

**GENEVA PARK DISTRICT  
CAPITAL PLANNING MEETING MINUTES  
SUNSET COMMUNITY CENTER  
DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023  
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.

ROLL CALL

President Frankenthal called for the roll. Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Cullen, Vice President Moffat, and President Frankenthal answered present. Commissioner Cladis arrived at 5:43pm.

Staff members present were Executive Director Nicole Vickers, Supt. of Recreation Elliott Bortner, Supt. of Parks & Properties Carl Gorra, Supt. of Finance & Personnel Christy Powell, and Administrative Assistant Hannah Sterricker.

Guests: None

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director Vickers welcomes the Board and staff to the annual Capital Planning Meeting which helps plan the direction of the future capital projects for the district. Traditionally this meeting is held annually as a way to identify future capital projects and how those projects will be funded.

Supt. of Personnel & Finance Christy Powell stated that the staff and Board will identify small and large projects and how to plan for them. Ms. Powell presented a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the Geneva Park District's mission, vision and values statements.

Ms. Powell stated the district's capital projects are identified by the Master Plan, Community Survey, and Long and Short-Range Plan. Other avenues for identifying capital projects are the capital planning meeting, program evaluations, board member input, staff input, recreation trends, and community feedback. Projects with revenue generating potential are looked at closely as well as projects that may require future maintenance and repairs.

Ms. Powell discussed financial considerations. She stated that interest income is anticipated to hold steady or decline as investment rates increased beginning in the second quarter of 2022. Analysts are projecting a possible rate cut in 2024. Maturity of alternative revenue bonds are growing, and aging infrastructure, Stephen Persinger Recreation Center will be 20 years old in 2028. President Frankenthal asked what matured, in this scenario, means. Ms. Powell stated that a matured bond means the bond has been paid off. Commissioner Jones asked if bonds can be paid off early. Ms. Powell stated that we are able to do that and Speer Financial helps the park district do so.

Ms. Powell shared that projects were deferred due to impact of COVID-19 including; Sunset Racquetball and Fitness Center, additional pickleball courts, pool improvements, and mini golf improvements. Ms. Powell then discussed budgeting and prioritizing small and large projects. Small projects are considered to be \$500,000 or less and large projects are considered to be more than \$500,000. Identified small projects budgeted are; shade structures, sand filters, gel coating pool slides, playground replacements, SPRC indoor playground, Garden Club renovations, solar panels at Peck Farm, Skate Park replacement, Sandholm West Park renovation, and site work at the Peterson Property. Executive Director Vickers stated that although the skate park could use some work the land is owned by the city and we do not know future intentions for the site. Commissioner Cullen asked if the Skate Park would be a safety concern. Director Vickers stated that it is not a safety concern and repairs are performed when necessary. Ms. Powell shared that a list of unfunded small projects has been compiled and includes; teen obstacle course, Island Park stage cover, sculpture park at Bennett North, green initiatives, adult fitness playground, Peck Farm and Sunset ballfield lights. Supt. of Parks Carl Gorra reminded the Board that the Park District was working on getting ballfield lights at Peck through a ComEd grant. Unfortunately, ComEd over promised and many companies and organizations were cut, including the Geneva Park District. Ms. Powell then shared budgeted large projects including; the universal playground, additional pickleball courts,

mini golf expansion, Sunset Racquetball and Fitness center remodel, Island Park retaining wall, new preschool site, Sunset Pool phase III, and a Nature Center. Some of these projects were pushed back because of COVID-19. President Frankenthal asked where would we put a Nature Center. Executive Director Vickers responded that it could go on the Peterson property. The Board then discussed renovations for SRFC and the Sunset Pool. Ms. Powell also shared unfunded large projects including; a west side athletic complex, Wheeler trail connecting Route 31 to Stevens, and Peck Farm Nature Center.

Ms. Powell shared staff identified projects including a whiffle ball complex, Island Park south bridge, playground structure at Sunset Community Center, and updates at SPRC. Executive Director Vickers stated that the whiffle ball complex idea came from a letter she received in the mail from a community member. This community member provided a diagram of what the complex could look like. The Board acknowledge the thoroughness of this idea. Supt. Gorra stated that the Island Park south bridge is 85 years old and the footings are eroding away. Mr. Gorra provided the Board with a hand out displaying photos of the bridge. Engineers have recommended that the bridge remain open to pedestrian traffic only which, the Park District has done. President Frankenthal asked what the lifespan is of the bridge in its current state. Mr. Gorra stated that as a pedestrian bridge only the recommendation from the engineers was five years. Commissioner Cladis asked if we would need or should include IDNR when completing this project. Mr. Gorra stated that he did not know and will look into it. Mr. Bortner shared that a playground structure at SCC could be beneficial to families at the ball fields and park district camps. Mr. Bortner also shared that the metal perimeter in the SPRC gymnasium needs replacing as well as a complete gym floor refinish, new divider curtain, and expanding the gymnasium to a third court. Vice President Moffat asked if staff thought parking would need to be added if the gymnasium was expanded. Executive Director stated that staff would need to look into that. Finally, a brainstorm session was held to discuss the Board's prioritized projects.

#### ADJOURN

Vice President Moffat made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm. Commissioner Jones seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Secretary

Submitted by: Nicole Vickers / Hannah Sterricker