



# Wheaton Park District

**Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Budget Workshop  
Meeting Minutes  
Saturday October 22, 2016  
Community Center  
1777 S. Blanchard Street, Wheaton, Illinois**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

President Hodgkinson called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Commissioners Frey, Vires, Kelly, Mee, Morrill and President Hodgkinson were present, Commissioner Schobel was absent.

Staff members present were:

Bruce Stoller, Dan Novak, Mary Beth Cleary, Mike Benard, Rob Sperl, Steve Hinchee, and Rita Trainor.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Capital Budget**

Executive Director (ED) Mike Benard summarized the 19 page capital budget report provided to the board and suggested Commissioner Kelly (chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee) or Rob Sperl lead the discussion on the projects. ED Benard also led a brief overview of the political climate/the status of the lack of a state budget and the proposed Rauner property tax freeze. ED Benard then walked the board through the capital overview report and made references to the grants and donations page. He mentioned future plans include revitalizing the Friends of Lincoln Marsh into a more robust fund raising apparatus. He then handed off the lead to Rob Sperl and Commissioner John Kelly to go through each capital project.

Commissioner Kelly asked about what was being spent in 2017 for ice that would cost \$700K. Rob Sperl/Steve Hinchee explained it was detailed on page 5 of the capital report package. Rob then proceeded to walk through the report. Commissioners asked sundry questions on the projects as they proceeded through the list.

An indoor adventure playground concept is in budget and Mike elaborated upon the concept and indicated he thought it would be a revenue source that would provide a 2-3 year return on investment.

Commissioner Kelly questioned the 2016 projection of HVAC improvements. It was agreed it should be zeroed out.

Gateway Gardens was the next project discussed. Rob Sperl explained it was initially a 3-phase project. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> phases were completed. The remaining work includes a fountain, additional planting areas and a historic plaza area commemorating the former schools at the site. Board members expressed doubt about spending \$500K on the Gateway Garden project because it is not used. They believe it needs to look nice because it is a gateway to the city, but since it is not actively used, it might not be the best place for some of the work proposed by staff. They suggested cutting the project cost to \$250K. ED Benard offered to reduce it to \$250K and if they come up with a plan to spend more that we will get partners to fund anything above the \$250K. It was agreed that amount would be \$250K.

ED Benard provided an update on the condemnation proceedings on the Williams property.

The Memorial Park Master Plan engineering estimate was questioned. The end result of the discussion was the amount was reasonable for now, but should be split between 2017 and 2018.

The \$100,000 budgeted in 2017 for Annual Pond & Stream maintenance will be removed since work at Rathje has been delayed.

The recabling of the District's cable was discussed next and Commissioner Kelly has offered to review the proposals generated thus far. He also indicated the District would need to go out to bid on this project. ED Benard explained the need to update the cabling and the commissioners agreed with the recommendation, contingent upon Commissioner Kelly's involvement and review of the actual plans.

The Community Center's metal roof project was next and the question was whether all of the costs related to it had been included as they believed there were additional costs, it was explained that the other costs to be incurred from the envelope study were detailed out on page 14 of the capital report and that they were not included in the capital page because they fell below the capitalization threshold.

The Rice Pool master plan was to be split \$250K between 2017 and 2018 instead of all \$500K in 2017 as presented in the report. The Seven Gables irrigation, Parking Expansion and Playground surface line should have the word irrigation removed and on page 8 the \$25K projection for 2016 for Seven Gables irrigation engineering should be changed to zero.

Irrigation projects were next discussed, amounts were left as presented, but board direction was for staff to prioritize the ones they actually want to do and move forward based upon the prioritization.

Mike proposed an idea about digging a well to fill the pool at Rice to avoid having to pay the city for water which with the rate increases experienced over the past few years have been significant drivers in making the pools lose money. The board indicated that Mike could proceed with exploring the possibility.

Due to recent concerns with lead pipes in other organizations, it was recommended that we may want to consider testing now to be able to answer any questions. This should only be a concern in older buildings.

ED Benard walked through the 2017 staff recommendations.

- The alarm and video surveillance project was revised to be \$250K in 2018 and 2019 instead of 2017 and 2018.
- The payroll timekeeping 2016 projection was moved to 2017.
- The Central Park tennis court fencing was moved to 2019.
- The Vita Course replacement has now gotten a \$24K grant which will need to be added to the grant schedule in the report.

The board held a discussion about how to use excess Arrowhead money. The general consensus was to keep it larger for now and draw down other funds to avoid large fund balances where tax objections could arise from an unnecessary accumulation of funds. In the year(s) the projects to be funded by the Golf Fund would actually take place should be when the transfers should be budgeted and made.

President Hodgkinson reviewed upcoming events/meetings to see if board would be able to attend. They also discussed the upcoming operating budget meeting and discussed the possibility of moving the meeting up earlier.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mee and seconded by Commissioner Frey. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:30AM.