

Special Meeting
April 27, 2017

At the call of President Sue Gulas, the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners met for a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2017 at UNITY CDC, 1 Doris Avenue, Joliet, IL. The meeting began at 6:00pm.

A. Pledge of the Flag

The Pledge of the Flag was led by Commissioner Broderick.

B. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Broderick, Gould, Schultz, Mutz and Gulas

Commissioner Broderick asked for a moment of silence for Semaj Crosby.

C. Presentation of the Nowell Park Recreation Center

Tom Carstens, Executive Director, noted that the groundbreaking for the recreation center was expected to be a year and half ago and thanked the residents for their patience while Mr. Carstens and staff administered due diligence in regards to traffic patterns, meeting with IDOT, and FEMA confirming where the floodplains were in Nowell Park.

Mr. Carstens stated that staff reviewed minutes from previous community meetings and relooked at the budget for the building. The goal is to provide a facility and services that are needed in the community while ensuring the facility is self-sufficient.

Mr. Carstens noted that the building would be on the south side of Nowell Park where the existing parking lot is (near the pavilion). The Bath House will be demolished to accommodate a larger parking lot and the pavilion will remain in its current location.

The Recreation Center will have two high school basketball/volleyball courts, soccer field, two lane indoor walking track, four multi-purpose rooms, 3,000 square feet fitness center, preschool room, bathrooms, two family rooms with shower, office and storage space.

Mr. Carstens stated that if either fitness or preschool are popular, the space can be expanded into the adjacent multi-purpose rooms.

Mr. Carstens informed the residents that the tentative schedule for groundbreaking is August. The project will take ten to twelve months with the grand opening in September/November of 2018. It was stated that the original 5.5 million dollars for the facility was under budgeted. The new budget is 7.5 million dollars.

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

During this time there was a Question and Answer session.

Sharon Merwin suggested to use the material/design of the bathhouse in the design of the new recreation center because of the historical value of the bathhouse. Mr. Carstens stated that staff will look into a way to honor the history of the Bath House.

Willie Sellers inquired about the bidding process and would like to see as many local contractors on the project as possible.

There was concern from a resident about staying within budget. Mr. Carstens stated that the Construction Manager hired for this project has a great reputation for staying under budget and Mr. Carstens would also be monitoring the budget as the building progresses.

Reverend Harvey Brooks thanked the Board and Mr. Carstens for meeting with the community and making compromises for the building. Mr. Carstens stated that the walking track and preschool area were added based on the needs of the community.

There were discussions regarding the flooring of the courts. Mr. Carstens informed the residents that surface is a rubberized sports floor that can be used not only for sports but also for rentals/events and is easier to maintain than hardwood.

There were questions regarding security. Mr. Carstens stated that there will be sufficient lighting in the parking lot along with security cameras inside and out.

JD Ross commended the Board and staff on the allocation of the referendum funds for both East and West side of the Park District.

E. Board Comments

Commissioner Broderick stressed how important it is to keep the communication going between the community and the Park District and the more involved the community is with the recreation center the more successful it will be.

F. Adjournment

At 6:43pm, with all agenda items discussed, a motion was made by Vice President Mutz, seconded by Commissioner Gould, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried as follow:

Ayes: Mutz, Gould, Broderick, Schultz, Gulas

Nays: None

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Talarico
Recording Secretary