

Minutes of the Special Workshop Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 5:00 pm at the Village Hall in the Executive Session Room, New Lenox, Illinois.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

Call to order President Schulz called the May 15, 2024, meeting to order at approximately 5:00pm.

Attendance The following were present: Commissioners: Fischer, Larson, Ott, Kraemer and President Schulz.

Also, in Attendance Executive Director Greg Lewis, Director of Business Services Kathy Lynch, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, Director of Recreation Lea Pipiras, Director of Parks Maintenance George Travnicek, Assistant Director of Parks Maintenance Ken Stephens, Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath and Attorney Angelo Vitiritti.

G.O Bond Series Executive Director Lewis discussed the rollover bonds and when they will retire and when the money will come back. He noted that there was a document in the packet showing when we can expect to reissue the rollover bonds and what that would possibly look like. Commissioner Ott noted that he felt they were being conservative on the CPI growth, and it may take a while to come down, but bottom line is the money doesn't change it just depends on how far do we want to pull it out. Executive Director Lewis reminded everyone that the money will be tight but with the golf course in great condition it puts us in a better financial position, and we will have more options if we need them.

Executive Director Lewis stated that the second document shows where we are at with balances of what has been spent and what the remaining balances are.

Remaining Projects Executive Director Lewis reported that the Financial Model from Speer Financial shows the number that we would have to pick to spend on projects. He noted that Director of Parks Maintenance Travnicek did a good job of pulling projects from the list that we have to do, which shows the older parks and the needs of as far as what would get done. He stated that we must plan out what gets done and what is the most important with or without an OSLAD grant. He noted that there is no priority right now, but these are the items that need to be addressed.

Director of Parks Maintenance Travnicek noted we are still using the 2018 Master Plan that was done by planning resources. We have been identifying different projects over the last many years and the list that we came up with is 20 to 25 years old including parks, buildings and HVAC.

Executive Director Lewis reported on the OSLAD Grant deadline being pushed back to September 13, 2024. He noted that Director of Recreation Pipiras, Deputy Director of Recreation Viano, Recreation Supervisor Maher, President Schulz and himself were in Springfield for Parks Day and have received support on both sides of the aisle. He noted that the governor has put \$130 million in the budget, but it is on hold at this point. He stated that he learned it would be \$55 million in OSLAD grants. Executive Director Lewis stated that he learned that 100% of applications with everything in order were funded, highlighting the importance of proper planning and organization. He reiterated that we must make sure we have our documents in place before submitting. He noted that the DNR has updated its useful life standards and is now focusing on local restrictions and alcohol serving policies in a grant-funded park.

Executive Director Lewis noted that with the timing of the OSLAD grant being pushed back helps us out so that we would get the contract out and execute it for Sharon's Bay and then we would be into another fiscal year. He noted that we are committed with planning resources to get the grant submitted down there and we are out nothing by submitting it if we have all the documents in place and are not missing anything.

Executive Director Lewis stated that the packet that was given is the best that Planning Resources has put together for the Sharon's Bay Concept. He noted that staff have been out to the site and has

already made some changes to the concept. These include parking lot repairs, playground equipment, green space, full court basketball and fishing areas. He stated that we are trying to score points that will assist us in obtaining a grant.

Director of Parks Maintenance Travnicsek noted that they are meeting with Planning Resources to go over some core elements that we feel are best for the park as well as score the points we need. He noted that we took their concept one and concept two and turned it into a park district concept.

Executive Director Lewis wanted to reiterate that we are trying to update the old park with the amenities that improve it and make it better. He stated that they will have two meetings with the homeowners of Sharon's Bay to obtain their opinions. He noted that he thinks it is important to be ready when we can submit our plans and documents to the state. Executive Director Lewis stated that we can go for the total of \$600,000 or any amount but feels that we should go for the entire and then match the amount.

Executive Director Lewis asked for consensus from the board to continue with the process of being ready to submit for an OSLAD Grant for Sharon's Bay. Commissioner Fischer asked if this was something we can afford. Executive Director Lewis stated that when the group was in Springfield they spoke with the legislators, they all specifically asked what we need, and he explained to them that we need assistance. They stated they will do their best to assist. Executive Director Lewis noted that once we sign a contract, we have two years to complete the project. He noted that all of this will depend on what happens in Springfield over the course of the next few weeks. The consensus from the board was to move forward with the OSLAD Grant process for Sharon's Bay.

Referendum

Executive Director Lewis spoke about what would be needed for a levy to be able to pass a referendum. He gave the board the documents for them to look over. He noted that the referendum people noted that it is better to go for a specific project and that we need a rate increase to be able to finish projects as well as adding more to our tax rate. These projects include a dog park, pool complex and rental space possibilities. He noted that there are quite a few items that we can stretch the dollar too.

Executive Director Lewis stated that he feels that we have a long-term plan and now it would be up to the voters. He noted that he wants to present this to our Friends of The Park to have them assist us to get the correct information out to the voters. Executive Director Lewis reported that the timing of a referendum success is based on when it should be put out to the voters. He noted that there is a lot of work to be done on this before we move forward.

**New Lenox
Crossroads
Sports Complex**

Executive Director Lewis reported on the New Lenox Crossroads Sports Complex and the involvement that the park district will play. He noted that he believes there will be an Intergovernmental Agreement between the park district and the Village detailing the role that the park district will play and our responsibilities. The one piece that we both need to come to terms with is who is going to book these regional and national tournaments. The goal of the Village is to have tournaments scheduled for Spring of 2025. Executive Director Lewis noted that the project is progressing quickly and will continue to share the information as it becomes available to him. He noted that it is in our best interest to be involved.

Adjournment

At approximately 5:56p.m. President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the May 15, 2024, Special Workshop Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa McGrath, Recording Secretary