

**MINUTES**  
**DeKalb Park District**  
**Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**  
**November 9, 2017**  
**Hopkins Park Community Center**  
**1403 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, IL**

**Public Meeting**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**I. Meeting Called To Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance**

President Phil Young called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Board members present:** President Phil Young, Commissioner Dean Holliday, Commissioner Keith Nyquist, Commissioner Dag Grada and Commissioner Patricia Perkins.

**Staff Members Present:** Executive Director Amy Doll, Superintendent of Parks & Development Mat Emken, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Heather Collins, Superintendent of Marketing & Golf Operations Scott deOliveira, Superintendent of Recreation Bill Ryder, Accounting & Administrative Assistant Emily Bidstrup, Josh Looney, and Kevin Bock.

**II. Action on the Agenda**

Commissioner Nyquist made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Grada. Motion carried by voice vote.

**III. Public Comments**

None

**IV. Kiwanis Park Master Plan Discussion**

Michelle Kelly, Landscape Architect at Upland Design, advised on her process for developing the proposed Kiwanis Park Master Plan. She met with stakeholders, district staff, learned park history, and assessed site conditions. She stated a meeting will be scheduled later in the month so community members can give their input. Her conclusion was that most people wanted a community park, not just a sports park. She stated that having shade areas, designated meeting areas and signage throughout the park is important.

Ms. Kelly presented Concept A which included the expansion of the current Sports & Rec Center parking lot, a bocce ball court, an adventure playground, pickleball courts, a basketball court, a picnic shelter, bathroom facilities, a fenced in artificial turf field, a multiuse field, and several small & large soccer fields. A walking path would be added around the whole park. Commissioner Nyquist asked if green space would need to be leveled for drainage purposes. Commissioner Grada asked if taking drainage from the parking lot area and putting it in the rain garden area was considered. President Young asked if bicycles would be allowed on the path. Ms.

Kelly stated the path would be 10 feet wide so bicycles could fit. Ms. Kelly proposed a 7 acre dog park be added, which would require the removal of invasive species and the planting of native species. President Young asked if part of the dog park would be designated as a small dog area. Commissioner Holliday stated the concept does not have enough soccer fields.

Ms. Kelly presented Concept B which included having the amenities in a more centralized area of the park, creating double loaded parking spots, a nature based playground, a challenge course for both adults and children, pickleball courts, a basketball court, a picnic shelter, bathroom facilities, multiple sized soccer fields, a multiuse field, a fenced in artificial turf field, and a woodland exploration area. Commissioner Holliday asked if the current forest area would need to be taken down to put in the woodland exploration area. Ms. Kelly stated only selective removal would happen in order to open the space up. Commissioner Grada asked why the splash park idea was not on any of the concepts. Ms. Kelly advised that there is room to add it.

Commissioner Grada pointed out that Concept A does not have centralized bathrooms. Commissioner Perkins asked if the acreage of the activity areas is the same between both concepts. Ms. Kelly stated they are very close. Commissioner Grada mentioned he likes the play area for the tweens. Commissioner Perkins stated her concern with the main activity area being on the corner of a busy intersection in Concept A. President Young agreed. Commissioner Perkins asked about the lifespan of artificial turf and if there would be seating for spectators to watch games taking place on the fields. Ms. Kelly stated there are concrete pads with shade areas for viewing. President Young asked if there would be sports lights on the fields and paths. Ms. Kelly advised that lights were discussed being added at the artificial turf fields and parking lots but not on the path. President Young stated having public input on the additional dog park is important and that the shorter distance from the parking lot to the dog park, the better. Commissioner Perkins mentioned adding a second entrance closer to the proposed dog park.

President Young asked if the school district had seen the concepts. Amy Doll, Executive Director, advised that they have not but they will be invited to the meetings where the concepts will be shown. Commissioner Perkins asked how the berm on 4<sup>th</sup> street will be addressed. President Young stated that would have to be spelled out in the ordinance and Ms. Doll advised it would have to be taken back to the City. Superintendent of Recreation, Bill Ryder, stated his concern with the lack of storage buildings for equipment and asked if port-a-potties would be added as additional restroom options. Ms. Kelly stated they could be added along with a nice enclosure.

Ms. Kelly asked if anything was missing in the concepts. President Young stated that seeing concessions or a café added would be nice. Commissioner Perkins stated a 7 acre dog park seemed excessive. The size of the current dog park at Katz was discussed in comparison to the proposed one at Kiwanis. Commissioner Nyquist asked how the proposed concepts reflect the public comment that had been received. Ms. Kelly advised that users would like to see the park be turned into a community park but also keep the soccer fields. Commissioner Nyquist stated he would like to bring both concepts to the public. Commissioner Grada agreed. President Young agreed and stated he does not like the connecting parking lot in Concept A for safety reasons.

## **V. Welsh Park Hours Discussion**

Ms. Doll advised that to address growing crime in the area, the City of DeKalb and the DeKalb Police have asked that Welsh Park be closed at sunset. She stated that district staff propose closing Welsh Park at sunset starting immediately. President Young stated his support of the new closing hours and after seeing heat maps of activity, noticed it's all taking place around Welsh Park. Commissioner Nyquist asked if the Police Department had communication with the District about this change. President Young advised that Police Chief Lowery publicly asked the District to make the change. Commissioner Grada asked if there was foot traffic at night. Ms. Doll advised that there is no current data on that, but Officer Lekkas asked to keep the lights on at night. Commissioner Grada asked if trespassing rules would apply since the park would be closed at sunset but the lights would still be on. Ms. Doll advised that according to Police, if someone is using the path to get from one point to another they would not be trespassing.

## **VI. Action on Welsh Park Hours**

Commissioner Nyquist made a motion to change the Welsh Park hours to 7 am to Sunset, seconded by Commissioner Perkins. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Perkins, Grada, Nyquist, Holliday, Young. Nay: None. Absent: None. (5-0-0)

## **VII. Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Budget Discussion**

Ms. Doll stated that after last month's discussion, staff have taken into account the feedback and revised their capital projects. Heather Collins, Superintendent of Finance & Administration, advised on where capital funds would come from. President Young asked if changes were mainly in reductions to the price. Ms. Doll advised that changes included the scaling of projects and purchasing equipment in later fiscal years. Mat Emken, Superintendent of Parks & Development, highlighted his main purchases which would include purchasing a chipper box, a tire repair machine, a heavy duty trailer, a truck, 2 mowers and paving/seal coating work. President Young asked how the replacement of vehicles and equipment is determined.

Mr. Ryder highlighted his main purchases which would include purchasing a set of soccer goals and replacing the lobby floor at Sports & Rec. President Young asked if resurfacing the kiddie pool at Hopkins was still in the plan. Commissioner Perkins asked if the roof at Sports & Rec needs repair. Mr. Emken advised that the roof can probably last for 30 more years if some changes are made now.

Scott, deOliveira, Superintendent of Marketing & Golf Operations, highlighted his main purchases which would include a new IT server, bunker & drainage improvements, a used pickup truck, 30 leased golf carts at River Heights, the replacement of a heated power washer and a new fairway mower. President Young inquired about golf cart path paving the first 9 holes. Mr. deOliveira stated the importance of paving so the game can be played even on wet days. Commissioner Nyquist noticed nothing was proposed for parking lot lighting upgrades and asked what has been anticipated and what was now changed. Commissioner Perkins stated she did not see any figures for the Kiwanis Park Master Plan. Ms. Doll advised that after a concept is chosen, a funding plan will be created. Commissioner Perkins stated

her concern over not seeing any improvements to Hopkins shelter, the band shell or the sled hill on the proposed projects list. She also stated that maintenance of the ponds was missing. Ms. Doll advised that that would fall under the Maintenance Operating Budget. President Young thanked staff for putting together the capital budget and for making updates as needed.

### **VIII. Adjourn Public Meeting**

Commissioner Nyquist moved to adjourn the public meeting, seconded by Commissioner Perkins. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.