

Springfield Park District

Public Hearing Minutes

John F. Linxwiler Administrative Office / Bunn Park
2500 South 11th Street / Springfield, IL

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Roll Call

President Sgro called the meeting to order.

Members Participating in Person: President Sgro, and Trustees Wescott, Eck, Theilen, Aiello and Rodgers.

Members Unavailable: Trustee Hoogland.

Others Participating in Person: Derek Harms, Executive Director, Jason Graham, Director of Parks & Planning; Stephen Flesch, Director of Finance & Administration; Angie Whisnant, Director of Recreation and Marketing, staff and public.

Public Hearing/Input

President Sgro opened the public hearing regarding the OSLAD Grant Application for Lincoln Park Redevelopment and asked if anybody would like to address the Board this evening for this project.

No Public Comments

Executive Director Derek Harms stated he's got a quick presentation, couple slides to run through real quick. (Attached and made part of the original record)

So, we are applying for an OSLAD Grant to redevelop Lincoln Park Playground as we've previously discussed with the Board.

Executive Director Harms states the overall planning process involves a kickoff meeting, we have done the site visit, and evaluated the existing inventory. We've done some preliminary design and input from the Park District and tonight, of course, is the public hearing to solicit any public feedback that we may receive and then the final step will be to actually apply for the OSLAD Grant.

IDNR just announced yesterday a new list of distressed communities which we are still on, and they've extended the deadline to apply to set to September 15th. So, we've got a little bit more time on this, but we're going to keep moving forward quickly.

This is an aerial view of the existing site conditions on the north side or to the top of this slide. You can see the parking lot for the Nelson Center, the park shelter there, which is existing. That's probably one of our most heavily used park shelters. Certainly, the top 10.

The existing sidewalk that was just put in in the last, say five years and nice accessible wide approach ramp and then the existing playground.

The proposed site and this is a little small, I apologize, includes several passive and active recreation areas. We're going to leave the existing sidewalk as you come in to access the playground from the parking lot, we'll have a sensory area and a butterfly garden and a sitting area which is the number one. It's kind of on the upper left and the dark green there. We'll have two shade structures on either side of the playground, similar to the shade structures at Iles Park. I think it's a 12 by 12 or so single pole shade.

And then we have two kinds of larger play areas. One is for children designed specifically for children aged 5 to 12 and another one for children aged 2 to 5. So, we're going to kind of separate them.

President Sgro states I love that.

Executive Director Harms states This overall footprint is actually slightly larger than Iles Park playground for comparison purposes and Iles is a very large community sized playground.

Then we also have some independent play areas, and this slide also shows the engineered wood fiber we have.

President Sgro states I love the butterfly garden.

Executive Director Harms states yeah, that'll be really fun.

President Sgro states yeah, that's lovely idea.

Executive Director Harms states and then we also have a sensory music walk, which is on kind of the Northside of the playground, not just, you know physical play, but there also be sensory play and imaginative play designed in that area as well.

So that's the overall footprint. We also have a slide that shows a sample of what the playground may look like for the older kids age 5 to 12 with the approach ramp and some elevated platforms.

An aerial of what the playground for the younger kids aged 2 to 5 May be, and of course the new modern kind of swing bays that will be out there as well.

So that said again, the potential grant elements include an accessible all ages, community sized playground and music sensory walk, concrete walkways, park shelters and sitting areas. The site furnishings, and then passive and active recreation areas, including the Butterfly Garden. And then we'll do some native tree plantings as well.

So it's a high level overview. If anybody has any questions or any feedback, we're happy to take it. Otherwise, we will move forward. We will put the grant application together. There's a lot of work that needs to be done between now and then. We're glad for the extra timeline from IDNR and keep your fingers crossed that it will be Awarded.

Trustee Theilen states my only thought would be that it might help us on the grant itself is if we put some things in there that were for ADA accessible kids. I didn't see any on the picture.

President Sgro states we always have some of those elements now.

Executive Director Harms states yeah, the swings and then the approach ramp and the sensory garden and of course, the music play area specifically designed for that. And of course, the engineer wood fiber is an accessible playground surface material as well.

President Sgro states so I definitely think though that one of the elements needs to be a top hat kind of climbing thing to Lincoln Park.

Trustee Theilen states yeah, we have the opportunity after we find out.

Executive Director Harms states hopefully we get awarded the grant and then we can get into some of the details there. Those things are expensive.

Trustee Theilen states because it'd be cool to turn around and have it look like a log cabin type stuff, and then the top hat idea.

President Sgro states yeah.

Trustee Theilen states but let's get the grant and then we can worry about the details.

President Sgro states right.

President Sgro seeing no further public comment closed the Public Hearing

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board it was moved by Trustee Theilen and seconded by Trustee Rodgers that the meeting adjourns at 5:37 p.m.