

Agenda for the Posen Park District Long Term Planning Committee Meeting
On Thursday September 29th, 2011 at 6:30PM
at the Memorial Park Office on 143rd & Campbell Avenue

Opening

President Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Present were Commissioners Whitcomb, Chmielak, & Lopez. Commissioner Haran arrived at 6:34pm. Commissioner Murphy arrived at 7:01pm. President Whitcomb explained the format of the agenda in developing ideas on each area of need. Commissioner Lopez circulated his list of ideas, which were evaluated by the Board, along with previously circulated lists by President Whitcomb and Commissioner Chmielak.

Infrastructure & Safety

Memorial Park - Commissioner Chmielak discussed the Dog Park as a priority. Commissioner Haran commented on high public desire for this to be finished. Commissioner Chmielak stated that the workers will be making much of the equipment. Discussion ensued on registration and how to control entry and animal waste. President Whitcomb commented that the majority of pet owners will police the park themselves because they do not want to lose it. Commissioner Chmielak commented that we need Dog Park signs and general rules signs for all parks. President Whitcomb asked for all Commissioners to send him their opinions on what should be on the signs.

Commissioner Chmielak discussed doing the pathways, refinishing what is in need of repair and adding small portions of pathway in key places. President Whitcomb described the initial quote from Wally's and that this would need to be carefully planned and go out to bid. Commissioner Chmielak commented that there are many fence repairs needed at all parks. A discussion also ensued about weed control and that the workers have not received their license applications for the pesticide class, and Commissioner Chmielak has been hounding them to follow up on it.

Commissioners' Park - The Board discussed repaving the tennis court next spring, as well as the possibility of locating a new office building and second garage at the park. President Whitcomb distributed schematics of a potential building, and the Board proceeded to discuss cost, which may be prohibitive for a large building at this time. President Whitcomb and Commissioner Chmielak also discussed utilizing a modular building or office trailer as a 3-5 year stopgap while we plan and raise money for a proper administration center.

Zuziak Park - President Whitcomb presented a concept design for a renovation next summer. The Board discussed a walking path around the park, including row parking, new trees, and a possible addition of a gazebo.

Therapeutic Park - This park is largely done. The Village street work and transfer will alleviate many of the remaining problems. The Board discussed restoration of water access, rebuilding the electrical cages, repairing the pavillions at all parks, and a path between the equipment and the pavillion.

Future Park Site #5 – President Whitcomb stated that we cannot plan much in detail on this until we own the property, but we will also have to consider putting in equipment here next year.

Recreation

A lengthy discussion ensued on bringing in sporting programs for next season. A potential of partnering with Markham for baseball and soccer is on the table, and they seem to be prepared to do a lot of the leg work. President Whitcomb stated that sports programs should be a priority, however, we also should look at having regular classes such as arts and crafts, money management, etc. Commissioner Lopez reintroduced the topic of Money University and was assigned to acquire answers to questions posed by each Commissioner.

Co-Op with Neighbor Districts (Blue Island, Markham, Midlothian, Others?) - Discussion ensued about getting

involved with neighboring districts. Commissioner Haran commented that Midlothian is waiting for us. President Whitcomb stated he would like to have the agreement we have with Blue Island Park District with Midlothian and Markham as well.

Finances & Fundraising

President Whitcomb stated the need to establish a reserve fund so we do not continue having to take out loans each year when tax money is late. He also outlined the merits of changing our fiscal year to fall into line with our revenue streams. Discussion ensued about when we expect to receive revenues, and how establishing programs and sponsorships are important to offset tax revenue that may not be received as people fail to pay their property taxes.

Staffing (Timeline?)

President Whitcomb touched on the need to evaluate a timeline for hiring an office person, as well as summer recreation staff for the next year. He commented that we need a proper office and a bathroom before we can have office activity. The Board discussed a timeline for acquiring some sort of office and perhaps getting an office person on staff by the start of the next year. President Whitcomb also expressed his desire to see a Day Camp sometime in the next two summers.

President Whitcomb stated he would relisten to the tape and prepare a list and timeline of the items discussed tonight so we can vote to act on them at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Haran moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Murphy. All Commissioners voted Aye, meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.