

QUINCY PARK DISTRICT
1310 Washington Street
Quincy, Illinois

Board Study Session
Board Room-Emerson Community Center

May 23, 2011
5:30 P.M.

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: President John Frankenhoff, Vice President Tom Behrens and Commissioners Jeff VanCamp, Tom Ernst, Mike Ridder and Patty McGlothlin.

Absent: Chris Hogge

Staff in attendance included: Executive Director – Dan Gible, Director of Business Services Hilgenbrinck, Director of Parks Ed Seger, Director of Program Services Mike Bruns, Director of Golf Matt Burry, Maintenance Supervisors Chris Veihl and Rome Frericks, Recreation Supervisor Melinda Murk and Recording Secretary – Vicky Egbert.

President Frankenhoff called the meeting to order.

Executive Director Gible stated that as part of the comprehensive plan we have added school sites to the half mile radius map and one of the areas lacking is south and east section in Quincy in relation to parks and open space. He stated there is still a gap in the national standards. He passed out a letter dated 1998 from Steve Carpenter, Executive Director of the park district at that time, that went to Dr. Klinkar's predecessor at JWCC about a park on their campus. Gible suggested that 2 of our board members meet with 2 of JWCC's board members to see if there is still some long term interest in a park near their campus. Dr. Thomas Klinkar and Alan Steigelman of John Wood Community College spoke to the park board and stated that their board is very interested in a joint project located on their campus. In the past, his board had discussed a 15-20 year lease arrangement but that they would not be interested in an open ended arrangement. He stated that nearby residents are already using their campus for a walking trail but would like to see their wellness use expanded. He stated that they already have an entry area and well lit parking area. Dr. Klinkar stated that they are also considering offering some park and recreation classes in the future. Alan Steigelman stated that we could share in the labor and equipment to maintain the area thus saving both agencies dollars. Steigelman stated that most of it is being farmed at this time and referred to their master site plan. JWCC would like to see a playground with a shelter and grills and serve as a trailhead. When asked about crossing 48th Street, they stated that we are looking at several scenarios, possibly a roundabout, stop light or 3 to 4 lanes from State to Harrison Streets but would need cooperation from the city and county on something like that. Dr. Klinkar stated that he feels that a 15 or 20 year timeframe is not going to be an issue because the college doesn't feel they have another viable use for the property. Gible stated that there could be a payback schedule for early termination that would safeguard the district. He stated that Dean

Lambkin and Gary Carter are board members that live directly across from the college and would be good ones to meet with park board members. Dr. Klincar is excited about the project and looks forward to hearing from the park district.

Executive Director Gible asked the board to check their calendars for a date for the board retreat and it was decided that July 18, 2011 from 8:00AM – 5:30PM would work.

Director of Parks Seger stated that staff has been working on maintenance standards for parks and facilities. He presented the classifications table and stated that we would be adding our minimum standards to the table once they are established. Seger stated that standards could be different due to the character of the park, what it's used for, etc. He stated the purpose of this is so when we build a park shelter, restroom, etc. at a new location, we would be able to establish how much it will cost to maintain that new facility and will be used for our existing facilities. Commissioner Ernst asked how this benefits him as a commissioner? Gible explained this will enable us to show you and the public what our park standards are as they pertain to our budget and these recommendations will help commissioners to see the cost savings or increases as they relate to that park area. Gible explained that it gives staff a tool to use to explain to the public why a particular area isn't being mowed as it once was and why and what the costs would be to change those standards if the board decided that was necessary. Gible stated that we will come back with refined changes for the board to finalize the standards.

Executive Director Gible stated that we have given you some information on the current status of Wavering Aquatic Center from 2 perspectives, mechanical/physical and user. He stated that while you can lengthen the life of a facility, you might not be able to bring more patrons without making some changes. Gible reminded commissioners that this was a visual presentation done by staff without looking at underground pipes/drains, etc. Director of Program Services Mike Bruns stated that Indian Mounds Pool has had more attendance than WAC the last 2 years and we are still holding around 34,000 patrons at both pools. Bruns stated that IMP is used by young families using the zero depth entry and WAC has a separate baby pool and is less desirable for young families. WAC has the teen/young adult crowd and that is attributable to the big waterslide and sand volleyball court. He discussed possible changes at WAC could be to get rid of one diving board and replace it with a drop slide, expand the concession area, get rid of baby pool and do zero depth entry, open up the interior areas by removing interior fences, establish an adult area only and have a separate area for birthday parties/special events, adding features for teen/young adults with climbing walls, lazy river. Gible stated that we would want it to appeal to a different crowd and not make it like IMP. Gible stated that WAC should be part of our comprehensive plan. Director of Parks Seger stated that WAC seems to be in good working condition but it is a 30 year old facility. Items he noted are: filter house has bad door but in good shape otherwise and visible pipeworks are in good shape; the sanitation system was converted to a gas chlorine system in 1998; the 3 pool basins don't leak and the drain covers were modified to meet new standards several years ago; there is one large crack on the decking but otherwise it is in good shape; there is corrosion to the

steel structure of the waterslide that may be an issue and plans to have an expert evaluate it; the steel brackets for the steps were reinforced in 1999; fences are rusting onto the concrete and the diving board supports have started to corrode also. Commissioners thanked him for the report and wanted to be sure and include WAC on the park tour.

Director of Parks Seger stated that we have recently completed an ADA study with John McGovern of Recreation Accessibility Consultants. Seger stated that some findings from the report could be accomplished within our existing budget but that most would need to be done in phases over multiple years and some are low/no cost but others could be expensive. Mr. McGovern stated it was a pleasure to work with staff and that the park district has some interesting sites and that his staff used the Illinois statutes along with the federal standards for the study. He stated that enforcement is on the rise within public park and recreation facilities and they are looking to see if you have completed the mandated access audit and have a plan in place. His findings included access deficits. They looked at district as a whole and more than one third of our sites are accessible. Offices/employee work areas are judged by the persons using them and have different standards but if vendors/patrons use those areas then the standards are more strict. McGovern recommends getting the work done in phases by 2015. Phase 1 you would do the easy, clear and old requirements with your existing staff. Phase 2 you would do the recreation amenities, such as locker rooms, pool, bathrooms and recommends making IMP accessible versus Wavering, not both pools. Phase 3 would be the more costly or complex changes such as accessible trails. He stated that the next step is a comprehensive staff review/counterpoint and start talking about the phases since we have 43 weeks to complete the plan. McGovern stated that the Title 2 part of the ADA study is to share the findings with the public at a hearing or meeting and could be on the agenda at a comprehensive plan meeting. McGovern stated that it bodes well that you have a plan in place with phases versus the Department of Justice imposing their version of a plan that they want you to complete.

Executive Director Gible stated that June 10, 2011 will be the park tour and July 18, 2011 is the full day board retreat.

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

Secretary

President

Date

Date