

Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Members Participating Virtually: Trustees: Badger, Hammer, Metcalf, Schmidt, Senor-Moore, Theilen and President Sgro

Members Participating in Person: None

Members Unavailable: None

Others Participating Virtually: Stephen Flesch, Director of Finance & Administration
Lynn Saputo, Director of Recreation, Rob Cross, Legal Counsel and Jason Baldessari, Spohn Ranch

Others Participating in Person: Derek Harms, Executive Director and Jason Graham, Director of Parks

A virtual meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on January 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Members of the public were provided an opportunity to participate through a tele-broadcast, compliant with the Governor’s executive Order issued as a result of the COVID-19 procedure temporarily suspending various requirements of the OMA.

President Sgro opened the meeting and declared the following:

“Based upon the COVID 19 outbreak and the Governor Executive Orders, the Board declares in person meetings impractical at this time and not prudent based on the nature of the disaster.”

No one from the public was in attendance.

Iles Park Skate Park Design

Jason Baldessari, Spohn Ranch, presented a skate park development plan for Iles Park. Information was gathered from participants attending park district meetings, workshops and surveys to encourage public input. Proposed Iles layout should appeal to a broader audience offering basic features for free skate allowing low impact for beginner to intermediate levels. Director Harms added staff will be seeking Board approval of the skate design to the process started. The Plaza area design is still being reviewed. Trustees asked staff to inquire about warranty information and provide prior to Board approval.

Developer’s Agreement with City of Springfield for Enos Park and Sangamon Housing Authority TIF Districts

Discussion continues with the Mayor’s office regarding TIF Districts. Mayor introduced an ordinance for review which would allow the Park District to use TIF funds to complete

development projects on park properties. President Sgro suggested waiting until City approves and is supported by City. Developers Agreement has an exact amount to be paid to the District 30 days after City approves. Funds must be used for TIF approved items. Discussion was held regarding the Park District spending authority and parameters as to how money could be spent. No Board action will be taken until City approves.

Zoo Veterinarian Contract Renewal

Staff presented the Board with a three-year renewal contract with Countryside Veterinarian Services, LLC for consideration. Records retention are much better and vaccine records are updated. Staff has established a good working relationship with Countryside and recommends Board approval of the renewal at the same rate. (Contract attached)

Executive Director Employment Contract

Board unanimously agreed to renew the Executive Director's agreement with a 3% increase same as the last two years. Trustees expressed their confidence and appreciation of Director Harms' performance and plans to approve at the January Board meeting.

Staff Updates RE: COVID-19

Staff advised the Board it is possible the COVID-19 status could change from the current Phase 4 /Tier 3 Mitigations to Tier 2 as early as January 15th based on IDPH metrics. Tier 2 is a new status which we have not yet observed. Staff is monitoring the status closely and will communicate with supervisors any status changes should they occur. Vaccinations were also discussed as Park Police qualify under the category of first responders.

Finance Department Note: Stephen Flesch, Director of Finance informed the Board staff is working on the budget and plan to present to the Board at the March Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before
The Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.