

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2017 SPECIAL PROJECTS AND FACILITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. and roll was called.

Committee Members present:

Lisa Brooks, Chair/Vice President
Stefanie Boron, Commissioner
Steve Gaines, Commissioner

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary
Chris Leiner, Director of Parks/Maintenance
Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation/Facilities
Erin Maassen, Manager of Marketing/Comm.

Commissioners present:

Dudley Onderdonk, President
Josh Lutton, Treasurer

Members of the Public in attendance who signed in or spoke: Anais Boury, Dan Dorfman, Bella Lenderman-Bouvy, John Collins, Ryan Culp, Barb Padiak

Review of Playground Designs for Vernon-Jefferson, Old Elm, and Woodlawn Parks:

Executive Director Sheppard introduced Josephine Bellalta and John McManus of Altamanu who presented the preliminary playground designs for Vernon-Jefferson, Old Elm, and Woodlawn Parks attached to these minutes. Discussion on each playground commenced after the presentation.

Board comments on Old Elm Park designs included thrilled with the imaginative scope of the designs, happy that the adult seating is close to the youngest children and that area is furthest from the road, the design looks larger than the actual space which is in reality is a reasonable area to watch a child, experienced that the big group swing style shown is not used at other parks however there is another merry-go-round/tire swing style with three seats, likes musical theme although might be limiting, liked stone seating, would like to remove big space with rock and replace with equipment, a playground can also be a place to sit. Board comment included that the equipment needs to be less modern. When asked Altamanu stated the design will not prevent a possible trail from Takiff to Old Elm and then to the forest preserve in the future.

Public comments on Old Elm designs included: would like a zip line the longer the better, a variety of swings like at Millennial Park, worried about the xylophone music playing so close to neighbors' homes, varied size slides, sidewalks are important for neighbors, camps, increased traffic, keep multigenerational pieces, several trees in the park are currently memorial trees, like space to gather for neighborhood parties and open space for free play, water fountain and understand neighborhood architecture.

Director Leiner explained safety zones and that they have grown by 30% from the current playground. The shaded areas in the design include required safety zones.

Discussion with Commissioners and public ensued. Final takeaways were:

Budget for the project is \$197,000 including survey, fees, and signage

- Public liked net swings at Maggie Daley, but probably custom and very expensive
- Path good, but may reduce extent of path
- Keep rumple strips on path
- Liked tire swings
- Keep sand and gathering bowl
- Include bike racks and stroller parking
- Fossil dig is out
- Doty pebbles are out
- Musical Theme is out
- Cavatina and music book are out (like it but use at a different site)
- Find equipment that has levels and landings and more fitting with “Modern Movement” architecture
- Public liked zip lines but staff explained budget and that they will be in another site

Board and public discussion ensued on Vernon-Jefferson Park. Budgets are distributed by park size, proximity to other playgrounds, and if close to a school.

Members of the public commented on the designs including Ryan Culp who asked for a dog park, pool, splash pad, basketball court, asphalt open play area, climbing wall, zip line, spinner, and a fence. Executive Director Sheppard explained that this project entails replacement of neighborhood playground and those items suggested are not in the budget. The budget is determined on park size, proximity to other playgrounds and park amenities. A basketball court can be found a couple blocks away at Watts Park.

John Collins shared that the design based on size is fantastic, embellish the central picnic area for parents who congregate there, sandboxes mean cleanup for parents, love the rock/boulder theme, but could look dated in a few years use colors like Phil Thomas playground.

Concern was shared by an unknown member of the public regarding falling backward off the climbing wall at the slide transition and that it is too tall for toddlers. Connectivity of the pieces is missing. The neighbors do not want a sandbox.

Commissioner Gaines indicated that donations would be considered if neighbors wished to include a feature not within the budget set for the park.

When asked when construction would start, Sheppard shared that staff is hoping for approval on conceptual designs in January so that final designs can be completed and bids sent out so that construction can begin in spring.

Commissioners commented that they like the boulders/climbing wall, do not want a water feature, as a community park would like a more subtle/traditional piece, keep the climbing feature, but take out the rocket which they feel is inconsistent with the feel of a park with Oak trees.

Discussion with Commissioners and public ensued. Final takeaways were:

- Budget \$197,000 includes survey, fees and signage
- Rocket ship is out
- Sand box is out
- Liked Moonscape theme, rocks etc. including web/netting
- Unusual path out or minimized
- Add concrete oval with 4 square painted on it
- Add spinners
- Add climbing to rocks
- Add slide to rocks
- Chris will add planting over time
- Check out other manufacturer for play equipment

Board and public discussion ensued on Woodlawn Park designs. The Board indicated that they like the creativity of this design and it is different from other parks in the area. Board commented that this park retains a lot of water and has very squishy ground with current foot traffic going west to northeast. The designs that keep children away from Green Bay Road are better – change gathering space location, the number of paths look very expensive so look to reduce. Other feedback included Zip lines are great, more bike racks needed closer to the bus stop there, move gathering space to near where the picnic tables are located, move the zip line where it was in one of the other designs, loves the savannah grasses, loves the grasses as a buffer from the road, put a zip line at the north part of Old Elm, sandboxes not needed at every park, swings at Millennial Park are amazing, keep support on the ramp warm matching the savannah grass theme. Chair Brooks gave direction to staff based on Board discussion, to keep the zip lines.

Discussion with Commissioners and public ensued. Final takeaways were:

- Project budget: \$450,000
- Reduce height and length of pathways to save costs
- Keep open underneath the ramp/decking
- Add stairs at lower level to shorten run if necessary
- No path on north side
- Keep two zip lines
- Possibly add Rope Bridge
- Possibly add play panels to railing on ramp
- Sand box out
- Liked idea of mass planting of grasses but can only afford strip along Green Bay
- Liked the long line of swings

- Have to have bucket swings put near main gathering space. Possibly install where sand box is shown now.
- Keep bike racks in NE
- Eliminate bike racks at west side of park
- Northern gathering pods moved to the SW
- Like Globe spinner but staff indicated it is most likely out of budget. Possible look at other spinner that is more affordable.

The Park Board discussed and were in agreement that the agreed upon projects budgets would not be increased.

Matters from the Public: There were no matters from the public.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjourn: Commissioner Gaines moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Commissioner Boron seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary