



**LISLE PARK DISTRICT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, July 18, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Wessel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Director Garvy Called Roll:

Commissioners Present In-Person:

Altpeter
Hummel
Tapella
Wessel

Commissioners Absent:

Dombroski

Staff Present Included:

Director of Parks & Recreation Garvy
Superintendent of Finance Silver
Superintendent of Recreation & Marketing Pratscher
Superintendent of Parks Cerutti
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Mejicano
Recreation Manager of Athletics & Fitness, Price

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Wessel led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. REMOTE ATTENDANCE AUTHORIZATION

None

IV. PRESENTATIONS

None

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Wessel apologized for ongoing feedback with the microphones and speakers. He recited the public comment rules, and reminded everyone we are all neighbors and to treat each other respectfully.

A. Ms. Helen Chow expressed discontent with the Park District's response to a petition by patrons regarding early morning sessions and noise complaints by neighbors, as well as the removal of the portable toilet from the park and interruption of pickleball related programming due to the potential closure of the courts at Abbeywood Park. Ms. Chow requested the reinstatement of pickleball classes for the months of August and September.

B. Mr. Bruce Montgomery addressed the impact of noise pollution, traffic, and crowds brought to the local neighborhood due to the presence of two pickleball courts at Abbeywood Park. His main points included close proximity of the courts to nearby homes is detrimental to those who work from home, players using profane language, disrespectful behavior, and involvement of law enforcement to try to curtail afterhours playing. He talked about areas of compromise that have been suggested to

patrons making use of the courts. Mr. Montgomery commented about the issues with the portable toilet and the maintenance schedule being disruptive to the neighborhood.

C. Mr. John Madigan presented facts regarding the benefits of pickleball for health, ease of learning for players of different levels, growth of the sport's popularity in recent years, etc. Mr. Madigan also presented statistics specific to Lisle and the neighborhood, and expressed his disagreement with neighbors who are opposed to continued play at Abbeywood Park. He referenced discussions had at the June meeting regarding options for the future of the pickleball program at Abbeywood Park.

D. Mr. Vitautas Matulyauskas stated that the stress of having pickleball courts at Abbeywood Park has had such a detrimental impact on his personal health that he required heart surgery. He said this sort of situation is all over the internet and is happening every day and cited other locations throughout the country that have imposed minimum distance requirements between courts and nearby homes. He conducted a demonstration of the noise of quiet balls and normal balls. He discussed the use of quiet technology and postings over the past two years requiring its use and the disregard by pickleball patrons.

E. Ms. Lisa Porch expressed discontent and stated that she feels the opinions of a few are affecting a larger group that is in favor of maintaining an active pickleball program and presence. Ms. Porch cited revenue impact and the cost to taxpayers due to closure of the newer courts at Abbeywood. She noted surrounding communities that have all implemented pickleball programs and facilities. She stressed the positive impact that the game can have on the Lisle community, and encouraged the Lisle Park District to maintain the courts after the completion of the Tate Woods courts. Ms. Porch discussed the physical, mental, and social benefits of the sport.

F. Mr. Saket Bhatnagar acknowledged the popularity and growth of pickleball but requested that a mutually agreeable location be found outside of Abbeywood Park. He said he doesn't think people love the pickleball courts at Abbeywood, but that people love pickleball and asked that we find a place where it can be played without having such a negative impact on the neighbors. He commented that the majority should be able to acquire what they want while sacrificing the needs of the minority and made specific mention that the opposition to the courts at Abbeywood Park consists solely of homeowners who live next to the courts, and it should not impact the ability for these neighbors to earn a living. He said he is not opposed to pickleball, and if we can find a way to add more and it would require more taxes, he is sure everyone here would support it.

G. Mr. Rocky Ruggiero requested that the Park District wait on making a decision regarding the closure of the Abbeywood Courts until after the Tate Woods Park courts have been open for a few months in order to assess the difference it makes to residents. He also suggested that patrons who take lessons compromise by allowing for a break in programming to give residents of the Abbeywood neighborhood a reprieve from the noise of the courts. Mr. Ruggiero then suggested shortening the hours available for open courts or installing a windscreen as opposed to a sound wall. Mr. Ruggiero provided supporting examples of other areas in surrounding communities and neighborhoods within Lisle where courts are located closer to homes and there are no complaints.

H. Mr. John Gerding spoke about the pros and cons of living near a park and the associated sounds that could reasonably be expected to emanate from such a community feature. He discussed the benefits he has enjoyed from playing pickleball on a personal level and the proximity of the courts to his home.

I. Ms. Amanda (last name was not provided) spoke about the joy that she experiences on a personal level seeing the facilities at Abbeywood being used and the sense of community that the sport provides. She mentioned that she has heard about proposed compromises but has yet to see any be put into action so she would like to see that change and to see progress being made to accommodate all parties. She proposed stronger enforcement of rules in order to mitigate some of the problems residents have. She said replacing something that is so well liked and so well used is a detriment to the community. She said at times people age out of neighborhoods and move. She

said she purchased a pickleball paddle from Facebook Market Place only to find out it was Vitas who was selling them. She said she and her friend both purchased paddles from Vitas, they are not quiet paddles but rather are carbon fiber, she and her friend play there regularly with these paddles, and she said she questions what side he is on.

J. Mr. Franklin Chow spoke about the necessity of having a bathroom/lavatory facility available in the park due to the need of many patrons that use the park for various reasons. He stated that the closest lavatory facility being located at Surrey Ridge Sports Complex is too far of a distance for many, especially senior citizens.

K. Ms. Mandy Clancy said pickleball is a social sport and she has met so many new friends while playing and taking lessons, which is different than when she took tennis lessons. She asked the park board not to take out the courts without first trying sound barriers, and said the courts are being used as a physical and social outlet and pickleball courts are in demand. She said her group has been respectful of the rules currently imposed on the site and asked the park district to be true to its mission of Be Community Focused.

L. Ms. Margarita Matulis gave personal accounts of how the noise from weekends, early mornings and late night pickleball playing have affected her health due to the proximity of the courts to her home. She said her husband had heart surgery and could not get the rest he needed because of the pickleball noise and the stress it has created, and said she is waiting for heart surgery too, saying they were both healthy before pickleball was introduced at Abbeywood Park. She said she is not against pickleball, saying she plays that, tennis, and other activities. She said mistakes have to be corrected in the right way as soon as possible.

M. Ms. Micki Lewis provided a historical recap of pickleball in Lisle, saying when the neighbors moved in in 2021, the tennis courts there had pickleball lines on them and they were getting used. She referenced other park and daily activities' decibel readings, and asked what the pickleball decibel reading would be inside a house with windows closed and air conditioning running. She spoke at length about the benefits that parks offer to the community, the expectations that with parks there will be noises that arise from activities within the properties, and the limited amount of time that pickleball players have to enjoy the use of limited spaces to play in. Ms. Lewis proposed having a supply of quiet pickleballs provided to players at the courts to help with sound management.

N. Ms. Debbie Rembus posed the question of why sound barriers were not initially installed when the pickleball courts were put in place. She questioned the reasoning behind refusal by residents to various proposed measures, the true price of proposed projects that were rejected due to prohibitive costs, and other efforts towards compromise that were rejected for various reasons. She stated she understands there have been no complaints from the residents next to the pickleball courts at Arbor View Park and wonders what the difference is. Ms. Rembus discussed the cost prohibitions to individual residents that would come from implementing quiet court regulations and requiring them to purchase expensive quiet paddles. She said the Tate Woods courts are not accessible through the Green Trails pathway system and the Abbeywood Park courts and park align with the Green Trails neighborhood goal of incorporating open spaces for public health. She said she and her husband once lived near a park and needed to adjust their expectations regarding noise, traffic and overall park activity. She cited misinformation being circulated on social media and elsewhere suggesting the park district has not been responsive, saying that was and is currently not true.

O. Ms. Lorraine Krzywosz thanked the park board for working together with the pickleball community to develop Tate Woods Park. She questioned the validity of the neighbor sponsored sound study that did not include any noise measurements. She cited the Village of Lisle noise ordinance exempts the park district and spoke about proposed compromises offered by the park district and pickleball community. She said the park board directed staff that no more resources were to be spent on the noise issue at Abbeywood Park, but it was clear after last month's meeting that in fact resources had been spent on the issue. She expressed discontent that the pickleball community was not included in further discussions regarding this issue and the appearance of the pickleball community being

penalized with removal of available lessons through the Park District, etc. She asked that the park board make decisions based on what is best for the entire community and not just a few select individuals.

P. Ms. Joanne Madigan expressed appreciation for the benefits that the Park District brings to Lisle and said when she took her first pickleball lesson from the park district, she had a renewed sense of community after not having participated in park district offerings for years. She said she lives on a park and welcomes the soccer practices, lacrosse, and band practices and loves that the park is being used. She asked that the 8:00am lessons be reinstated, bring back the portable toilet, and not close the Abbeywood courts.

Q. Mr. Jason Porch expressed that he believes his observance of how often the Abbeywood Park courts are in use for pickleball shows an incredible return on the investment of the community's tax dollars. how successful the program is when compared to usage of other facilities designated for tennis. He expressed that the cancellation of lessons for several months would be a detriment to the community and to the Park District.

VI. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

Vice President Altpeter moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Hummel seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: Altpeter, Hummel, Tapella, Wessel

Nays: None

Absent: Dombroski

Motion Passed.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Hummel moved to approve Consent Agenda items A and B including the voucher list in the amount of \$664,386.68. Commissioner Hummel requested to pull item C. Vice President Altpeter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Hummel, Altpeter, Tapella, Wessel

Nays: None

Absent: Dombroski

Motion Passed.

Discussion:

Commissioner Hummel expressed concern regarding placement of a fence over a water retention area. He requested verification that the fence would be made of chain link and requested further information on whether the fence would continue parallel to the train tracks. Superintendent Cerutti explained the shaping of the fence to accommodate any variance in topography. Director Garvey confirmed that fencing would only be placed at the front and sides of the site and addressed the likelihood of someone entering the site via crossing the train tracks. Commissioner Hummel proposed holding off on voting on Consent Agenda item C until August to confirm placement of the fencing. Vice President Altpeter mentioned her intention to move for approval of awarding the bid and questioned the impact on overall cost of the project to add extra fencing. A brief discussion was held in terms of what possible fiscal implications there would be on the overall project budget and the deadline from the awarded company to maintain their original pricing offer. Vice President Altpeter expressed some concern over delaying approval. Commissioner Hummel restated concern about site security. Vice President Altpeter moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Tapella seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Tapella, Wessel
Nays: Hummel
Absent: Dombroski
Motion Passed.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

None

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Pickleball Courts – Current and Future Use Discussion

Vice President Altpeter said she didn't realize we were discontinuing programming at Abbeywood Park and thought that wouldn't happen until the Tate Woods courts were open. She said she'd like to see that reinstated. Director Garvy explained steps that the Park District has taken that would allow the addition of pickleball court lines to one of the four tennis courts in Community Park, the purchase of portable netting, and cooperative efforts between the Lisle Park District and Lisle High School. President Wessel stated he liked the idea of moving the lessons to Community Park as a good compromise. Vice President Altpeter referenced some of the public comments from earlier in the evening and expressed concern that removing pickleball programming from Abbeywood Park would be a disservice to patrons who live within that large community and partake in said programming. Commissioner Hummel agreed with keeping the pickleball courts open at Abbeywood Park, but that he felt moving programming to Community Park until Tate Woods opens was a good compromise. He also referenced a public comment regarding return on investment and said the Abbeywood courts are a good example of that. Commissioner Tapella spoke briefly about integrating feedback from the community from multiple different sources and spoke positively about the community engagement tonight. She referenced the park district's strategic master plan and how that reflected the results of the entire community. She said the district is taxed with improving and expanding the pickleball resources throughout the community. She said this is a new developing community sport and we continually get new information and developments and we're learning as we go. She said it is important for us to remain informed and on the cutting edge to see how that can help with our own community. Commissioner Tapella said she does not think programming should be cut, but what staff has proposed as a temporary solution with moving programming to Community Park while maintaining the courts at Abbeywood Park is a good compromise, saying that doesn't lose the amenity at Abbeywood Park, but moving the concentrated use elsewhere is a great option. She said the best solution is to move lessons to Community Park while maintaining the courts at Abbeywood Park as-is until we see what happens after the Tate Woods courts are open.

Discussion shifted to replacing the portable toilet for use by residents. Superintendent Cerutti spoke about the pathway damage from having to service the unit and indicated a lack of alternative placement options on site at Abbeywood Park. Director Garvy made a point of mentioning that parks that do not have active programming are usually not equipped with portable toilets and confirmed that there was in fact damage to the pathway in Abbeywood Park due to the servicing truck. Vice president Altpeter asked if the reason the portable unit was placed out there was because of the lessons, to which Director Garvy said yes.

Commissioner Hummel inquired about Valley Forge and signage indicating that there will be no pickleball in that park. Brief discussion and consensus followed.

Commissioner Hummel asked whether the Park District would reimplement the direction of no longer discussing pickleball and staff dedicating time to the continuing conflict. Commissioner Tapella proposed to wait until the end of the season before making any decisions regarding this topic.

Vice President Altpeter requested an update on when the courts at Tate Woods may be completed and the progress of construction up to this point. Superintendent Cerutti provided an update on the construction saying the contractor is looking at the middle of September for the courts to be ready for play, weather and conditions permitting. He said other areas of the park might not be finished, but the pickleball courts are a priority.

B. Community Park Ramp Park Renovations – Update

Director Garvy mentioned that a call is scheduled with American Ramp company the following day to discuss two renderings that will be presented at the upcoming public open house event on Monday, July 22nd from 5pm to 7pm at the park.

XII. SEASPAR REPORT

Submitted in packet.

XIII. OFFICER REPORTS

A. President Wessel had nothing formal to present but offered positive feedback on the July 3rd Summer Concert Series event and the Independence Day Parade. He then opened the floor for other officer reports.

B. Treasurer Report

I. Financial Reports ending June 30, 2024.

Superintendent Silver said the reports are submitted and confirmed that all District funds are either FDIC or fully collateralized. He said that generally the park district is in comparable financial situation as last year at this time.

C. Commissioners' Reports

Discussion was had regarding the July 3rd event and public behavior. Director Garvy spoke positively about the reduced amount of litter left in the park as opposed to what would be left behind after the Eyes to the Skies festival. Vice President Altpeter expressed disbelief that members of the public were climbing on top of the shelters in Community Park and suggested that this be handled more efficiently next year.

Commissioner Hummel said he noticed a good crowd for the Lisle Community Band in the park tonight as he came to the meeting. He inquired about storm damage to the parks. Superintendent Cerutti briefly explained the impact of the storms and how staff have addressed the minimal damage that did take place.

Commissioner Tapella commented on the 4th of July parade and complimented how well the event went.

XIV. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING

Vice President Altpeter moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tapella seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: Altpeter, Tapella, Hummel, Wessel

Nays: None

Absent: Dombroski

Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.