parking spaces.. Mr. Brusseau will email material to the Board within the next few days.

MOTION: Michael Bruck moved, with a second by John White, that we request WT Engineering to develop a final plan for the park space the Board has acquired in Timber Trails Park, which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Township Park

President Kurfirst advised that he has not heard anything definitive regarding whether Lyons Township will acquire land in the Timber Trails subdivision for the park which has been requested by the Save the Timbers group.

Update on WS Football Request to Exchange Fields with AYSO

Commissioner Bruck advised that this matter is presently on hold and a determination on exchanging fields will be thoroughly discussed at a later date.

Update on Western Springs Little League Batting Cage Proposal

Commissioner Bruck advised that this matter is still under discussion.

Update on Request by Hilds to Purchase 15 Feet of Ridge Acres Park

President Kurfirst advised that there is nothing new to report on this matter and added that, in his opinion, the 15 feet the Hilds are requesting is not heavily used and perhaps could be considered “surplus”. However, a final determination on whether the property should be considered for sale will not be made until many other factors are discussed and determined, including the appraisal, impact on the adjoining park, contribution to the Ridge Acres park and an opportunity for input by nearby residents and the Village as a whole.

Forestry Plan Update

Superintendent Himmelmann advised that since there are only 72 trees which must be pruned instead of his previously stated 75, it will not be necessary to go out for bids for this work. He will prepare specifications for the anticipated work and distribute it to local contractors. He hopes to have probable costs available to Commissioners at the September Board meeting.

Safety

Superintendent Himmelmann advised that it had been another good month and there had been no accidents or injuries.

Transportation Bill Passed

Commissioner Lyons advised that the Transportation Bill had been passed and we will be receiving \$576,000.00 to be used toward paths, berm and other infrastructure work in the west end of Spring Rock Park. The Park District will be required to match 20% of this grant or \$115,000.00. She suggested that we start thinking about how to acquire the matching funds. John White will work with WT Engineering on this project.

Workshop Meeting to Discuss Finances

Commissioner Bruck advised that he would like to chair a workshop meeting on August 23rd to work on and discuss expenses for the coming year, including capital projects, baseball fields and playground equipment and match it up against our expected levy. He also wants to review our Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village which Grace Turi will have available by then. It was agreed that the workshop meeting would be held in the Park District garage at 7 P.M. on August 23rd.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's Report is attached hereto and becomes a part of these minutes.

Commissioners' Reports

JOHN WHITE: Ridgewood Meeting; He had a meeting with the Ridgewood Park Action League where they discussed equipment and maintenance and how they could raise funds for some improvements they would like to see in Ridgewood Park.

PHYLLIS OSBORN: Laidlaw Park; She and Craig have talked further with Lisa Najarian to discuss brick pavers and some other ideas which she has for Laidlaw Park. She will provide details at a later date.

Adjournment

MOTION: John White moved, with a second by Michael Kane, that the Park Board meeting be adjourned at 9:17 P.M., which motion was approved by all on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary