

Springfield Park District
PUBLIC HEARING

Springfield Art Association
700 N. 4th Street / Springfield, IL

Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Prior to Committee of the Whole Meeting

MINUTES

Call to Order

Roll Call

Members Participating in Person: Trustees: Badger, Westcott, Theilen,
Metcalf and President Sgro

Members Unavailable: Trustees Schmidt & Eck

Other Participants in Person: Derek Harms, Executive Director; Jason Graham,
Director of Parks; Amanda Tippin, Asst. Director

Recreation: Stephen Flesch, Director of Finance & Administration; Park
District Police Chief Patrick Murphy; Representatives from
the Springfield Police Department; Representatives from the
Neighborhood Associations; Staff; Public; and
Alderswoman Lakeisha Purchase;
Alderman Roy Williams, Jr.

Public Hearing/Input

President Sgro opened the public hearing. She informed those in attendance that the Board received funding to update Enos Park and Gehrmann Park through a partnership with the City of Springfield. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public and solicit feedback on potential improvement projects. The Board would not take any action at tonight's meeting.

Executive Director Derek Harms explained that this will be the largest investment of capital resources in these parks in several years. The last large improvement project completed at Gehrmann Park was in 2010 with the Community playground build and the last project at Enos Park was in 2008 with the redevelopment plan. Executive Director Harms presented several potential improvement projects in each park and then open the floor for feedback from the public.

Of the public in attendance, thirteen spoke all in support of the updates suggested by the board and were very pleased with the updates for both parks. Suggestions that were given by the public in addition to what was mentioned by the Board were: lighting in the shelter at Enos Park, updating

walkways in Gehrman, updating the playground equipment at Enos park as well as the playground surface material, additional power outlets, a water spicket, benches or tables lighting at the Gehrman Park. Other suggestions given were possibly a bike path just around the park for children, areas for the older children, year-round plants, cameras for security and finding some solution to keep the bathrooms open so the public can use them.

Park District Police and City of Springfield Police addressed the public speaking of the vandalism and police calls received regarding Enos Park. It was mentioned that Gehrman Park is less active, and they really don't receive many calls about that park, but that as far as Enos Park they get many calls and most of them are serious offenses. They all stated that better lighting would help a lot. The city police also recommended a heavier police presence, license plate readers and agreed with the other suggestions of lighting.

President Sgro stated the Board will continue discussions regarding the additional ideas from the public. A survey was handed out tonight and asked to be completed by anyone in the public that has suggestions and then to submit them to the board for further review and discussion. President Sgro explained that the board wants to get this approved very soon but they do want the additional information from the surveys and have time to review and see what can be implemented in the updates without going over budget.

Close Public Hearing

There being no further business to come before the Board it was moved by Trustee Badger and seconded by Trustee Westcott that the meeting be adjourned at 6:15 p.m.