



**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT LAUTH PARK
PARK SERVICES
January 28, 2025 - 6:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman
Vice-President Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Courtney Williams
Commissioner Elsa Fischer

Others Present: Executive Director Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Parks, Planning, and Facilities Corrie Guynn
Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava
Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm
Operations Supervisor Peter Haben

CALL TO ORDER

President Susan Aberman called the public hearing of the Board of Park Commissioners for the improvements at Lauth Park to order at 6:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Susan Aberman introduced herself, Executive Director Michelle Tuft, Vice President Ezra Jaffe, Commissioner Courtney Williams, Commissioner Elsa Fischer, Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn, Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm, Operations Supervisor Peter Haben and Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava.

LAUTH PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND PARK AMENITY UPDATES

President Susan Aberman introduced the planned renovations for Lauth Park's playground. She then yielded the floor to Mr. Guynn, Superintendent of Parks, Planning, and Facilities, for further details.

Mr. Guynn reviewed the recent updates to the park that included new backstop/field sidelines, repaved basketball courts, and crack repair/new color coating on the tennis courts. He then presented the proposed playground design and amenities for Lauth Park.

The renovations will include a new playground, water fountain with water bottle filling station, picnic tables, benches, garbage cans, and landscape improvements. The new playground equipment will have two structures, one 2–5-year-old playground structure and one 6+ playground structure. The playgrounds feature climbing structures, slides, an accessible and inclusive spinner, and swings which will include two belt swings, two tot enclosed swings, one

ADA plastic molded swing, and a new parent-tot swing.

All the demo work will be done in-house. Staff will remove the equipment, play surfacing and the footings. The contractor will install the equipment.

Executive Director Michelle Tuft mentioned that the proposed renovations are being funded through a federal grant from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky that is currently in jeopardy due to a pause on grants by President Trump, which means the timeline of the project is unknown. Ms. Tuft mentioned that the park district is committed to doing the project and will do their best to get the project rolling.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

A resident asked if the playground surfacing will be wood fiber or soft foam. Mr. Guynn said the surface will be engineered wood fiber as it is more cost effective.

The same resident asked if the sand box that is currently present at the playground will remain or be replaced. Mr. Guynn stated that it will be replaced with an eight-foot-by-eight-foot sand box, new sand, and a new digger.

A resident asked if tire swings will be installed. Mr. Guynn stated that the new swing structure does not have a tire swing.

A resident asked what to do if there was an issue at the park. Executive Director Tuft said that if there are any issues at the park that require immediate attention, call the Skokie police non-emergency number or 911 and report it. The park district and the police department have a great relationship and work well together to address any problems or issues at any of the parks or facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Executive Director Michelle Tuft thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President



Michelle Tuft
Executive Director

Vision Statement

The Skokie Park District envisions a community where all of its residents enjoy a high quality of life through leisure time pursuits, beautiful open spaces, and first-rate facilities.

Mission Statement

The Skokie Park District will realize its vision through teamwork, community partnerships, sound fiscal management, and creativity in every area of its operation.

Core Values

The Skokie Park District will fulfill its mission through:

•Commitment• Integrity• Innovation• Service •Openness •Environmental Stewardship •Inclusiveness