

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH
OF THE
OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 19, 2021**

1) CALL TO ORDER THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND ROLL CALL

President Knitter called to order the Special Meeting and Community Outreach of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Commissioners at the hour of 5:10 p.m. Commissioners Trombetta, Truedson, and President Knitter answered "present" from the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, Canterbury Conference Room. Commissioner Suleiman entered the meeting at 5:15pm and Commissioner Ivkovic Kelly was absent. Also present in the Canterbury Conference Room were Dr. Laure Kosey, Executive Director; Marco Salinas, Chief Financial Officer; Dave Thommes, Deputy Director and Bob Johnson, Director of Parks and Planning. Also in attendance were members of the community. (Attendance sheet attached.)

2) APPROVAL OF THE JULY 19, 2021 AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Truedson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Trombetta to approve the July 19, 2021 Agenda of the Special Meeting.

There was no additional discussion and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Trombetta, Truedson, and President Knitter.

Nays: None

Absent: Ivkovic Kelly, Suleiman

3) SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- a) Upland Design, Ltd. will lead a master plan process to gain public input to update the Central Park Master Plan.
 - i) The Oak Brook Park District is inviting community input for Phase 2 of the Central Park North Fields.

Dr. Kosey addressed the community reviewing the Park District's recent accomplishments during Phase 1 of the 2019 Master Vision consisting of two lighted athletic fields, parking lot, basketball courts, walking/bike paths, picnic areas, fitness stations, and Bago. As the District moves into Phase 2, the Park District has a general premise from what the Residents Survey in 2019, however, things have changed, and additional input would help the Park District better address the community's needs.

Dr. Kosey stated the Park District will be seeking an OSLAD Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to fund the project. The OSLAD grant requires grant recipients to provide matching funds for projects awarded the grant.

Michelle Kelly, from Upland Design Ltd., presented the Vision Boards highlighting additional recreational ideas and options for the community to review for ideas on what could be included in the central regional of the park for Phase 2.

Ms. Kelly noted the beginning phases of the Master Vision were based on resident survey results from 2019, and included an amphitheater, which was initially designed to be on the far east end of the park. After consideration, Ms. Kelly believes moving the amphitheater towards the center of the park with the restrooms and parking lot seems more ideal for the community to be able to enjoy the amenities in an ideal setting. It is in this middle region of the park and along the portion of the creek; the park district is seeking input on the additional recreational activities/amenities the community desires. Ms. Kelly showed images of games such as chess and checkers, bocce ball, and playground items; for grandchildren, parents, and camp children. These were the options taken from the survey in 2019.

Ms. Kelly stated there will be a new community survey for Phase 2. The survey will be taken at this meeting, online on the website, and the Park Districts' social media platforms. Residents are encouraged to place their input for staff to accommodate the majority's needs and wants.

President Knitter stated gathering resident input will better help the Park District see if the community's needs have changed since 2019.

Dr. Kosey stated the survey will go live tomorrow July 20th until July 26th.

Christy Dolan inquired about the chess podium in one of the photos asking if the chess pieces would be provided by the Park District.

Ms. Kelly said it would be up to the Park District how to monitor the chess pieces, noting her experience on previous projects where the items have been provided at some locations and at other locations the recreational user was to supply their equipment.

Ms. Kelly noted the examples of different amphitheater options on one of the Vision Boards. She noted the relocation of the pavilion so that it would be closer to the restrooms and parking lot. She invited the participants to choose a pavilion idea and note it on the survey as it would be helpful for the Park District to understand the community's vision. She also asked if there should be a concession stand, a shelter, and if there should be more nature and fishing access.

Resident Ray Cesca asked about the additional insurance needed for the items on the playground Challenge Course and how would the additions affect the residents. He also asked what kind of supervision would be there for this area.

Ms. Kelly stated in most cases there will be safety signage, similar to the signage provided at playgrounds already in the park.

Dr. Kosey stated there would be no supervision.

Resident Ann Huber stated the central area already seems dense with the basketball courts and bags.

Ms. Kelly stated that everything will fit and the renderings are to scale.

Guest stated there are already soccer fields which are ready for tournaments. With families coming into the park there will be a lot of people. How will these new recreational items handle the additional capacity, how will there be control, and who is supervising the children?

Ms. Kelly stated they take into account the number of parking spaces and look at the parameters to make a successful design.

President Knitter explained when there is a tournament on the fields, families are also bringing children who are not playing in the tournament. These children are already there. The new amenities will provide recreational activities for the additional children to enjoy.

Ann Huber said she did not like the basketball courts as the courts bring disruptive clients.

Dr. Kosey stated the basketball courts are used primarily by corporate residents.

Dr. Kosey stated she has been thanked by corporate residents for the addition and there have been no issues reported to the police in regards to the basketball courts.

Jamie Lock stated she is pleased with the Park District's partnership with Breakaway Basketball, which uses the indoor gyms for the program. Her children have had a very good experience playing for them. As a younger community member and seeing younger families such as hers begin to move into the area, she is excited about the new variety and gives the younger demographic something to do. Perhaps there could be a retrofit for the courts.

Dr. Kosey stated the courts near Central Park West have been converted into pickleball courts.

Ann Huber asked Dr. Kosey if the new basketball courts by the north fields were part of the previous grant received.

Dr. Kosey stated yes.

President Knitter expressed the lack of age group offerings at Central Park and believes this would allow inclusivity. By trying to engage the 13- to 15-year-olds they are open to suggestions. For instance, adding some form of technology into the park.

Commissioner Trombetta stated as an Oak Brook Resident whose majority of the demographic is over fifty, he would like to see the focus of the amenities to be for the people who are paying for the areas and activities, therefore to be for older residents.

Christy Dolan stated she would like to see amenities for the older residents; all she sees is soccer.

Jamie Lock said she has started seeing a lot of changes in her neighborhood with younger families moving in and making some of the new amenities for younger families could be enticing for new residents.

Commissioner Suleiman stated she envisions the Challenge Course as something the Fitness Department could utilize for personal training. By going with diversifying activities in the area for all ages, it will keep everyone's interest. Perhaps adding safety elements with buffers could help. Seeing an element of skateboarding or roller skating may be nice, as other communities do offer that for the teens. However, that would entice a different crowd to the park. Sometimes the biggest risks and most unconventional ideas are the ones that pay off the best.

Ms. Kelly stated skate parks are popular for teens.

Bob Johnson, Director of Parks and Planning, informed the residents that challenge courses are a new trend in Parks and Recreation. The challenge course is more fun than traditional work out equipment and is for all ages. There are different equipment pieces for all ages and abilities.

The challenge courses are manufactured by playground equipment companies and utilize the same safety requirements as traditional playground equipment.

Ray Cesca stated he likes the bocce ball but thinks it only caters to the fifty plus. As homes are selling to younger people and they are coming into the Park District for activities, residents should keep in mind the changing demographics when deciding on features.

Dr. Kosey stated this input was good and encouraged participants to provide this information in the survey. There will be another meeting on August 16th before the next Board Meeting. Staff will have gathered the information submitted by the survey. The District must apply for the OSLAD Grant by September.

Ray Cesca clarified the amenities will not gain revenue.

Commissioner Truedson stated the soccer fields will gain revenue.

Ray Cesca stated he would like the restrooms, concessions, and additional areas to sit. He felt the Park District should make those top priorities.

Christy Dolan stated another priority should be shade.

Ms. Kelly informed the residents the survey will help prioritize where the money is spent.

Ray Cesca stated these amenities were all fair-weather suggestions and asked about adding something for the wintertime.

Dr. Kosey informed the residents of the winter activities, including the ice rink, sledding hill, snow-cleared walking paths, and the Winter Lights event at Central Park.

Ray Cesca said he would like to see Platform Tennis in the winter as there is great appeal for the sport.

President Knitter informed the residents the park district had looked into the sport years ago. Communities that offer the sport say it is mostly dedicated to outside teams and tournaments. The sport requires heated platforms and warming buildings. There are a lot of leagues around the area and none of them are for 80-year-olds. Those who play do it through Hinsdale and country clubs, and these providers have said it is hard to make a profit.

Commissioner Truedson said the commissioners had seriously looked into the sport about five years ago and there were large expenses with a lot of limitations.

Ann Huber asked about making badminton courts over the basketball courts, as that is a popular sport.

Dr. Kosey informed the residents there are currently no outdoor badminton courts because of the size of the net. The Park District offers badminton inside the Family Recreation Center every week. There has been the conversion of some of the tennis courts to pickleball courts at the satellite parks.

Commissioner Truedson stated they play badminton indoors because of the height of the nets and that weather can affect the game.

Christy Dolan stated the website is hard to navigate and wonders what Dr. Kosey envisions for the land.

Dr. Kosey stated she would like to see the restoration of Ginger Creek, restrooms, a pavilion, farmers markets, artisan markets, and additional opportunities for the community to come together. The bridge will be in the additional phases to come.

President Knitter explained things like a sensory garden, meditation garden, and things of that nature could be added and give a more unique attraction to the community.

Dr. Kosey stated programming options are good.

Guest stated with the recent heavy rain, it doesn't seem like the soccer fields are draining well.

Dr. Kosey informed the residents the North Athletic Fields have not been played on yet.

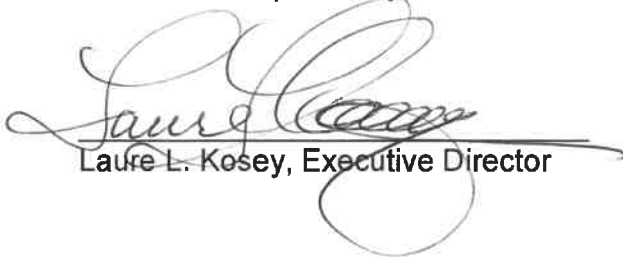
Mr. Johnson stated there is an additional tune-up to the field which will be completed soon.

4) THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m. (Immediately following this Special Meeting.)

President Knitter announced the next Regular Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District of Park Commissioners will be held on July 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

5) ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Truedson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Trombetta to adjourn July 19, 2021 special meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Commissioners. The motion passed by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at the hour of 6:04 pm.



Laure L. Kosey, Executive Director

