

# River Forest Park District Board Meeting

## November 14, 2016, 6:00 PM

*Judith McDevitt, Observer*

The meeting was held at The Depot, 401 Thatcher Avenue.

**Present:** Commissioners Russ Roloff (President), Beth Dunne, and Peter Kuzmich. Executive Director Mike Sletten and fifteen attendees were also present.

**President Russ Roloff** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. for a public hearing on the proposed sale of General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2016, not to exceed \$225,000 over 3 years. The purpose of Limited Tax Park Bonds is to pay for land or build, improve, or maintain existing land and facilities for the Park District. The Series 2016 bonds specifically will finance the construction of the 2 new platform tennis courts in Keystone Park. There were no public comments, and the hearing was adjourned.

President Roloff then called the Board meeting to order, after which the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. This included the Board Meeting Minutes of October 17; vendor disbursements of \$2,168.19 for October 11-31 and \$51,393.62 for November 1-14; and a customer disbursement of \$80 for November 1-14, 2016.

**Public Comments:** In October the Park District Board approved moving forward to build two new platform tennis courts by next June or July. This required approval of a minor amendment to the Keystone Park PDR Ordinance from the Village Board, which was given at the November 7 Village Board meeting. The 15 attendees giving public comments were all current platform tennis members asking the Board to revisit how the two new platform tennis courts would be positioned. They stated that the plan selected to construct the new courts in a north-south direction, parallel to the existing courts, would not create the optimum space for constructing a warming hut in the future. They stated that "getting it right" was more important than moving ahead without adequate examination of design options. In their view, the two new courts should be constructed in an east-west direction with a larger central deck, making space for the future warming hut as the hub of the complex and assuring good sight lines to all four courts from inside the hut. They concluded by presenting 37 additional e-mails in support of their request from other platform tennis members unable to attend the meeting. After being assured that the Board would take their comments into consideration, the group left the meeting.

There was no correspondence to the Board.

**Reports** included the following highlights:

1. Park Services is readying the ice rink at Constitution Park. A temporary chain link fence will be installed to help prevent use of the rink before it is ready, which caused problems trying to make ice last year. All pathway lights at Keystone and Priory parks are being rewired for LED fixtures, which will reduce electric bills 25%.
2. Recreation Services noted that the Winter-Spring Fun Guide will be out shortly.
3. Administration and Finance – The annual audit reports have been filed with the required agencies and the next tax levy prepared. The safety loss review has been completed and received a Level A rating.
4. Next Meetings - WSSRA will meet Tuesday, December 13th, location TBA. The next Parks Foundation Board Meeting is Monday, December 19th, 7:00 PM at The Depot.
5. Executive Director – The Parks Foundation's Sustainability Committee's request to become a formal Village Commission will be discussed at the next Village Board meeting on November 21. The Village Board seems to be split on the issue. Considerations on the County Levy for the year 2016 on this meeting agenda have been prepared for the Board's review.

### **Old Business**

1. The Board unanimously approved issuing the Series 2016 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds to finance the construction of 2 new platform tennis courts in Keystone Park.
2. The Board approved moving forward with a request for a 4.9% County Tax Levy for 2016 and to post it for public review. This is the maximum levy that can be requested under Tax Cap laws without triggering the 5% Truth in Taxation Hearing requirement. The expectation is that the County will adjust the levy to reflect the

consumer price index plus new growth. The tax levy will be on the agenda for approval at the December 12 Board Meeting.

3. Platform Tennis Member Request to Revisit Positioning of New Courts. The Board discussed that they could simply move forward, having made their decision, or they could look into the ramifications of repositioning the courts and enlarging the complex. Clearly such a design change will slow down completion of the project. Questions to be addressed include funding issues in light of likely increased costs; whether members will pay the increased membership fees that could be a result, since this is an "Enterprise Venture" intended to be self-sustaining; whether members will fund raise to cover additional construction costs; and the impact of the expanded facility on the adjacent tennis court and whether there would be room to construct smaller, junior courts in its place. If there was room left for junior courts, the costs to have them designed and built would need to be determined, along with whether this would be considered a loss of tennis courts.

Executive Director Sletten will look into these issues for the next Board meeting December 12.

#### **New Business**

The Board approved amending the Alcohol and Controlled Substance section in the Parks Ordinance to include chew tobacco and e-cigarettes as additional items prohibited within 25' of any facility or within 100' of any organized activity.

The meeting was adjourned to an Executive Session at 7:25 PM.

The next meeting of the River Forest Park District Board will be Monday, December 12, 6:00 PM.