

MINUTES
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING
August 15, 2023

1. Roll Call:

A regular meeting of the Hoffman Estates Park District Buildings & Grounds Committee was held on August 15, 2023 at 7:01 p.m. at Triphahn Center in Hoffman Estates, IL.

Present: Commissioner Evans, Comm Reps Evans, Macdonald, Poeschel and Sernett, Chairman Kaplan

Absent: Comm Rep Utas

Also Present: Executive Director Talsma, Director of Parks, Planning and Maintenance Hugen, Director of Golf & Facilities Bechtold, Director of Recreation Miletic, Executive Assistant Flynn, Superintendent of IT Agudelo

Audience: President Chhatwani, Commissioners Dressler, McGinn and Friedman; Comm Reps Beranek and Henderson, Kimberly Barton

2. Approval of Agenda:

Comm Rep Poeschel made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Evans to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

Comm Rep Sernett made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Poeschel to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

4. Comments from the Audience:

Robert Steinberg of 4158 Portage Lane said that South Ridge Lake looks good, but you cannot get to the lake and can only fish from a couple of areas. He added that the shoreline does not look like the original plan, and residents were told the plan was being revised. Mr. Steinberg would like to see a copy of the notice to the public. The growth is thick and tall. He asked if the philosophy has changed regarding how the shorelines are maintained. Executive Director Talsma said the original plan was approved in 2010, and the new plan was approved by the board in 2021.

5. Old Business:

None

6. New Business:

A. Vogelei Park Final Renovation Plans (OSLAD 2024) / M23-076

Commissioner Evans made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Poeschel to recommend to the full board to approval of the Vogelei Park Renovation Final Plans as presented with a budget of \$600,000 with matching funds from the OSLAD Grant of \$600,000 for a total of \$1,200,000.

Director Hugen presented the final plans to be submitted with the OSLAD application for the Vogelei Park renovation project. He highlighted the following items:

- Plans reflect input from residents, the Buildings & Grounds committee, the Board of Commissioners, and staff.
- Planned features include a short-course multi-golf area, ADA accessible bocce ball courts, bank shot sports, greenhouse, new trees for the arboretum, a new path between the northwest area and playground area, a fully accessible playground, a concrete area with shelter and accessible maze and play panels; a new, larger splash pad with three above ground features and multiple in-ground sprays, a sensory garden (various plant to bloom throughout the year, water feature); a new path leading to benches for outdoor nature classroom; shoreline will be renovated as well.
- Everything will be fully accessible.
- A ramp will allow wheelchairs to get up to the level of the playground. All side panels will have sensory panels.
- The splash pad ground features will be sequenced.
- The current raised garden beds installed by the Eagle Scouts will remain but will be moved.
- If approved through OSLAD, this will be a phased project so NWSRA has some areas to use as soon as possible.

Comm Rep Henderson asked when this would be completed if it is approved. Director Hugen said we would have two years to complete the project once approved.

Resident Steinberg said this is a great plan.

Commissioner Friedman asked if there are any other parks around like this. Director Hugen said we do not have any fully inclusive park systems, and there aren't many in the area.

Commissioner McGinn asked if staff would be doing any of the work in-house. Director Hugen said that all of the demo work for the northwest corner and the playground would be done in-house.

President Chhatwani said this is a great plan, and there is nothing like this around.

The motion carried by voice vote.

B. Parks, Planning & Maintenance Board Report / M23-075

Comm Rep Macdonald made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Evans to include the Parks, Planning & Maintenance August Board Report in the August Executive Director's Report.

Commissioner Evans asked how long it takes to thaw the ice in the ice rink. Director Hugen said it takes four to five weeks at room temperature. The rink will be back open on September 11. We haven't lost any scheduled ice time. He added that the Wolves report at the end of September.

The motion carried by voice vote.

C. Virtual Park Tour

Director Hugen presented the 2023 Virtual Park Tour, highlighting the following:

- Beacon Point Park – the new path now connects to the neighborhood sidewalks, making a 1/3-mile loop around the park. The open green space is designed to hold water and is not programmable. The playground is now installed, and the park should be finished within one month.
- Huntington Park – this park connects to South Ridge. The new playground was installed in March. All paths around the park are new. The shelter was revamped. An ADA-accessible new drinking is installed with a water bottle filler; the basketball surface is new.

Comm Rep Beranek noted that the park signs are overgrown. Director Hugen said the signs and surrounding garden beds are volunteer-kept. The volunteer group has been contacted. They do not want staff to do anything, as these are their plants.

- Olmstead Park – the park was included as it has not been on our tour before. This park has a lot of open space with a good hill, but that area is not buildable. We have had a cross country circuit use this area as a rental. The small baseball diamond was torn out and is grass is growing back in. This area is being replaced with three micro fields for soccer. The tennis and basketball courts have been resurfaced, and the tennis courts have been lined for pickleball as well. The existing baseball field can accommodate 60- and 90-foot bases.
- Pine Park – this park is currently undergoing renovation. The sled hill is ready for seeding; a mowed turf path goes through the hill for walking and running. The new pickleball courts are ready for the fence to be installed. The park will not open until we have seeded and sodded the area around the park. The entire park will remain closed until the new grass has "taken", hopefully by mid-November. The 9v9 soccer field has been leveled (can also put several micro fields in this area).

- Victoria Park – the courts here were resurfaced. This park is highlighted because we wanted to share that we have not done any maintenance to this wetland area due to its size. We cannot do an in-house controlled burn because it gets too hot. Some contractors will do this size, but in sections. This park has two separate playgrounds and an irrigated soccer field.

7. **Committee Member Comments:**

Comm Rep Sernett said she is pleased with all of the work being done.

Comm Rep Evans said great job on the tour.

Comm Rep Poeschel said great drone footage; the Vogelei plans look great – lots of thought went into it.

Commissioner Evans said the Vogelei plans are impressive, and asked when we would hear back on the application. Executive Director Talsma said they try to announce it around the time of conference (end of January).

Commissioner Kaplan thanked everyone for their input/

Executive Director Talsma thanked Luigi Cutolo for the drone footage.

8. **Adjournment:**

Comm Rep Poeschel made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Sernett to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Talsma
Secretary

Cindy Flynn
Executive Assistant