

**MINUTES**  
**DeKalb Park District**  
**Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**  
**July 30, 2019**  
**Hopkins Community Center Administrative Offices**  
**1403 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, IL**

**Public Meeting**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**I. Meeting Call to Order:**

President Phil Young called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Board members present:** President Phil Young, Commissioner Dean Holliday, Commissioner Gail A. Krmenech, Commissioner Eaton, and Commissioner Dag Grada.

**Staff Members Present:** Executive Director Amy Doll, Superintendent of Parks & Development Mat Emken, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Heather Collins, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Bruggeman

**II. Action on the Agenda**

Commissioner Krmenech made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Holliday. Motion carried by voice vote.

**III. Public Comments**

Herb Rubin, DeKalb resident, urged the board to approve the Welsh Master Plan and apply for the OSLAD grant. He thanked the commissioners for the time and attention they have given this park.

David Castro, DeKalb resident, also spoke in support of approval of the Welsh Park Plan. He noted that this park is an important part of the Annie Glidden North Task Force plan and that the Task Force wants to help with the revitalization of the entire area.

Chad Glover, DeKalb resident, echoed the comments of the previous speakers.

**IV. Approval of Welsh Park Site Master Plan**

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve the Welsh Park Site Master Plan, seconded by Commissioner Eaton.

Executive Director Doll stated that the site plan was updated since the July 16, 2019

Board Meeting. The revised plan eliminates the bocce ball, community gardens, entryway signs, and fitness stations from the plan. The plan adds a rain garden around the splash pad to utilize the runoff water. Additionally, the path was updated to utilize the current path and make it more of a loop. In order to bring the cost closer to \$800,000, one of the pickleball courts would be eliminated as well as eliminating the shade structures in both the pickleball and basketball area. Those items could be bid as alternates on the projects. If the project bid comes in lower than anticipated or if another revenue source is identified, then the Board could discuss adding those amenities back into the project.

President Young requested confirmation that the District's cost would not exceed \$395,081. Additionally, he questioned what would happen if the Park District was not awarded the OSLAD grant? Further, he expressed concern that the Park District does not want to get caught in the same situation as we had with Lions Park- IDNR awarded the grant to the Park District, but subsequently put the project on hold and withheld grant funds. President Young also inquired about when the Park District would pay for the project.

Director Doll confirmed that the District would not spend above \$395,081 without Board approval. If the OSLAD is not approved, then the Board would discuss scaling back the project, phasing it in, or finding other revenue sources. Director Doll stated that IDNR previously only permitted full reimbursement at the end but thought that those requirements may have changed, and that staff would work with IDNR.

Commissioner Holliday inquired what would happen if the bids come in over the estimated amounts.

Director Doll confirmed that the project would be brought back to the Board for discussion.

Commissioner Krmenech inquired why the staff state that a replacement playground for Welsh Park would cost \$116,000 and one that would be big enough to serve the population around Welsh would be \$205,000 but the playground in this plan is budgeted at \$296,000.

Director Doll stated that a playground costing \$205,000 is the most minimal that would accommodate the area. The playground in the plan is larger than that and would better serve the community.

Commissioner Krmenech voiced concern that the Park District should not be transferring money from the Museum Fund to parks. The Visitors Center windows are rotting. Further, she stated that we should not be doing this for a single park when we have 44 parks that we should be concerned about. Finally, she stated that we need to have a master plan for all the parks, not just Welsh Park. We should look at how Welsh Park fits into the total Park District.

President Young expressed that Commissioners have brought up good points. The Park District has the opportunity to fund this project now. IDNR has opened the grant window and that has added more possible dollars for the project. Without this grant, we would not be doing the park to this scale. We need to be careful thinking about what we are passing onto our future Commissioners. If we do not pass this project tonight, then we will not be able to apply for the grant this year. Michelle Kelly at Upland has indicated that there is a lot of paperwork involved for the grant.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Grada, Holliday, Eaton, Young. Nay: Krmeneč. Absent: None. (4-1-0)

**V. Approval of Resolution 19-07: Authorizing OSLAD Grant Application for the Welsh Park Project**

Commissioner Grada made a motion to approve the Resolution 19-07: OSLAD Grant Program Resolution Authorization pending review of the Grant Application by the Board President, seconded by Commissioner Eaton.

Director Doll presented that a resolution is required in the OSLAD grant application. It tells IDNR that the Park District has sufficient funds to complete the project, that the project will be started within three years, that the Park District will maintain Welsh Park in an attractive and safe condition, keep the park open during reasonable hours, and obtain permission from IDNR before making any changes to outdoor recreational use of the site prior to making it. Ms. Doll further stated that the last requirement is easy to accomplish. The Park District has worked with IDNR on other projects. Specifically, the Park District swapped amenities at Annie's Woods Park and it was not difficult.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Grada, Holliday, Eaton, Young. Nay: Krmeneč. Absent: None. (4-1-0)

**VI. Adjourn Public Meeting**

Commissioner Holiday made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Grada. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.