

Public Meeting for Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application
Decennial Committee on Efficiency Meeting
Minutes of a Committee of the Whole Meeting of the
Board of Commissioners of the Lemont Park District -
All Meetings Held on September 12, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
At Safety Village, 55 Stephen Street, Lemont, IL 60439

PUBLIC MEETING FOR LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION

The public meeting for the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application began at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Commissioner Richmond, Commissioner Scarlati, Commissioner Wagner, Commissioner Mescher, President McAdam, Executive Director Louise Egofske, and staff Jason Khuen, Anthony Morelli, Carrie Dellamano, Christine Aguirre, Josephine Wimunc, Meaghan Bower, Greg Hooper and Carlene Dickman as recording secretary. Guests this evening were Pat Callahan and Chris Malensek from Studio GC, Mike Leonard, Jenny Knitter, Tom Slowinski, Nick Koeppen. Charlotte Jaskovich and Dan Ganzer arrived after the meeting had ended.

President McAdam stated that in response to the growing community, additional park and programming space has become necessary. The agency is looking forward to pursuing a Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant currently to assist with a new land acquisition. The purpose of this meeting is to provide a summary regarding the LWCF Grand program and how this opportunity can assist the Park District in funding the acquisition of new land for community use.

Jason Khuen presented an overview of what the grant is for. This grant would help us to protect wetlands and secure property for future recreation opportunities. The property we are looking at purchasing is just north of Centennial Park on 127th Street. The 2.48 acres would be added to the property we currently own. With the addition of this additional property, we would be able to preserve the natural wetland on the property we currently own. Jason presented a preliminary design of how we would develop the property and this design will be submitted with the grant application. These designs include parking, shelter, tennis courts, shade tree plantings, walking path and the wetland preservation. We would also be looking at a safe roadway path across 127th Street for connectivity to the Centennial Campus pathway. In our 2021 Master Plan survey, the community was asking for more walking and bike paths. This would be a great opportunity to add these capital improvements.

Questions:

What will we do with the existing tennis courts? The existing tennis courts could become pickleball courts.

Tom Slowinski asked if there would there be a pedestrian overpass connecting the property. At this time, there will not be a pedestrian overpass, however, we would add additional signage and a crosswalk at Eagle Crest Drive to the property across 127th Street.

Mike Leonard asked why we chose to apply for the LWCF Grant instead of an OSLAD Grant for this property? We did apply for an OSLAD Grant for this before and did not receive it so we thought we would try for the LWCF Grant this time around and it would help preserve the wetlands which is inline with the grant criteria. This would allow us to open up the space we currently have.

Meeting ended at 6:09 p.m.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – President McAdam called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Commissioner Richmond, Commissioner Scarlati, Commissioner Wagner, Commissioner Mescher, President McAdam, and committee members Mike Leonard and Jenny Knitter. Staff in attendance were Executive Director Louise Egofske, Carrie Dellamano, Anthony Morelli, Jason Khuen, Josephine Wimunc, Christine Aguirre, Greg Hooper, Meaghan Bower and Carlene Dickman as recording secretary. Pat Callahan and Chris Malensek from Studio GC were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

INTRODUCTION – PURPOSE AND SCHEDULE – Executive Director Louise Egofske welcomed the committee members and thanked them for joining us this evening. Thank you to Christine Aguirre for preparing the materials for the evening.

Christine Aguirre said that the purpose of this committee is to study local governmental units and how well we work with each other along with statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, intergovernmental agreements and more. The Lemont Park District does a great job in working with other local agencies and we can certainly highlight what we do well. Tonight is the kick-off meeting, the second meeting will be held on November 7th and the last meeting on November 14th. Each committee will need to provide a report to the administrative office of the county board in each county in which we are located – Cook, Will and DuPage. We will also provide a report to IAPD. Our due date is November 23, 2024, but we will complete this prior to the deadline and submit.

REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – The IAPD had provided a template for our reports and Christine was able to drop in quite a few items and statistics. We have almost a full page of connections with other agencies for shared equipment and resources. We will also show our use of volunteers, youth employment and our partnership with the Lemont Park Foundation. A few items highlighted by Christine were our working relationship with the Village of Lemont for the Sunset Soiree events and the July 3rd event. Another great item to showcase is our agency collaboration in town for Lemontster Days events. For those who don't know, the agencies meet quarterly so that they can plan their events, collaborate and not duplicate services.

Commissioner Richmond asked if our due date is this November? Christine said no, we have 18 months to complete the process from the start time but with all that the Lemont Park District has going on, we thought it would be more beneficial to complete the process and submit our report sooner than later. He also asked about the efficiency of other government agencies.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY – The next slide included a few report discussion points such as the inefficiency of other governments, unfunded mandates, increased transparency, opportunities for other intergovernmental agreements and opportunities for savings such as energy efficiency projects and joint purchasing. We would like the committee to think about these items and send your questions/concerns/ideas to us. Some ideas to consider are other governmental agencies we work with for projects – such as Athens Park. Another item we can work on improving is our Transparency Portal. In reviewing other districts pages, they post additional survey results and their personnel policy manual. We will want to review items to see what additional items we can add to our page. Commissioner McAdam mentioned that in section 10, we should show on a local level, that we have decided to waive certain fees even if they are not waived on a state level. All feedback is due back by October 13th so it can be compiled and a second draft will be sent out no later than October 28th. The final draft can be reviewed at the November 7th meeting with approval set for the November 14th meeting. Executive Director Louise Egofske addressed the resident

committee members, Mike Leonard and Jenny Knitter, and said if they see something we can do better or have any suggestions, please send that to us so we can look into it further. There was discussion regarding the inefficiencies of other local government agencies. We already highlight what we do well and some items may be out of our control for other areas. We can take this section out if we don't have anything to include. Louise mentioned that larger communities have duplicated services but maybe we can start a conversation about a few things we have identified and future opportunities for increased efficiency with everyone – such as the IDOT permits. Jason mentioned that permits/inspections are completed once a year, such as for our elevator, and there are delays in processing/receiving at state or 3rd party level. We do need to be careful about how we state this and be as positive as we can with local governments. Commissioner McAdam thanked everyone and asked if there were any additional questions. Commissioner McAdam and Commissioner Scarlati said great job on putting this together.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

NEXT MEETING OF THE DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023, 6 P.M. AT SAFETY VILLAGE

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – President McAdam called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Commissioner Richmond, Commissioner Scarlati, Commissioner Wagner, Commissioner Mescher, President McAdam. Also in attendance were Executive Director Louise Egofske, and staff Jason Khuen, Anthony Morelli, Carrie Dellamano, Christine Aguirre, Josephine Wimunc, Meaghan Bower, Greg Hooper and Carlene Dickman as recording secretary. Pat Callahan, Chris Malensek from Studio GC. Mike Leonard was also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner McAdam

CHANGE TO AGENDA – None

COMMUNICATIONS –

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – None to address the board.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE – Thank You for Keepataw Parade donation, Building Smiles with Bricks & Tiles Thank You, 2023 Risk Management Review SMART Goal Incentive, Thank You for Mayor's Drive for Charity, Partnerships: The Hallmark of Success for IAPD Members (Article from July/August 2023 Magazine mentioning the Lemont Park District).

OLD BUSINESS –

PRESENTATION – STUDIO GC, ATHENS PARK UPDATE – Executive Director Louise Egofske mentioned that we are getting close to going out to bid. We have had 4 page turns of the Athens Park detailed plans. We have a few things to share with you and a few items that may be bid as alternates. Chris Malensek from Studio GC provided a presentation on project updates for the Athens Park plans. Chris showed an overview of the design with all amenities. Louise mentioned that the Village is in Phase 2 of bike bridge engineering plans. Other areas shown were the performance bandshell, dog park and community areas. We are looking to go out to bid next week on September 21st. A pre-bid walk-through is scheduled for September 25th. All bids are to be received by October 19th. The bid will be awarded in late October/early November. In early October we may begin some staging and tree removal so that

construction can begin in November. The project is scheduled to be completed by early spring 2025. Commissioner Scarlati asked about fencing near the bushes along the canal. Yes, the black vinyl fencing is in the plans. There is a 15 ft. buffer and it will go inside the area of the buffer with high grass in front of the fence. Commissioner Richmond asked if the path between the parking lot and playground will be elevated. No it will be the same elevation with speed bumps, a pedestrian area and a slow loop. There was discussion regarding the pathway and crosswalk from the parking lot to the park along with the bike trail coming out in that area as well. Chris Malensek said he will address the issues on the plans. Chris also provided information on a few alternate items, such as a boardwalk, entry monument scale down, soil filtration, only installing one shelter to start. These items could be alternate bids in the future. Commissioner Scarlati wanted to know what kind of fencing would be around the dog park. It will be a chain link with black vinyl coating. There will be tall grasses planted in front of some of the fencing.

PRESENTATION – MEAGHAN BOWER, SUMMER 2023 AQUATICS RECAP – Meaghan Bower presented the board and staff with a recap of the 2023 outdoor summer pool season. Her recap included financial information on the following: pool pass sales, daily admissions, private rentals and operating expenses. Meaghan mentioned that we had five day camps in addition to the Lemont Park District day camp that visited the pool on a regular basis this summer. Meaghan included a rescue report, staffing and audit information, along with 2023 end of season survey results. Meaghan also shared some plans that she would like to see for the 2024 outdoor pool season. Commissioner Richmond commented what a great summer it was as he and his family visited the outdoor pool. He commented on how great staff was. He asked why there were twice as many non-residents who visited the outdoor pool last year compared to this year. It was mentioned that the pricing increased from \$9 to \$14 for non-residents this year and some pools were not open last year. Commissioner Mescher mentioned that she hears feedback about keeping the outdoor pool open, at least on weekends or for early morning lap swim/aerobics, through Labor Day and asked if there was a way to accommodate. We would have to see if this is possible as it takes at least 11 guards to open the pool and keep the best safety and service for all patrons. Anthony mentioned that we are researching this to see if we can make this possible. Jason did mention that we do keep our Northview Park splash pad open until the end of September, weather permitting. Jason also mentioned that we are looking at replacing both boilers for the outdoor pool next year.

SOLAR ENERGY ROOF PROJECT UPDATE – Executive Director Louise Egofske mentioned that she would like to enter into an agreement with Jim Belden from Belden Energy Solutions. We would then work with Jim Belden if we decide to pursue the solar energy project. This would be a non-binding agreement and the board agreed to move forward with the agreement.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE – Executive Director Louise Egofske provided an update on the capital campaign to the board. Louise and Carrie have worked with Paul Hanley from Beyond Your Base to put together the materials. Louise provided a timeline for the board if we decide to move forward with the capital campaign. Carrie created some materials that could be published so we would be ready for the November public engagement. We would then decide in December if we would put this on the ballot in March of 2024. Please review all of the materials and let me know if you have any questions. She also spoke about the Derby Farms Park amenities as part of the capital campaign. We will update the FAQ's before the information is put out to the community regarding the soccer field and the information will be communicated back to the task force. The other item to consider is the new assessment of Lemont properties. There was discussion regarding the tax rate and EAV. We will need to communicate and explain to the community that we are not raising taxes for the capital campaign. It may be helpful to show what taxes were in 2022, 2023 and will be in 2024 and 2025 if the capital campaign passes. We will need to communicate that if the capital campaign does not pass, the taxes will go down slightly. The board was in agreement to move forward with the capital campaign. We will finalize all materials, execute the agreement for the survey and schedule dates for the public meetings. Louise mentioned that the Lemont Township has information on their website for plans to sell their location on Warner Avenue and will use that for an expansion at the Alba location.

RFP – LEGAL SERVICES UPDATE – Executive Director Louise Egofske mentioned that all those contacted for RFP for legal services have responded back. The firms we contacted all came with references and were IAPD Members.

CONNEMARA PARK PLANNING UPDATE – Jason Khuen presented a few conceptual plans for the updated Connemara Park. A few items will be updated before the meeting next week. The Make Your Park meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19th, 6 p.m. in The CORE Kensington Room. Commissioner Mescher mentioned that since it is close to Gleneagles that we don't want to duplicate what will be in that park.

LEMONT PARK DISTRICT TRANSITION PLAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING UPDATE – Executive Director Louise Egofske mentioned that she sent thank you's to those who attended last week's meeting – there were about nine people in attendance. The PowerPoint from the meeting is in your packet. The next step is for WT to provide a report of their findings and we will bring that to the board in November for approval. It was a good meeting with nice follow-up after the meeting. It was mentioned that we are one of the only agencies in Lemont to host forums for the community. President McAdam mentioned that overall, it was a great meeting with good feedback and the future plans need to reflect the scope of the changes needed.

NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Mescher mentioned that the Lemont Park Foundation would really like to be involved in a bigger project and would like to contribute to it. The Lemont Park Foundation is currently a large group and a great team of residents. It was asked that the Lemont Park Foundation put together maybe three options of something above and beyond what we do, including costs, even if the project would be 3-5 years down the road. We can then review and work together on something.

President McAdam stated that the next Lemont Park District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 6 p.m., at Safety Village, 55 Stephen Street, Lemont.

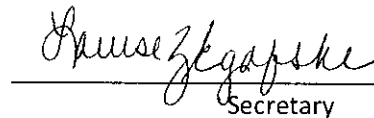
ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (IF NEEDED) – No need for closed session this evening.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Scarlati made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Wagner. All Ayes, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



President



Secretary