



Westmont Park District Board of Commissioners
Minutes of the Special Meeting/Park & Facility Tour
Ronald J. Gunter Administrative Center
55 E. Richmond St., Westmont, IL 60559
October 30, 2021 9:00 am

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order

President Karesh called the Special Meeting to order at 9:00 am

Agenda Item #2 Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Karesh, Zapinski, Moffett, Conneely and Pecard. Also present was Executive Director Fleck

Agenda Item #3 Board to Conduct a Tour of the District's Parks and Facilities

The purpose of the tour was to address the condition of the District's parks and facilities to help the Board prioritize future projects and dollars as part of the ongoing Master and 5 Year Capital Planning process that began in October.

The tour departed promptly at 9:05 am on the Park District bus. Commissioner Pecard drove separately due to the expectation he may need to depart early for a personal obligation. The tour began at Veterans Memorial Park with a walk through of the Babe Ruth Field/Day Camp Garage. The elimination and replacement of this structure with a new multi-purpose building, storage and new restrooms is of great interest to the Board and staff. The visit confirmed for the Board that the structure is in very poor condition with a great deal of wasted space. Next stop was the playground at Veterans. The cosmetic condition of the rubber surfacing, the old Kompan tot structures, landscaping around the playground and the trees in need of trimming throughout the park received a significant amount of attention.

The next stops were Wilderness Park, Fairfield Tot Lot and Mertz Parks. The idea of placing pickleball at Mertz Park was discussed because of the available open space. The lack of parking and detention, along with the fact it is a neighborhood park, are all cons when considering this idea.

Rotary, Williams Cove, Muddy Waters, Mertz and Bellerive Parks followed thereafter. The oldest playground in the District's system is the 5 - 12-year-old playground at Mertz Park. This should be the first playground replacement under the proposed 5-year capital plan. Soccer lights at Bellerive Park was not of interest. The demand for extra field time does not exist. Future rentals would never be able to cover the expense of new lights.

The Golf Course and Diane Main Park garnered a fair amount of attention. The old upstairs apartment at the clubhouse was inspected. It is in need of improvements yet it was not considered a high priority. The aging Clubhouse deck and patio is a candidate for improvement to update its appearance and increase its seating capacity. At Diane Main Park the replacement of the original wood pole light system on Field 1 is a must. The old preschool and surrounding green space is a candidate for future pickleball courts. Lights on fields 1 and 2 or the tennis courts was not of interest because of the significant expense and future maintenance.

Lebeck, Kiwanis and Sentinel Parks were the next stops. The public seating space and landscaping at Kiwanis Park is in very poor shape. The Board agreed this is a high priority and should be upgraded under the 5-year plan. Sentinel Park playground recently had \$10,000 spent on replacement parts. It is now in good shape and should wait for replacement.

The next stop was the west parking lot at Ty Warner Park to inspect the playground rubber surface and bocce ball courts. The rubber surface in the 2 - 5-year-old playground needs attention placing it on the priority list. The bocce courts are the least used recreational element at the park, in fact, they never get used. Removal of these courts to construct four pickle ball courts is of great interest to the Board. The location has parking, shade and restrooms at the pavilion. This location has real possibilities for the Board. It was at this time that Commissioner Pecard left the park tour.

The Board moved onto the James M. Long Park parking lot adjacent to the Willow Crest Golf Course maintenance facility. Here Executive Director Fleck shared staff's need for a satellite garage to serve the maintenance crews and extensive maintenance operations north of Ogden Ave., primarily Ty Warner Park. The tiny garage at the ballfields is too small for all the equipment, mowers, carts and more. A fenced in, oversized residential type garage would also secure the Ty Warner Park dumpsters, preventing fly dumping that occurs on a regular basis. The E.D. proposes that the pavement restoration wait while this need is considered. The E.D. would contact the golf course to pursue possibilities of land sharing to accommodate such a garage.

Discussion then moved to the proposed development on the back 9 of the Willow Crest golf course by CoreSpaces, a high end residential rental development. There is great interest to provide pedestrian access from the development to Ty Warner Park without having to walk along Cass Ave. Impact fees, or help with future development, will be part of the discussion with CoreSpaces as the project moves through the approval process. Additionally, the need to create a Conservation Easement over the front 9 of the golf course is back on the table, same as it was in 2016 when the Natatorium was being considered on the hotel property. The District would be the beneficiary of said easement if the entire project becomes a reality.

Lastly, the tour finished up by visiting Fritz Werley Park, the new property at 418 N. Warwick Ave., and Lions Park. Future development of Fritz through an OSLAD Development Grant application is of high priority. It is also an obligation because the new parcel was acquired with the assistance of a IDNR LWCF grant. A new playground, shelter, interior pathway and fitness stations are desired. Lions Park is in need of extensive tree trimming and tree removal work.

Agenda Item #4 Adjournment

As the park and facility tour concluded, a motion was made by Commissioner Moffett and seconded by Commissioner Zapinski to adjourn the Special Meeting.

Ayes: Commissioners Conneely, Moffett, Zapinski, Karesh

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Pecard

Motion Carried.

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.