

JOINT PARK DISTRICT AND VILLAGE MEETING MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PARK BOARD OF COMISSIONERS
&
THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD
OF TRUSTREES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Arlington Heights Historical Museum

February 25, 2023

8:30 a.m.

Village President Hayes called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call taken.

Park District Commissioners: Maryfran Leno, President; Brian Owen, Commissioner; and Tim Gelinas, Vice President.

Mayor Tom Hayes and Village Trustees: Baldino, Canty, Grasse, LaBedz, Tinaglia, Scaletta, and Schwingbeck

Park District Staff: Carrie Fullerton, Executive Director; Jason Myers, Director of Finance and Personnel; and Dan Schoeneberg, Museum Director.

Village Staff: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager

Others in Attendance: Melissa Cayer

Presidents Hayes and Leno made introductory comments commending the level of intergovernmental cooperation present in Arlington Heights. Outgoing Village Trustees John Scaletta and Mary Beth Canty were acknowledged for their contributions during their tenure.

Citizens to Be Heard

Melissa Cayer suggested that public Wi-Fi should be turned off in public buildings after business hours to save on power costs.

Village Topics of Interest

Village Manager Recklaus thanked the Park District for being such a good partner, specifically highlighting help provided during storm events. He provided an update on the Village's new community survey, website, and highlighted recent Joint Village-Park efforts

including the Community Outreach Taskforce and land swaps for stormwater efforts and to assist in the Park District's improvements to Rec Park. Mr. Recklaus also gave an update on the Village's involvement in the Chicago Bears Organization's discussion on the redevelopment of the Arlington Racetrack property. Manager Recklaus provided an overview of actions taken by the Village to date including the development and passage of a Pre-Development Agreement, or roadmap with the Chicago Bears, and research with communities that already host NFL stadiums.

It was clarified that the property resides within the boundaries of Salt Creek Park District, but that there would be potential impacts and benefits for residents and taxing bodies throughout the community.

Trustees and Commissioners both discussed the Arlington Park Project and how environmental, downtown impact, and traffic concerns would be paramount for the community along with financial/economic issues.

Commissioner Owen suggested that the Village and Park District work more closely together on issues related to bike paths throughout the community.

Park District Topics of Interest

Executive Director Fullerton highlighted a number of the Park District's recently completed capital projects and the number of grants that had been applied for in recent months, as well as upcoming projects at the Administration Building, Arlington Lakes, Sunset Ridge, Happiness Park, Heritage Park, and Evergreen and Virginia Terrace Parks. She also noted that the District would be embarking on a new Comprehensive Master Planning Effort which would include a community survey, facility, open space, and program analyses, as well as a listening tour.

The district has formed a number of new employee taskforce work groups including ones that focus on DEI, Dare to Dream Innovation Awards, Safety, and Environmental issues. The District will soon be celebrating its 100th anniversary and work was underway to find ways to celebrate.

Director Fullerton also highlighted some of the ongoing joint efforts with the Village and expressed thanks for the good cooperation between the agencies.

President Hayes asked about the plan for Northwest Highway properties adjacent to Rec Park. Executive Director Fullerton indicated it would be mostly green space. She also spoke of the plans for a new skate park. Trustees Scaletta and LaBedz also spoke in favor of the skate park.

President Hayes suggested that the Park District reach out to the racetrack regarding the collection of leftover artifacts. Dan Schoeneberg indicated that they had already received about 300 artifacts from the track and were considering how to incorporate them into the collection.

Commissioner Gelinas suggested the Village work with the Chicago Bears to build a permanent museum on the stadium campus to celebrate the horse racing legacy of the site.

Public Comment for Agenda Items

Melisa Cayer suggested that the Village and Park District address the loss of farmland and long-term food security when they look at comprehensive planning.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn by Trustee Baldino and seconded by Trustee LaBedz. Meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie A. Fullerton, Secretary
Park District Board of Commissioners
Arlington Heights Park District

Maryfran H. Leno, President
Park District Board of Commissioners
Arlington Heights Park District