

Special Meeting  
July 13, 2015

At the call of President Glen Marcum, the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners met for a Special Meeting on Monday, July 13, 2015 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 205 East Jackson Street, Joliet, IL 60432. The meeting began at 6:00pm.

Pledge to the Flag

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Vice President Schultz.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Marcum, Schultz, Gulas, Mutz

Commissioners Absent: Broderick

President Marcum noted that Commissioner Broderick was unable to attend the meeting.

A. Discussion of the East Side Recreation Center

Dominic Egizio, Chief Executive Officer, thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr. Egizio stated that the Joliet Park District staff and Board of Commissioners listened to the concerns and comments from the residents at the Special Meeting on May 5, 2015 regarding the Nowell Park Recreation Center. The staff is excited for the recreation center. The community needs this facility and we feel it will enhance the quality of life for the residents for many years.

Mr. Egizio stated that the Bath House will need to be removed for the new recreation center but the Joliet Park District is committed to saving the pavilion.

Mr. Egizio introduced Daniel Atilano from Dewberry Architects.

1. Daniel Atilano, Dewberry Architects Inc.

Mr. Atilano noted that some of the plans and designs for the recreation center have been changed based on the comments about diversity in programming from the May 5, 2015 Special Meeting. Mr. Atilano stated that the basketball courts have been added and changed the indoor walking track to a outdoor walking/biking path. The IHSA basketball/volleyball courts use a portable wood floor system. The wooden floors are removable and will be stored at the recreation center. Under the portable wood floor is the indoor field turf for soccer and infield baseball practice. Around the perimeter of the field house is a fitness center with lockers and showers, office space, restrooms, multi-purpose room, front desk/lobby and a child watch area.

Mr. Egizio noted that the child watch area is for a babysitting service limited to an hour and a half while patrons are using the facility.

Mr. Atilano stated that the recreation center will be built where the current parking lot is located and a new parking lot would be placed at the old pool site between the pavilion and the recreation center.

Mr. Atilano noted that the designs are still preliminary so there may be some changes once the construction begins.

B. Opportunity for the Public to Speak – 3 minute time limit

Norvea Clerk, inquired about having a swimming pool at the Nowell Park Recreation Center. Mr. Egizio stated that there will not be a swimming pool. The Joliet Park District has a swimming pool at the Inwood Athletic Club and Splash Station.

Willie Sellers, questioned the Board about how the local contractors will be contacted about the construction of the recreation center. Mr. Egizio stated that the construction management company is Henry Bros. and they will keep local contractors in mind. However, as a park district, we follow the state guidelines which means that any work over \$20,000 will be competitively bid.

Rose Crosby, inquired about the outside walking track. Mr. Egizio stated that the track will tie into the existing walking trail. In the future, the goal is to connect the Nowell Park trail to the Will County Forest Preserve trail.

Eddie Young, questioned the Board about the security for the recreation center. Mr. Egizio confirmed that cameras will be installed in the facility and the Joliet Police Department is used for special events or when needed. Mr. Young inquired about the multipurpose rooms being used for tutoring programs. Mr. Egizio said that we currently have a tutoring program at the Hartman Center and would use a similar format. The Park District is always looking for volunteers for the tutoring program. Mr. Young asked about the availability of the courts if there are tournaments. Mr. Egizio stated that this currently happens at other facilities about three to four times a year.

Sharon Merwin, Joliet Historic Preservation Commission, noted the important significance of the Bath House architect Webster Tomlinson. Mr. Tomlinson worked alongside architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The Bath House's Mission Revival architecture is a unique style to Joliet. Ms. Merwin would like the features of the new building be the same as the pavilion to add value to the area. Ms. Merwin mention the control tower at Union Station was saved, repurposed and is now a museum.

Marilyn Dixon, asked about the viewing area outside the field house. Ms. Dixon feels that it will be too crowded and someone in a wheelchair will have a difficult time. Ms. Dixon asked about the existing tennis courts. Mr. Egizio stated that the tennis courts will remain. Mr. Atilano explained that there will also be seating inside the field house.

Rhodella Russell, inquired about the existing pavilions remaining and why there is no water feature for the kids. Mr. Egizio stated that the pavilions will remain and the mission style pavilion will be repaired and the current splash pad at Nowell Park will be upgraded when the new building is constructed.

Warren Doris, commended the Joliet Park District for listening to the community and for adding the basketball courts.

Marie Lopez, mentioned that there are existing parks that are in bad condition and asked that the Board consider improving these parks. Ms. Lopez also expressed that she would like to see more baseball fields. Mr. Egizio stated that as part of the approved Referendum, many parks will be renovated. There are currently eight parks that will be updated this fall and six more parks in 2016.

Brandy Philips, expressed her excitement for the future of Joliet and Nowell Park. Ms. Philips thanked the Park District, Sacred Heart Church, elected officials and the residents for coming to the meeting and being an active part of making Nowell Park all that it can be.

C. Board Comments

President Marcum thanked everyone for coming and thanked Father Raymond Lescher for hosting the meeting. President Marcum expressed his thoughts about encouraging all kids to apply for the job openings at the Nowell Park Recreation Center and reminded the public that the goal for the recreation center is to meet the needs of the residents while generating enough revenue to be self-sufficient.

D. Adjournment

With all agenda items discussed, a motion was made by Vice President Schultz, seconded by Commissioner Gulas, to adjourn the meeting. The motion unanimously carried. The time was 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dominic P. Egizio, Jr.  
Board Secretary