



**PARK SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE
LARAMIE PARK REDEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARING
CHIPPEWA PLAYGROUND PUBLIC HEARING
PARK SERVICES
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019
6:30 PM**

Present from Skokie Park District:

Khemarey Khoeun	Vice President, Board of Commissioners
Minal Desai	Commissioner
John Ohrlund	Executive Director
Corrie Guynn	Superintendent of Parks
Michelle Tuft	Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities
Stephen Ames	Landscape Supervisor
Jeff Hacker	Operations Supervisor
John Gacki	Parks Supervisor
Jim Hallm	Horticulturalist
Dima Kirland	Park Services Office Manager

Vice President Khoeun called the meeting to order 6:35 pm. Vice President Khoeun welcomed and thanked everyone for attending; approximately sixteen adult residents were in attendance. Ms. Khoeun then introduced Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn. Mr. Guynn also thanked everyone for attending and introduced Mr. Joseph Brusseau from Hitchcock Design.

Mr. Brusseau presented the concepts/ideas that included the following:

- New accessible and inclusive playground to include swing area, 2-5 year old and 5-12 year old areas
- Family fun area to include an outdoor ping pong table and baggo games
- Gazebo/shelter with picnic tables, litter receptacles, benches, drinking fountains
- Fitness stations
- Pickle ball courts
- 5 ft. asphalt path to loop around the park
- Additional parking
- Rain garden
- Synthetic turf to the west diamond infield, new back stops, dugouts
- Existing shelter will remain

The splash pad is no longer a consideration. Since the last public hearing meeting, the Illinois Department of Public Health changed the state swimming code and now requires showers to be installed with the splash pad. The of that would be astronomical.

The likely time frame for park improvement is:

- Summer – design modifications based on public and staff input
- Early fall – present the design at the Park Board meeting and get approval to go out to bid.
- Winter – go out to bid
- Spring – construction begins

Citizen's comments included:

- The Caleb scoreboard will remain in the same location.
- Tennis courts are used, and pickle ball is not, do not remove the tennis court and replace with two pickle ball courts.
- Sand volleyball gets some use
- A potential 38 car parking lot in the northeast corner of the park was shown which resulted in significant discussion. Parking issues on busy use days impacts the neighborhood surrounding the park. Neighbors expressed concern about the proposed parking lot close to homes, noise, drainage issues and loss of green space.
- Use of off-site areas for parking included the police facility nearby, hotel lot to the south and shopping center off Touhy and Laramie. A representative from the Holiday Inn noted that the hotel lot is full when they have major events.
- Alternative to creating the new parking lot should be explored.
- Request additional speed limit signage to be installed by the Village of Skokie Public Works on Sherwin Ave.
- Install speed bumps – the Village does not install those because it impairs the emergency vehicles.
- Do not remove any soccer fields, they are needed.

Superintendent Guynn reviewed plans for the replacement of the playground at Chippewa Park for interested residents. Comments received were positive.

Executive Director Ohrlund thanked everyone for all their input. He said Ms. Dima Kirland will communicate with everyone present via email design revisions and the dates of any upcoming meetings. Design changes will also be posted on the website when they become available.

Vice President Khoeun adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Khemarey Khoeun
Vice President

John V. Ohrlund
Secretary