



Wilmette Park District **Board Brief**

Updates of interest from your Wilmette Park District Board of Park Commissioners

Public focus turns to West Park Master Plan

At the January 10 meeting, several members of the public spoke to express their opinions on the proposed West Park Master Plan. Speakers raised concerns regarding noise, lighting, loss of green-space and the safety of the relocated playground site. A plea was made to slow the process and gather additional public feedback before moving forward with the project.

Lakefront Committee reports on Langdon Beach and Lakeview Center

Vice President Goebel reported updates at the January 10 meeting regarding the topic of Langdon Beach shoreline protection, as well as current and future access. The Lakefront Committee examined three proposed concepts that present revetment and access options for the shore.

Goebel said that the committee asked staff to consult with SmithGroup regarding Concept C, and to learn more details and cost projections for a walker, stroller and wheelchair-friendly path. Commissioner Duffy asked if the committee has a preference of a ramp versus stairs, agreeing that “ADA is not a requirement at Langdon, but it’s a nice thing to have.” Commissioner Goebel explained, “if we find that a path is cost prohibitive or whatever other reason, no one is ruling out a stair.”

The Lakefront Committee also received initial renovation plans from Woodhouse Tinucci Architects on the upper and lower levels of the Lakeview Center. “We provided feedback on lower level configuration and also enquired about having family accessible bathrooms on both the upper and lower levels,” said Goebel.

Updates from the Golf Committee

Commissioner Duffy reported for Commissioner Anderson on the Golf Committee, at the January 10 meeting. Off season maintenance at the Wilmette Golf Club is going well as staff take advantage of the course being closed for the



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cart path project. The new cart path asphalt was complete as of December 4. The remaining restoration of the space adjacent to the path will be completed as weather permits.

“The balance of the meeting was spent discussing a memo on the proposal for the restaurant operations at the golf course,” explained Duffy. The committee directed staff to work with a proposal from The Lawn and their request for capital improvements to the restaurant space. The next-in-line proposal to be considered is the current occupant, A La Carte.

Centennial Committee discussed West Park, summer planning and more

President Murdock summarized that the bulk of the Centennial Committee meeting concerned the West Park amenities. Superintendent Solberg shared a presentation with updates concerning the plans and process. Murdock explained that “a parking study will be done to evaluate if there is sufficient parking in anticipation of a zoning board hearing in the next month or two.”

An on-site public meeting was held early this month at the paddle hut to gather feedback from the community. The general sentiment was in opposition to the West Park project, and written feedback has also been received both in support and opposition. Staff is investigating another playground location closer to the existing site.

Staff updated at the Centennial Committee meeting that the Summer Job Fair, which had been scheduled for January, is rescheduled for February due to COVID concerns. The Ice Show is scheduled for May 15 and the Platform Tennis Club had a club championship with 100 players. “It was the first time this event was done and it was very well received,” commented Murdock.

Ordinances and other updates from the Executive Director’s Report

Standing in for Director Wilson at the January 10 meeting was Superintendent Cox. She summarized the Parameters Ordinance for the issuance of debt, for which approval will be sought at next month’s meeting. She next explained the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 2022-O-1 which was approved by the board. The Surplus Property Ordinance 2022-O-2 was then explained and later approved by the board as well.

Superintendent Cox then discussed the Cook County code mitigations released on December 22. She explained that because the Village of Wilmette does not have a certified health department, we defer to the Cook County Department of Health and the Illinois Department of Public Health as our health authority. The park district worked diligently to create a plan and communicate with the community – and to adjust the plan as the mandates were lessened following the initial release. “We have worked within the spirit of what the mandate is, and we have been relatively successful in holding to those mandates while serving the community,” said Cox.

Kara Kosloskus

Commissioner

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The board expressed their deep appreciation to park district staff for their efforts regarding the Cook County mitigations. Commissioner Kosloskus commended, "please pass along a thank you to the staff, recognizing that it was the holiday and they had to work extra hours they would have spent with their families."

To read the full minutes from our past Board meetings, click [here](#). Minutes are posted after they are approved at a subsequent meeting.

Next Board meeting: **Monday, February 14** at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall at 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette. All meetings are open to the public. Details will be posted on the [Park Board](#) page on our website.

Meetings will be available on Channel 6 locally for Comcast subscribers. View a live meeting online [here](#), or view previous meeting recordings [here](#). *Please check our [website](#) for updates.*

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