

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
November 14, 2016
Hopkins Administration Building
1403 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, IL
Special Meeting
5:00 p.m.

I. Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call: President Phil Young called the Study Session to order at 5:02 p.m.

Board members present: President Phil Young, Commissioner Dean Holliday, Commissioner Dag Grada, and Commissioner Keith Nyquist. Absent: Commissioner Bryant Irving.

Staff members present: Executive Director Amy Doll, Human Resource and Payroll Manager Autumn Kelly, Recreation Supervisor Rachel Schmit, Superintendent of Parks and Development Mat Emken, Park Supervisor Todd Bex, Superintendent of Finance Karin Johns, and Park Maintenance and Special Projects Team Leader Dave Kessen.

II. Action on Agenda

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

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Lion's Park OSLAD Project Discussion

President Young started off by mentioning previous meetings about this topic. President Young stated he met with Mr. Reis and Ms. Doll at the Ellwood House and after that meeting felt the District needed another meeting to discuss this topic further. President Young reminded those present that the grant is still active and the District needs to tell the DNR if they want the grant or not. Ms. Doll referenced the handout she gave to the Board Members and highlighted new additions since the October 20th meeting. New additions included the fact that the OSLAD grant comes from a dedicated portion of the real estate transfer tax and not a part of the general funds, meaning the OSLAD funds are more secure. Also included was the fact that the DNR administers Museum Fund grants as well, and the District would be prohibited from applying for any Museum Fund grants for 2 cycles if they don't proceed with this grant. Ms. Doll opened it up for discussion. Commissioner Holliday asked if the Board voting no would cause the Ellwood House to lose their chance at getting a grant as well. Ms. Doll responded yes, that they would be in the same boat as the District.

Brian Reis, Executive Director of the Ellwood House, discussed some history of the DNR grant cycle. He presented pictures of projects that were completed and funded through the DNR including roof repair, ADA sidewalk upgrades, outside lighting fixes and the interior restoration of the mansion's dining room. Mr. Reis brought up his concerns about the stigma associated with turning down a grant. Mr. Reis highlighted the historic structures report project that the Ellwood House Board will be completing next year which will identify major capital items that will be recommended for restoration of the mansion. Total cost of these projects could be in the \$2 to \$5 million range.

President Young asked if the District's staff can do any of the restoration. Mr. Reis said some is possible to do in-house but many other things would not be possible, due to the specialized nature of historic renovation. Commissioner Holliday asked if most funding for the Ellwood House comes from grants. Mr. Reis replied yes and stated that it would be silly to ever turn down a grant. Commissioner Holliday stated that it looks like you don't need the money if you turn down a grant. Commissioner Grada stated that he is in favor of the Lion's Park project and the information presented by Mr. Reis confirmed that.

President Young stated that he is wrestling with this a lot, as he was on the board that first approved this project. However, he has seen money from the state fall through although he realizes it was from different funds. President Young asked staff if the Board votes yes, what can get done before the original deadline of June 2017, before the end of the fiscal year for the state. Mr. Emken, stated that the contractor would have completed their part but depending on the weather nothing could be completed by the spring at Lions. He stated he did not feel comfortable guaranteeing any percentage would be completed by June 2017. Commissioner Holliday asked if the project has to be completed before the District is paid. Ms. Doll stated yes. President Young asked if there are a lot of other projects on the books for the spring/summer of 2017. Mr. Emken stated that typical spring stuff which includes shelter prep, getting the pool up and running and the Liberty Park playground install. President Young asked what the most time consuming project would be to install. Mr. Emken stated the playground.

Commissioner Holliday brought up flooding concerns and asked if adding a volleyball and basketball court were still in the plans. Ms. Doll stated that both were still in the plans and if the plans are changed the updates would have to be given to the DNR to reprocess. Commissioner Holliday brought up his concern over how the basketball court at Lion's Park used to be a hangout for troublemakers. President Young suggested adding basketball hoops that were kid's height could alleviate problems. Ms. Doll stated that a call to Kathy at the DNR could be made to see if it is possible to change that quickly. A consensus was made about leaving the Lion's Park contractor and equipment approval on the agenda for the November 17th, 2016 meeting.

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Nyquist made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Holliday. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.