

QUINCY PARK DISTRICT
1310 Washington Street
Quincy, Illinois

Study Session
Board Room-Emerson Community Center

July 1, 2010
7:00 A.M.

The Quincy Park District Board of Commissioners of the Quincy Park District held a Study Session in the Board Room at Emerson Community Center, 1310 Washington, Quincy, IL.

ROLL CALL: Present: President John Frankenhoff, Vice President Tom Behrens, Commissioners Terry Anastas, Patty McGlothlin, Don Adolfs, Chris Hogge and Mike Ridder. Absent: None.

Staff in attendance included: Executive Director Dan Gible, Director of Parks Ed Seger, Director of Golf Matt Burry, Maintenance Supervisors Chris Veihl and Rome Frericks, Supt. Of Golf Rick Miles, Park Safety Supervisor Robin Schild, Recreation Supervisors Mark Callaway and Melinda Murk, Secretary Amber Dixon and Recording Secretary Vicky Egbert.

Presenters in attendance included: Mike McLaughlin, Lonny Lemon, Jim Mentesti and Chuck Bevelheimer.

Executive Director Gible reviewed what was discussed at the previous study session and explained that he had combined the staff and board SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis and created a master list of items to be discussed. Today's focus is to start thinking about what we stand for and review our mission statement to make sure that it still meets what we are doing. He has brought 4 local major organizations (Jim Mentesti of GREDF, Chuck Bevelheimer of the City of Quincy, Lonny Lemon of the Quincy Public Schools and Mike McLaughlin of the Adams County Board) to the meeting today to speak and frame for us what they are doing and issues they are facing within their organizations, to help us frame where we fit in the community, and where we might cooperate.

Jim Mentesti, GREDF began with his presentation and passed out their newsletter. He stated that wind energy, the pork project to the southwest and the enhancement of lock and dams on the upper Mississippi river are items that they are working on right now. Jim stated he has been honored to be a part of the Quincy Park Foundation using it as a fundraising platform that makes the Park District's job easier. Cedar Creek Linear Park through Bob Mays Park, the new splash pad at Washington Park, Riverfront development, new soccer fields at Boots Bush are all great improvements he has been a part of and worked together with others on. He stated that he would like to continue to be a community partner and find ways to help with staff or dollars in the future and realizes that these kinds of projects take a long time to develop. They work with the Tri-State Development Summit that has been successful in bringing tourism and recreation to Quincy and they are working with the Corps of Engineers to create an opportunity of tourism at Mark Twain Lake to bring those visitors to Quincy and enjoy our hospitality while in the area. He appreciates the cooperation of Matt Burry at Westivew with the First Tee Program for the youth in town. He stated that in their newsletter they talk about our programs and events and there is collaboration with their organization and the park district with what is going on in the area.

Chuck Bevelheimer, City of Quincy Planning Department started by passing out the City's Comprehensive Plan and annual report. He stated that the improvements to Washington Park improve the quality of life for the citizens of Quincy and the parks are a big factor and it's a hard issue to evaluate but that the district has done a good job. He stated that the TIF enterprise zone can be a volatile issue and appreciates the park district's support. There are several projects in the annual report, one being the South 12th Street and Cherry Lane project which was a unique opportunity to work with the park district on a project of trail development. Chuck stated that the greenways trail plan around the city is important to complete and the city and mayor are in agreement that we should not compete for future ITEP dollars during grant cycles. Chuck stated that completing CCLP is the key connecting ribbon to the greenway trail plan. He stated the being able to connect Edgewater and Clat Adams Park is a natural progression through the city's water treatment plant and they have ITEP grant dollars committed to that project on the riverfront. He stated that he feels that the park district is certainly an economic driver within the community with the land that we have to make projects happen. He talked about the plans for a docking facility at Clat Adams to allow large boats to stopover in Quincy and feels this is an integral part of Quincy's riverfront development. President Frankenhoff asked about the shelf life of the current plan and Chuck stated it's about 15 years but if a project comes in and the zoning isn't right for it they will review the plan and make adjustments if needed. Commissioner Anastas asked about the 5th Street bridge project and Chuck stated that it is in engineer's hands and they have been asked to make sure the plan recognizes the need to accommodate the trail under the bridge for the future development of the CCLP trail.

Lonny Lemon, Quincy Public Schools stated that they have a committee that is currently working on goals, their mission statement and other needs within the school district. They are currently working on goals and came up with 5 goal areas looking at 2 – 25 years out. He discussed the process involved to come up with the goal areas and the committee developed sub-goals under each of the major ones. Lonny praised them for their hard work and time involved to establish them. He stated they are asking for public input on their website right now but it's been slow. One of the items that surprised him is that the media feels that they need to hire a full time public relations person to get information out to the public and media. Lonny stated that the biggest challenge to the school district is finance but if the state would pay us what they owe we should be okay but if not, he's not sure what the answer will be. He stated that the partnerships with us are very much appreciated. The After School program at the 4 grade schools are great and our parents and the school loves them and they hope to reopen the program at Washington School too. He appreciates using the Boots Bush fields for football/soccer practice and praised staff for the new fields to bring soccer tournaments to Quincy. He stated that 4 seats, possibly 5 if Mr. Niekamp is removed, will be up on the school board in 2011 and hopes to have those people return. After the recent school board retreat session, he feels that the board is working together well and doesn't feel that the media/community captures that aspect and work is getting done even under the financial strain they are currently in. Gible stated that he feels that any gaps in environmental education programs might be bridged by the park district and feels it meets our goals as a park district and we can help each other. Lonny stated that replacing the turf at Flinn Stadium is possibly another cooperative effort we can work on together in the future too.

Commissioner McGlothlin asked how the school district got the word out about the survey and Lonny stated that previously they tried mailing out surveys and got little response so this time they put it on the website for response and have received about 300-400 responses and that's probably what they'll have to go with but he knows that is not necessarily representative of the district as a whole but that's all they have to go by.

Mike McLaughlin, County Board stated that 3 years ago the county undertook a comprehensive plan and unfortunately it turned into a zoning plan by the public. They did do a thorough highway plan in the 70's and that plan was followed by them even though it was old but if you look at it now it matches Quincy.

He stated that the County's Top 10 are:

6th ambulance;

Emergency management tower but that is not yet complete;

Comprehensive plan;

Wind turbine project that is moving along but has been on the table for 3 years;

Elections for the county;

Mid America port authority has been worked on for 10 yrs and encompasses counties in the tri- state area based south of the dam and could see having a park setting near it just to see the activity;

Health dept building 25,000 sq ft facility for \$4million with plenty of room to expand;

Looking at a jail but no money for that;

Roads and highways, Dick Klusmeyer just retired and John Frankenhoff's brother has replaced him and moved easily into the position and;

21 board members and has been fortunate with appointments but has had a tough time over the last 2 yrs with pet projects from board members.

Things he would like to see the park district continue to do are: Blues in the District events, the changes to Washington Park are wonderful, video surveillance and lighting are good improvements for the community parks, keeping the parks understory maintained for security. He would like to continue to work on bike/walking trails with the district and thinks that a dog park would be a nice addition to the park system.

Gibble stated that he is meeting quarterly with the administrators here today along with Dr. Klincar at JWCC, Gary Sparks at the City and the administrator from the Quincy Public Library to make sure there is good communication and cooperative efforts between the government agencies. Gibble feels that park districts are good at educating the public by designing greener buildings, powering facilities with wind energy, etc and continue to demonstrate ways to treat the environment better. The board thanked the presenters for coming today. Gibble stated that he wanted to discuss the district's mission statement if time allowed yet today.

Gibble stated that he has put together a timeline and recommendation for a strategic planning process with dollar amounts and that President Frankenhoff has emailed commissioners some questions about this. Gibble talked about the life span of a strategic plan and is not sure that our last plan is a good working tool to get information from and it doesn't address some issues such as security, bluff park understory, ADA accessibility, etc. Most planning horizons are now 3 to 5 years. He stated that staff could do the majority of the work in house to narrow and focus on what we want to commit to do. The community and staff input will give us a longer

lifespan that we can work on and be the cornerstone of the document that can be revised every 3-5 years much more easily. Gibble stated that his hope is that at the September study session we decide where we are going with this. He stated that it is important to make sure that the board still agrees with our mission statement, and began a discussion with the Board about the mission.

Under discussion, Vice President Behrens feels it's important to keepstaying within our available resources, and it's too long;
Commssioner Anastas wants to strike everything after....which will serve to perpetually..... etc;
President Frankenhoff wants to strikewill strive to....;
Vice President Behrens wants to strikethe residents of the Quincy Park District.... is not accurate because there are others that support the district outside the city limits;
Commissioner Anastas stated that if we provide the services, the outside persons reap the benefit;
Commissioner Adolfs stated that shorter is better to get people to read it;
President Frankenhoff asked commissioners if they wanted to change the mission statement and the consensus is to make changes to it as discussed and Dan will bring a revised version back to the board for their approval.

Gibble suggested the next study session should begin in the fall and discussed the timeline and gathering process for a strategic plan. President Frankenhoff is opposed to making the project this lengthy and wants us to use tools that already exist such as the 2005 Community Needs Assessment, updates on the 2010 goals and objectives from staff and the capital projects listing. Gibble disagrees and feels that the information in the 2005 study is outdated and agrees that some of it can be done with staff but we also need professional assistance with some aspects of the process, and feels that much in the district and economy has changed since that study was done. Commissioner Hogge worries that we will get the same response the school district received and Gibble stated that is exactly why he wants to hire an outside source to survey the public, who are experienced at drawing samples and gaining sufficient response rates. Commissioner Anastas stated that the info is outdated and feels we need to do an in depth study to find out if the community wants to pay for trails or how do they want their tax dollars spent. Commissioner McGlothlin feels that we need to be proactive in finding out what the community needs. Gibble stated that as a part of the study an ADA accessibility audit and Safety audit needs to be done and dollars budgeted for those. Commissioner Anastas stated that we need to be able to present it as what people want instead of what the commissioners want in order to change the perception of the public has of us. Commissioner Adolfs is not a proponent of surveys and feels that staff can help educate commissioners on the needs of the residents. Commissioners asked for the quarterly update from staff for the 2010 goals and objectives.

With no further business to discuss, COMMISSIONER RIDDER MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCGLOTHLIN TO ADJOURN THE STUDY SESSION. UNANIMOUS. PRESIDENT FRANKENHOFF DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary

President

Date

Date