

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF ELBURN PARKS COMMISSION
MARCH 19, 2019

Members Present: Dawn Kuefler, Brian McCarty, Rob Reilley, Amy Szumny

Members Absent: Dave Dickinson, Chairman Dan Kolzow, Patrick Leach

Staff Members Present: Village Administrator John Nevenhoven

Others Present: Residents Amy Anderson, Bill Ott, Mike Krueger, Christopher Melin, Eric Ryan (Blackberry Creek HOA President)

In the absence of Chairman Kolzow, there was consensus from the Commission to appoint Reilley as Temporary Chairman.

1. Call to Order – Reilley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Reilley led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call – A roll call vote ensued.
4. Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2019 – A motion to approve the minutes was made by McCarty and seconded by Kuefler. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. Public Comment – None
6. Commissioners Updates
 - a. "Lucky Maples 4H Group Free Library – Szumny said this will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - b. Elburn Station OSLAD Grant – Reilley reported he attended the Village Board meeting last evening and they have concerns about the park location with it being a wetland and floodway. The Board is looking to possibly move the location of the park and if not possible, may consider walking away from the grant. Resident Ott suggested reaching out to other municipalities who have amenities in retention areas that work well. Village Admin Nevenhoven stated the concern is not just the grass-structures could be flooded out and damaged and create constant cost and maintenance. The engineers have identified things that can be built in floodways: playing fields, bike paths, parking lots, etc. If approved, the schedule will be engineering and the start of building this year and finish building next year. The clock is not ticking yet because the Village has not received the contract from the IDNR. Melin asked about other locations being considered for the park. Nevenhoven explained the location of the alternative site and said we do not know yet if IDNR will allow us to change sites. If development of the current site occurs, there is more in the works beyond the park, i.e., access on Keslinger Road to line up with Liberty Drive (Elburn and Shodeen does not currently own the land for easement rights). Nevenhoven met with KDOT and they are open with the current plan to have right-in/right-out access to the park from Keslinger Road but they do have concerns with backup of traffic on Keslinger Road. Shodeen has been in contact with the property owner to the west to acquire more property for the Liberty Drive access.
 - c. Bike Paths – Reilley will provide a listing of Elburn paths to Brian from Kane County (Bike Illinois). Feedback on bike paths was received from residents: 1) Elburn Station to Mill Creek along Keslinger (would have to involve Shodeen and KDOT); 2) marked bike lanes; 3) connect Blackberry Creek subdivision to train station, etc. At the last bike path meeting with Kane County, the director of the Forest Preserve said they are approximately one property away from owning all property between Blackberry Creek and Johnson's Mound.
 - d. Folks on Spokes – Leach is communicating with the previous organizers. We should get started with planning. Perhaps the event can be renamed to "Folks on Spokes presents Elburn Park Pedal." The tentative date is August 24, 2019.

- e. Blackberry Creek Gazebo – McCarty is encouraging fundraising to the tune of \$14K-\$15K with incidentals. Also looking for donors to purchase additional equipment. Concrete work has been donated by a vendor.
 - f. Dog Park – Reilley advised the \$25K dog park grant process begins in May. He suggests using the vacant lot south of the current Public Works building. Will need blueprints, etc. for the application. Letters from residents supporting the dog park are also needed. Nevenhoven said the Anderson Animal Shelter is considering moving to Elburn and build an \$8M facility, including a dog park. They have placed a bid on some property.
7. Budget Discussion – Reilley attended the Village Board meeting last evening and listed items that have been approved in the Parks budget (ice rink liner, dog stations on Anderson Road, gazebo at Prairie Park, equipment replacement), etc. Public Works has found a low cost option to replace the bridge at Prairie Park so they can move their equipment in and out of the park for maintenance. The plan is to remove the existing gazebo at Prairie Park and replace it with the wooden shelter. The concrete at the Prairie Park gazebo will be removed and replaced at a smaller scale to reduce the hardscape. The budget will be further reviewed on April 1 and if approved, will be on public display for comment until final budget approval on April 15. The new trustees will be sworn in on May 6.
8. Other Business – The ice rink will be taken down on Saturday, March 23, at 9:30am—everyone who is available was asked to attend and help.

Reilley said his daughter's CCD group will be cleaning up the parks on April 7 as a community project. They will start at Prairie Park and try to get to all of Elburn's parks. Nevenhoven suggested Reilley check with Public Works for garbage bags. He also said the cleanup group can stack full bags for Public Works to pick up.

McCarty received an email regarding the rope bridge at Elliott Park. A 3 year old fell through some of the gaps. U-toys said the playground is designed for 5-12 year olds. If they put in another rope, the openings will be too small and create an entrapment risk. U-toys will see if they can find a workable solution. Children should be supervised.

Resident Eric Ryan introduced himself as the new Blackberry Creek HOA president and invited Parks Commissioners to attend their next meeting scheduled on April 9. Ryan would appreciate someone from the Parks Commission to attend the next HOA meeting to get dialogue going between the Village and the HOA. Heritage Park is located on the northeast side of Blackberry Creek. Ryan would like HOA buy in for this park as well.

9. Adjourn - McCarty motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. with Reilley seconding the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane McQuilkin
Village Clerk