

Work Session
September 19, 2016

At the call of the President, Glen Marcum, the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners met for a Work Session on Monday, September 19, 2016 in the Board Room at the Presence Inwood Athletic Club, 3000 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL. The meeting began at 5:00pm

Pledge to the Flag
The Pledge to the Flag was led by Commissioner Schultz

Roll Call
Commissioners Present: Marcum, Gulas, Broderick, Schultz, and Mutz
Commissioners Absent: None

A. Opportunity to Speak – 3 minute time limit

Charles Lane, expressed his concern about the Joliet Park District not having a policy which bans cell phone use in the hot tub area.

Tom Carstens, Executive Director, noted that the current practice is to permit cell phones in the pool area which allows parents to be able to take pictures of their children during swim meets and lessons. Mr. Carstens stated that he would review the practice and contact Mr. Lane.

Greg Murphy stated that he does not live within the Joliet Park District boundaries (resides in Braidwood) but does own a business within the boundaries and pays the Joliet Park District taxes. Mr. Murphy inquired about using his business address to obtain a resident rates for programs/facilities.

President Marcum directed Mr. Carstens to contact Mr. Murphy after staff looks into the current residency policy.

B. Joliet Regional Airport – Future Projects

Tom Carstens, Executive Director, introduced Jennifer McFarland, Joliet Regional Airport Superintendent, and the Airport Advisory Board.

Ms. McFarland and Airport Advisory Board Member, Mark Streit, gave a presentation regarding the construction of a new 12 unit T-Hangar facility at the Joliet Regional Airport. Currently, the Joliet Airport has 10 unit structures. The current waiting list for aircraft storage is at 31 people. Ms. McFarland stated that the additional 12 unit hangar has the potential to be a guaranteed revenue source for the Joliet Park District. No businesses will be affected by this construction. All aircraft currently housed at the airport will have 24 hour access to all facilities. Current cost estimate is \$423,700 which includes materials, steel erection, concrete/excavating, electric and permits.

Matt Pehle, Director of Finance, stated that the financing would come one of two ways; from alternate revenue bonds or debt certificates. The advantage with the debt certificate is that you do not need to prove that the dedicated revenue source would be enough to repay the bonds, although interest is somewhat higher. It was noted that this has been done before and the previous hangar bonds are retired.

Mr. Carstens stated that it is the staff's recommendation to go ahead with the construction of the additional hangar. The Board agreed that the additional hangar would be a good investment. The construction of a new 12 unit T-Hangar facility at the Joliet Regional Airport would be added to the September 26, 2016 Board Meeting agenda for a formal approval.

C. Referendum Projects: Update

Mr. Carstens stated the playgrounds and parks renovations are going well and on scheduled.

Mr. Carstens stated that the first phase for the Security & Surveillance Project would be for the Inwood Athletic Club, Ice Arena and parking lot. Staff is recommending that the Joliet Park District go through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) to receive quotes for the Security & Surveillance Project. The NJPA is a unit of local government in Minnesota that has been formed to provide governmental agencies the ability to participate in joint contract purchasing which provides competitive rates. Mr. Carstens stated that he has used NJPA before and is confident in the process. At the September 26th Board Meeting, a resolution will be brought to the Board authorizing a Membership Agreement between the Joliet Park District and the National Joint Powers Alliance.

Mr. Carstens updated the Board on the Nowell Park/East Side Community Center. The Board was given a revised operating budget. Mr. Carstens expressed concerns about decreasing the size of the facility in order to stay within the budget and the possibility of moving the pavilion for additional parking. There was a discussion about the location of the facility being at Nowell Park. Some concerns addressed were safety issues with walking or riding a bike to the facility, the amount of traffic, and anticipating a revenue deficit each year.

The Board agreed to look into other locations on the East Side that may better benefit the community. Mr. Carstens stated that he will update the Board on any locations and recommends having a Work Session specifically for this facility.

D. Vacation Policy

Mr. Carstens and Brad Staab, Deputy Director, informed the Board that a meeting was held with staff to hear their concerns about the current Vacation Policy. The current vacation policy was approved by the Board effective January 1, 2013 based on an annual audit review concerning staff's accumulated vacation days. The policy states that excess accumulated vacation days were to be used by April 30, 2017. In response to staff concerns about not being able to use all of their vacation time by April 2017, the Directors met several times and came up with two potential options that would address staff concerns and be fiscally responsible.

There was a discussion about the two options and the number of employees that would be affected along with the impact on the Park District fiscally. The Board requested another option where staff would not lose any vacation time or be “grandfathered in” prior to the January 1, 2013 policy. In addition, the Board stated that all staff should follow the new Vacation Policy.

E. Board Manual

Commissioner Broderick stated that the Joliet Park District has never adopted a Board Policy Manual. The Board was presented with a draft Board Policy Manual which includes best practices from other park districts along with practices specific to the Joliet Park District. Items discussed were: Functions of the Board, Power and Duties of the Board, Meetings of the Board, Commission Privileges, Ethics and Conduct, and Vacancy. The manual would be revised based on comments and brought back to the Board in October for further discussion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mutz, seconded by Commissioner Schultz, to allow Chris Wilhelmi the opportunity to speak; there is a three minute time limit. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

Chris Wilhelmi requested that the Board consider honoring Ben Moreno for all his work and dedication to the boxing program at Hartman Recreation Center. The Board agreed that Mr. Moreno should be recognized and directed staff to look into a type of dedication/recognition.

F. Executive Session: The Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the Park District; Consideration of the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees; Pending Litigation; Probable or Imminent Litigation

There was no Executive Session.

G. Adjournment

With all agenda items discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Schultz. His motion was seconded by Vice President Gulas and it carried unanimously. The time was 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Talarico
Recording Secretary