



**MINUTES OF THE OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOREL PARK IMPROVEMENTS  
Oakton Community Center  
4701 Oakton Street, SKOKIE, IL  
NOVEMBER 2, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman  
Vice-President Mike Reid  
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe  
Commissioner Mary Oshana

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft  
Superintendent of Parks Corrie Guynn  
Office Manager Park Services Dima Kirland  
Landscape Supervisor Stephen Ames  
Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker  
Park Specialist III Jim Hallm  
Park Specialist IV Peter Haben

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Ezra Jaffe called the public hearing of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Lorel Park improvements to order at 7:00 p.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Jaffe introduced himself, President Susan Aberman, Vice President Mike Reid, Commissioner Mary Oshana, and Executive Director Michelle Tuft.

Executive Director Michelle Tuft introduced Superintendent Corrie Guynn to present the concept for Lorel Park improvements. Ms. Tuft told those in attendance that the Power Point presentation will be posted on the Skokie Park District website tomorrow under the Lorel Park tab. Superintendent Guynn's contact information will also be posted.

**PRESENTATION**

Superintendent Guynn presented the design for the Lorel Park playground and other amenities. The updates will include shelter improvements, new playground equipment, and new water fountains, benches, garbage cans and picnic tables. The shelter's improvements are very minor and include replacing the cinder blocks with partitions, and painting.

The footprint of the playground will be basically the same. The new playground equipment will include a 5–12-year-old structure, a 2–5-year-old structure, a four-person accessible rocker, a spinning component, a climbing component, different decks, slides, and swings. The swings will include two belt swings, two bucket tot swings, an accessible swing, and a parent/tot

swing.

A new zip line will be added. The new 90-foot zip line will be installed on the south side of the path. It is approximately 240 feet from the baseball field and is far enough away to avoid balls from the baseball field.

In addition, some of the asphalt paths will be replaced with concrete paths. New garbage cans, water fountains, memorial benches, and picnic tables will be added.

Surfacing will be engineered wood fiber woodchips as opposed to synthetic turf surface or poured in place rubber surfacing due to cost. Engineered wood fiber woodchips cost \$4 per square foot, synthetic turf costs \$13 per square foot, and poured in place costs \$23 per square foot.

The demolition of the playground will be done by staff in late fall or early winter. The contractor will finish demolition and install the playground beginning late spring and hopefully the project will be completed before July.

### **COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

A resident asked if the new playground will be close to the basketball court. Mr. Guynn said that the new playground will basically have the same footprint and it will be the same distance as it is now.

A resident asked about the cost of a memorial bench. Mr. Guynn said it is \$300 for an existing bench with a plaque, or \$1600 for a new bench. The information of the memorial benches, memorial trees and memorial bricks is on the Skokie Park District website, under the Parks tab and under Commemorative Bench, Brick and Tree Donations.

A resident inquired about fencing around the basketball court to prevent balls from hitting cars. Mr. Guynn said staff will look to see if it makes sense with the space limitations.

A resident asked if there is any way to apply fluid when raking the diamonds to prevent the dust. Mr. Guynn said there is not a good solution for that, however Mr. Guynn will discuss with staff to see what else can be done.

A resident asked how we can keep dog poop out of the park. Mr. Guynn said unfortunately it is a problem and is a problem at other parks as well. There are signs but people ignore them. Mr. Guynn suggested calling animal control, but they are not always there.

A resident suggested putting more grass in the outfield to prevent mud after rain. Mr. Guynn said we have looked at couple of options and started installing boards at the base of the backstops to restrict the mud flow. Staff is looking at adding turf at the sidelines to help restrict the mud.

A resident suggested increasing the size of the tennis courts. Mr. Guynn said there is not a way to increase the size of the tennis court.

A resident suggested eliminating the tennis court, it is not heavily used, and people use it for their dogs. Staff is planning on landscape improvements around the tennis courts.

A resident suggested planting more flowers and shrubs to add color to the park. Mr. Guynn said staff will look to see where they can make additional landscape improvements. The planting types are limited because there is a lot of shade from the trees.

A resident said there are a couple of old trees in the park with branches hanging low. The trees looked unhealthy. Mr. Hallm said they are being monitored and one of them will probably not make it.

A resident asked what colors the playground will be and asked that the new playground have new colors. She also inquired about getting a group of people together to help with planting, etc. Mr. Guynn said the district has an Adopt a Park program and the Rotary Club of Skokie Valley has adopted Lorel Park. Residents would love to help them.

A resident asked that we add a small sled hill for small kids. Mr. Guynn said we are not looking at adding a sled hill.

President Aberman asked one of the residents, the six-year-old, to make suggestions. The six-year-old said she is pleased with the colors and is especially happy about the zip line that is being added.

A resident requested additional benches and tables for the parents around the playground. Mr. Guynn said we can possibly add benches and a table around the playground.

A resident asked about the fence. Mr. Guynn said we are removing the split rail and replacing it with recycled lumber fence.

A resident inquired about flooding the park for an ice-skating ring. Mr. Guynn said that we will not be doing that because of logistics and staffing.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Jaffe thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.



Susan Aberman  
President



Michelle Tuft  
Secretary

November 16, 2021

**Vision Statement**

The Skokie Park District envisions a community where all of its residents enjoy a high quality of life through leisure time pursuits, beautiful open spaces, and first-rate facilities.

**Mission Statement**

The Skokie Park District will realize its vision through teamwork, community partnerships, sound fiscal management, and creativity in every area of its operation.

**Core Values**

The Skokie Park District will fulfill its mission through:

•Commitment• Integrity• Innovation• Service •Openness •Environmental Stewardship •Inclusiveness