



**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT LEE-WRIGHT PARK  
PARK SERVICES  
January 28, 2025 - 6:45 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 Lee-Wright Park to order at 6:45 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 and Facilities Corrie Guynn, Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm, Operations Supervisor Peter Haben, Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava and former Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker.

**LEE-WRIGHT PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND PARK AMENITY UPDATES**

Executive Director Tuft stated that the playground renovations are being funded through a combination of a grant through Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's office and Park District capital funds. However, the renovation timeline is uncertain due to President Trump's current federal funding pause. The district is committed to replacing the playground and will prioritize the project as soon as funding is secured.

Mr. Guynn presented the design for the playground and other amenities. The updates to the park include new playground equipment, a water fountain with water bottle filling station, picnic tables, benches, garbage cans, landscape improvements, and concrete repairs. The new playground equipment will have two structures: one 2–5-year-old playground structure and one 5–12-year-old structure. The playgrounds will feature climbing structures, slides, multi-children

inclusive rocking structure, and swings which will include two belt swings, two tot enclosed swings, one ADA plastic molded swing, and a parent-tot swing.

District staff will do all the demo work. They will remove the equipment, sand, and footings. A contractor will install the equipment.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

A resident inquired if the spinner would stay, and Mr. Guynn stated there will be a new spinner.


A resident inquired if the park will be closed during the summer and Mr. Guynn stated that more than likely the playground will open late in the summer.

A resident thanked the park district for their hard work and dedication in keeping the parks well maintained.

Executive Director Tuft stated that if there are ever any issues at the park that require immediate attention, call the Skokie police non-emergency number, 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**

President Susan Aberman thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 7 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