



Wheaton Park District

**Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners
SUBCOMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday April 2, 2025
DuPage County Historical
Museum
102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL 60187
5:00 pm**

CALL TO ORDER –

President Kelly called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., Commissioner Frey, Commissioner Vires, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Pecharich, Commissioner Mee and Commissioner Welker were present.

Staff Present included: Executive Director Benard, Executive Assistant Siciliano, Director of Parks and Planning Sperl, Superintendent of Planning Hinchee, Director of Arrowhead Operations Novak, Director of Marketing Wilhelmi, Director of Finance Simpson

Guest: Scott Morlock, Principal - Williams Architects

COMMUNITY INPUT - None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Finance and Administration

1. 2025 Independence Day Fireworks & Drone Show – Review of Proposals

Executive Director Benard reported that DuPage County is building a transportation facility adjacent to the location at the Fairgrounds where the annual Fourth of July fireworks display is launched. When the transportation facility is completed in early 2027, we will no longer be able to launch fireworks from that location as there will be multiple fueling stations at the new site well within the 350 foot safety perimeter required by law for pyrotechnics displays. We will be able to launch fireworks from this location in 2026, but not 2027.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org

We are exploring possible alternate locations for 2027 but the challenge will be to find a location that has the positive attributes that the Fairgrounds and Graf Park have including the availability of significant on-site parking, a large viewing area and the required 350 foot safety perimeter from the launch site.

With the use of drone shows on the rise as an alternative to pyrotechnics for July Fourth Celebrations, we would like to prepare for the eventuality that in 2027 we may have to pivot that direction. We have researched options for a combined fireworks and drone show for the 2025 show for park board consideration with the goal being to assess public response to the drone component. The additional cost of providing a combined show this year can be partially offset by the \$14,500 in costs that were not paid to the 2024 fireworks vendor because the show was suspended halfway through due to the malfunction. Benard reported that we will not be engaging the 2024 fireworks vendor for the 2025 show.

Benard reviewed the budget for July 3rd and 4th celebrations which indicates a subsidy of \$10,000 to \$15,000 after the financial contribution from the City of Wheaton. The City of Wheaton agreed to increase their annual financial contribution to the Independence Day celebrations from \$30,000 to \$40,000 beginning in 2024. Commissioner Welker stated that we should ask the city for a larger contribution.

Commissioner Pecharich requested that Benard to confirm with the county that we can launch a drone show from the Fairgrounds property adjacent to the new transportation facility in 2027.

After discussion, the majority of the board achieved consensus that staff should present the combined 2025 fireworks and drones show concept to the Board for approval.

2. **Ordinance 2025-03** – Review of an Ordinance Approving the Disposal and Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Wheaton Park District.
No discussion.
3. **Illinois Association of Park Districts 2025 Legislative Reception & Conference April 29-30** – Review of Commissioner Attendance
Benard stated that Commissioner Barrett would like to attend.
4. **2025 Staff Leadership Training Program** – Review of Proposal
Benard stated that this training format was used in 2017, 2018 and 2019. 110 staff members will participate in and benefit from this program which includes 7.5 hours of training over 5 sessions. The cost will be \$30,000 plus the cost for the Disc Assessments at \$35 each. The board supported the proposal.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org

5. **Grant Agreements with the Cosley Foundation Inc – Review of Grant Agreements**
 - a. Zoo overflow parking area design and construction
 - b. Zoo existing conditions audit
 - c. Zoo veterinary equipment

The Cosley Foundation Board recently approved the Grant Agreements.

6. **Utility Procurement – Review of Natural Gas Contract Options**

The current two-year gas contracts expire July 1. Benard informed the board that we have been using Tradition Energy as our Utility broker since 2014 and began soliciting prices through a direct supplier to supplement the work of the broker in 2023. Because of the market fluctuations, prices are only valid for one day. Benard will write the motion with a not to exceed price, but not putting a specific company or price per therm or decatherm on the motion as valid pricing won't be available until after the board meeting. Benard would like the board's permission to decide between the broker's pricing and IGS Energy. IGS is a direct supplier so there are no additional brokerage fees associated with this company. The board agreed to a nonspecific motion allowing Benard to make the decision on which based on best price and contract terms in the days following the board meeting.

Buildings and Grounds

1. **Ray Morrill Community Center Entrance Facade Improvements – Review of bid results**

Scott Morlock from Williams Architects reviewed the bid results. The low bidder, LZ Design, came in at \$66 ,700. Board members were concerned with the amount and asked Morlock to explore possible cost reduction opportunities.
2. **Danada South Park Lease with DuPage County Forest Preserve District – Review of proposed park design plan update and request for term extension**

Benard reviewed proposed amendments to the park master plan and lease length and sought consensus to approach the Forest Preserve District for approval. The Board agreed.
3. **Central Athletic Complex Parking Lot Project – Review of change order #1**

The additional work will facilitate safer pedestrian access to the building from the north parking lot. The additional costs will be reimbursable via the polling place grant from DuPage County. The project engineer will provide their written opinion concerning the change order as priced.
4. **Central Athletic Complex Parking Lot Project – Review of additional services proposal**

This \$1,500 contract increase from ERA is related to the design of pedestrian access improvement. The additional costs will be reimbursable via the polling place grant from DuPage County.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org

5. **2025 Vehicle purchases** – Review of quotes for two transit vans
Benard reported that these purchases will be made through a cooperative bidding program. Legal counsel verified that quotes are provided directly from the dealer through this model.
6. **Cosley Zoo Education Pavilion & Duck Enclosure Project** – Review of Change Order Proposal
President Kelly stated that he and staff met with EP Doyle to review the details of this change order. The change order will continue to be refined collaboratively with the contractor and presented to the board for approval.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Zoo and Prairie Office staff alternate parking option during zoo busy months while we wait for the City's Gary Avenue project to be completed. A lease with neighboring Wheaton Oaks Office building owners is being pursued.
- Arrowhead driving range improvement RFP for design services has been released. Staff are completing a related business plan for board review.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:20 p.m. Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Commissioner Pecharich Motion carried by voice vote.



Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org