

CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
June 28, 2023

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Hays presided over the meeting.

Present, In-Person: President Craig W. Hays, Vice President Timothy P. McMahon, Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl and Michael R. Somers, Sarah Sandquist, Executive Director, Jarrod Scheunemann, Director of Administrative Services/Board Secretary, and Attorney Guy Hall.

Present, Online: Commissioner Jane L. Solon

Staff Present, In-Person: Andrew Weiss, Director of Planning, and Heather Miller, Director of Human Resources.

Call to Order

President Hays called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

There being a quorum of the public body physically present, prior notice duly given to the Board Secretary, and in accordance with and to the extent allowed by the Park District's rules adopted in Ordinance 512: An Ordinance Defining Meeting and Adopting Procedures for Electronic Attendance at Meetings of the Champaign Park District. Commissioner McMahon made a motion for Commissioner Solon to attend the study session by means other than physical presence pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/7(a)(iii) family emergency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. The motion passed 5-0.

Comments from the Public

None.

Discussion Items

1. Hedge Park Staff Update

Mr. Weiss provided an update about the Hedge Park project. He stated that staff have attended several Hedge Park design meetings with City planning, engineering, and public works staff, as well as architects from Hitchcock Design (Hitchcock).

Previously, the City developed and managed a pop-up park in the proposed park space to test recreation amenities and activities as well as engage with local residents to determine their needs and desires for a future park. The results of these activities were used by Hitchcock to develop an initial conceptual design for Hedge Park. Hitchcock was encouraged by Park District staff to reduce, rearrange, and replace the number and type of amenities within the ½ acre area.

The most recent design was presented to the Park Board for discussion. It includes a half-court basketball court, splash pad, playground, swing set, exercise equipment, a reading circle, picnic area, and a Sutu wall. A Sutu wall is an electronically enabled gaming wall that offers participants a variety of ball sports skill development games.

Discussion and clarifications ensued regarding the cost estimate, durability, location, and maintenance of the Sutu wall. Mr. Weiss responded that the Sutu wall's cost estimate is \$60,000.00. He noted that it has been installed and performs well in similar climates and it is composed of durable polycarbonate panels with a steel frame. Mr. Weiss added that fencing will surround the wall to prevent errant balls from impacting other recreation activities. The wall is manufacturer supported by a ten-year subscription that provides the software and games for the wall and monitors the wall and gaming system for maintenance needs. Mr. Weiss will investigate the terms of renewal for the subscription.

Discussion and clarifications ensued about the lifespan of the recommended park amenities, the future cost for replacement, and whether the City will share future replacement expenses. Ms. Sandquist responded that staff will share cost estimates and that the amenities should achieve normal life expectancy ranges. Staff will contact the City to determine if it is willing to share future expenses. Current expectations are that the City will construct the park and install the amenities, with the Park District maintaining the above ground or surface level space as well as the recreation amenities.

Commissioner Kuhl expressed interest in providing a shade structure within closer proximity to the reading circle rather than the basketball court, especially since it will take years for trees to grow to a height to provide adequate shade. President Hays shared his preference for a more durable steel roof shade structure.

The Commissioners reviewed a draft intergovernmental agreement with the City. They came to consensus to direct staff to contact the City about sharing the costs of future Hedge Park expenses.

President Hays requested more information about the project's timeline. Mr. Weiss responded that the City plans to let bids in August.

Executive Session

Commissioner Kuhl moved pursuant to the basis set forth below to convene into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers. The motion passed 5-0. The Board convened into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS Par. 120/2 (c)(5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

Return to Regular Meeting

Following the adjournment of the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in open meeting.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Solon asked whether the Park District would be participating in the Fourth of July Parade. Ms. Sandquist responded that she would distribute the information to the Board.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President McMahon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Approved:

Craig W. Hays, President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary