

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 19, 2013, 6:00PM**  
**Washington Park District, 105 S. Spruce St., Washington IL**

**1.0 Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Washington Park District Board of Commissioners, Tazewell County, Illinois was held on August 19, 2013 at the Washington Park District office located at 105 S. Spruce Street, Washington, Illinois. President Lorelei Cox called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Commissioners present were: Rich Baer, Jim Bremner, Herb Knoblauch and Doug Weston. Staff present was Doug Damery, Director; Brad Kanaga, Superintendent of Parks; Jackie Hofer, Administrative Assistant; Kim Hess, Finance Manager; Brian Tibbs, Recreation Manager.

**2.0 Petition and Public Comment**

Spencer Roosevelt, 309 Ernst Road, Washington, Illinois attended the board meeting to express some concerns with the proposed dog park to be developed in Meadow Valley Park. Spencer explained Ernst Road is a very narrow road; there are no sidewalks and no curbs making it very difficult for kids to ride their bikes as there is not enough room. Safety is a concern.

Aaron Rose, 404 Ernst Road, Washington, Illinois expressed his concern about the proposed dog park and would like to see a new location. Mr. Rose has done some research on Google maps to see where other towns have put their dog parks and he has found dog parks to be located in outer areas and not located in residential areas. Safety is a concern to Mr. Rose as well as property value.

Debra Palmquist, 110 Devonshire, Washington, Illinois wanted to share some of the internet research she has done on the internet and answer some of the questions which were addressed at the Public Safety Meeting which included increased property values, reduces crime rate and low levels of noise from dogs while attending dog parks.

Trish LaHood McElroy, 416 Ernst Road, Washington, Illinois is not a dog lover, she was bitten by a dog, is concerned with dog waste, dog diseases, the maintenance of the park if a dog park would be developed there, and stated there has also been more crime in the area of MVP because she had someone arrested who did not like her sign.

Carol Beatty, 3118 E. Renee, Chillicothe, Illinois is very much in favor of a dog park in Washington. She has seen the plans for the proposed dog park and is very impressed. She has been to dog parks in Aurora, Chillicothe and Durand, Illinois all of which are in residential areas and the benefits to a community are very positive.

Christine Jarrett, 1328 Oak Leaf Lane, Washington, Illinois is a veterinary technician and also is researcher for this project. Christine has done some scientific research on many concerns that other people have and addressed many of those concerns.

Amanda DeVore, 109 Partridge, Metamora, Illinois is a frequent dog park user and is the owner of 2 dogs, 1 of which was abused. After doctoring the abused dog and getting her well, Daisy was taken to a dog park to socialize her dog where she had an awesome experience. Amanda does live in an apartment so the Dog Parks are a great place to let her dogs run around and play.

Jeff Schumacher, 301 Ernst Road, Washington, Illinois Jeff is a dog owner and not against a dog park. He is however, against the location of the proposed dog park. Stated he just learned at a public safety meeting that there will be 4 more years of construction traffic due to work at the sewage treatment plant. He is also concerned with maintenance of MVP and who will supervise if a dog park is established.

Cindy Miller, Washington, Illinois is a proponent of the dog park and used to live in the neighborhood. She is concerned about traffic/safety on Ernst Road and also the maintenance of the park.

Todd Baker, 620 Ernst Road, Washington, Illinois is a long time Washington resident and dog lover who would like to see the Dog Park developed at Oak Ridge Park. States he is concerned with manpower that the Washington Park District has and maintenance of MVP.

Kay Cote, 820 N. Main, Washington, Illinois is calling for everyone to work together on "health issues" in Washington Park. Kay is a Washington resident who has had a major surgery and now walks a lot due to her health and has witnessed a lot of dog waste throughout the parks.

In conclusion to the public hearing, Director Damery addressed some of the issues. A new parking lot will not be constructed with this project. The existing lot is plenty adequate. There has not been any discussion of a dog park in Washington Park by the Park District staff or board. Meadow Valley was targeted as a priority in the recently completed Master Plan and a dog park fits the utilization of the park as well as will promote other improvements.

Commissioner Knoblauch left at 6:57pm.

### **3.0 Approval Meeting Minutes**

#### **3.1 Approval of July 22, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes**

- A motion was made to approve the July 22, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes (Weston, Baer; C-Un)

### **4.0 Financial Report**

- A motion was made to approve the Financial Report (Bremner, Weston; C-Un)

### **5.0 Review and Approval of Claims**

- A motion was made to approve the claims (Baer, Bremner; C-Un)

### **6.0 Committee Reports**

6.1 Update from HISRA Representative-No July Meeting

6.2 Update from the WACC Representative-Commissioner Knoblauch left early, not available to give a report.

### **7.0 Staff Reports**

7.1 Parks and Property-Brad had no additions to his report

7.2 Recreation Manager-Brian had no additions to his report

7.3 Athletic Coordinator-report was included in packet

7.4 Executive Director-Director Damery reported no additions to his report however discussion items under Administration, Dog Park, and Washington Park Pool.

## **8.0 Old Business**

### **8.1 Discussion and potential action regarding a dog park at Meadow Valley Park**

Board and staff briefly discussed some of the issues that were brought up during Public Comment. Director Damery is going to continue to monitor the status of the location and will try to meet with them to see if any compromise can be reached.

## **9.0 New Business**

### **9.1 Discussion and Action regarding bids for Washington Park Tennis Court crack repair and color surfacing**

Bids were opened on Thursday, August 15, 2013. We received one bid from All Weather Courts in the amount of \$28,240. The board asked Director Damery to contact the high school to see if the possibility to work cooperatively on a tennis court project was still available. Director Damery explained this bid would be good for 60 days and he could contact the high school and we could still accept the bid at the next meeting.

- A motion was made to postpone this action until the September board meeting. (Weston, Bremner; C-Un)

### **9.2 Discussion regarding the WACC Supplemental Lease Agreement**

WACC has refinanced the loan which our supplemental lease payment assists in underwriting. The WACC is looking at a reduction of \$280.92/month, \$3,371.04 annually, of which, the Park District would receive \$42.14/month; an annual savings of \$506.66. Director Damery explained 3 different options to pursue regarding the WACC Supplemental Lease Agreement. The Board asked that we inform the other entities of our feeling that they are entitled to savings equal to their portion of the payment and prepare a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize the change in the agreement.

## **10.0 Adjournment**

- A motion was made at approximately 8:19pm to adjourn. (Weston, Bremner; C-Un)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Bremner, Secretary  
Washington Park District  
Board of Commissioners