

**MINUTES**  
**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 17, 2023**

**1. Roll Call:**

A regular meeting of the Hoffman Estates Park District Buildings & Grounds Committee was held on October 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Triphahn Center in Hoffman Estates, IL.

Present: Commissioner MacGregor, Comm Reps Poeschel, Sernett and Utas,

Absent: Chairman Kaplan, Comm Rep Macdonald

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

Audience: President Chhatwani, Commissioners Dressler, Evans, McGinn and Friedman; Comm Reps Beranek, Henderson (7:15 p.m.) and Pilafas

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**3. Approval of the Minutes:**

Comm Rep Utas made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Sernett to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

**4. Comments from the Audience:**

Executive Director thanked everyone in attendance as he announced the District had received the AAPRA/NRPA National Gold Medal Award. He said this is a tribute to the Board, the volunteers, community reps, full-time and part-time staff, as well as the residents of our community. He added that HEParks is the most highly accredited and recognized District in the State of Illinois, including 5-time accreditation by the State of Illinois (IAPD Distinguished Agency), each one covering six years; 3-time perfect score national accreditation by CAPRA, which covers five years each time; and two grand plaque awards for the National Gold Medal Award.

**5. Old Business:**

None

6. **New Business:**

A. Sycamore Park Development & SD54 IGA / M23-089

Comm Rep Sernett made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Poeschel to recommend to the full board the approval for staff to work with School District 54 on the development of Sycamore Park.

Executive Director Talsma highlighted the following regarding this project:

- School District 54 is planning a school expansion at Lincoln Prairie School, which is adjacent to Sycamore Park.
- We have HEAA football games here, and baseball games for younger age groups.
- There is currently a small HEParks playground that is somewhat hidden, and some fitness equipment that belongs to the school.
- The school is looking to expand the building and revamp the driveway for better bus access.
- This would result in removing one baseball field and regrading the other two.
- The school district is willing to do this land swap and give us up to \$350,000 to build a new playground in the middle of the park so it is more visible.

Community Rep Utas asked if this would involve all new playground equipment. Executive Director Talsma said it would.

Community Rep Poeschel asked what the total size of the land is that we would be giving the school district. Director Huguen said it was one tenth of an acre, and they would pay \$10 for this.

Commissioner McGinn asked if staff would install the playground. Director Huguen said that staff would oversee the project but will hire contractors to install playground and complete concrete and earthwork.

Commissioner Evans asked if there would be a fence, and shade trees or sails. Director Huguen explained that the playground would have either a shelter or trees. The old playground has a fence since it is close to the roadway, but the new playground location is further away from the road.

The motion carried by voice vote.

B. Parks, Planning & Maintenance Board Report and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Goals / M23-090

Comm Rep Poeschel made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Sernett to include the Parks, Planning & Maintenance October Board Report and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Goals in the October Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director Talsma noted that Commissioner Evans had previously asked about Essex Park. He highlighted the following information:

- We conducted some preliminary research in terms of a dirt bike trail or something similar.
- In the meantime, Director Hugen heard from the village that the original developer, DR Horton, has backed out of the development for this property, and another contractor is currently in the process of developing plans. If approved, sewer and water lines will go through the park district property. The developer would need to donate land or cash to the park district for this development; we do not need the land since we have Essex Park. We could use the cash to build something on the Essex Park property after the sewer and water go through.

The sod was put down at Pine Park, and then we received three days of rain. After a couple more weeks of decent weather, this grass should be established.

The motion carried by voice vote.

**7. Committee Member Comments:**

Comm Rep Utas said congratulations to everyone on the Gold Medal.

Comm Rep Poeschel said congratulations.

Comm Rep Sernett said congratulations to everyone, and welcome to Commissioner MacGregor.

Commissioner MacGregor said congrats to everyone. He added that it was an honor to be in Dallas when our name was announced. Thanks to all for your hard work, volunteering and for supporting him in chairing his first meeting.

Executive Director Talsma said that we are anticipating the November B&G and Rec & Facilities meetings will be canceled due to lack of new business.

**8. Adjournment:**

Comm Rep Utas made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Sernett to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Talsma  
Secretary

Cindy Flynn  
Executive Assistant