

MINUTES OF THE  
BERKELEY PARK DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, June 8 2022

The special board meeting of the Berkeley Park District was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at Berkeley Park District's Lind Park building. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

Roll call Commissioners present: J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, P. Smith, K. Lowe and T. Larem

Other present: Park District Director P. Graham, Secretary, A. Hord, and 1 Berkeley resident

New Business

- A.) Discussion of Village of Berkeley proposal of Partnership: Commissioner Ditchfield stated that the Village of Berkeley to go over the list of items in the Partnership proposal.
- How would the partnership impact Berkeley Park District's Master Plan: short term and long term?: The park board would remain intact, but as a paper district. Commissioner would continue to be elected.
  - Intergovernmental Agreement: operative to a paper district, with the board members meeting 2 to 4 times per year.
  - Maintenance: discussion to pay the village public works to do the work.
  - Transfer of real estate: Berkeley Village has interest different that the park district does. Possibly has something to do with the ideas of CMap the village is doing.
  - Commissioners want to work together with the village, but not hand over control, as the village wants.
  - The cell tower situation had Village Administrator Rudy Espiritu as point person. The original location of the cell tower buildings was going to be along the third base line. Now they will be located directly under the water tower, all which is Berkeley Park District's property. A discussion took place regarding a survey package.
  - The commissioners discussed that it's a good idea to pay the village public works for maintenance and the park district needs more employees to run programs and events, that it's too much for just one person to handle. They feel the village is busy with other business and that the park district should keep control of decision making.
  - Partnership with Memorial Park District in regards to maintenance with the playgrounds was discussed.
  - Revenue from the cell towers was briefly discussed.
  - Money from the Tollway for moving of ball field was discussed as to why the Village of Berkeley still is holding the money when it belongs to the Berkeley Park District.
  - A discussion took place of the damages the cranes have done to the parking lot. The village states they have expert contractors placing equipment but they will have it repaired. There has been no update on the carriers, no communication.
  - The AdHoc meetings need to be transparent with communication and have updates each month. The Village doesn't want the Park District to go directly to Public Works, but to be approved first. The same way the village needs to approach the park district through proper channels so items can be discussed and approved at monthly board meeting.

- Village Administrator Rudy Espiritu was given a copy of Berkeley Park District Master Plan and grant writing information. The park district is transparent and has made many changes with new programming ideas and improvements of the property.

B.) Berkeley Park District and Playground Inspections: Commissioner Ditchfield spoke with Commissioner Smith regarding inspecting the playground equipment at Berkeley Park. He will go check out the issue that was pointed out. Mark Flores of Memorial Park District looked at the equipment, and feels the area in question is just a cosmetic issue. The rubberized coating has dried out and cracked. Director Graham will do bi-weekly checks, and Commissioner Smith will do monthly comprehensive inspections. Joe Romano was to be doing these inspections and will be contacted for confirmation for record keeping. Having the Village do inspections will be checked into. Commissioner Traina asked about replacing the borders at Lind Park to hold back wood chips.

C.) A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Smith to contacting Williams Architect to proceed with the planning of the Phase I Concept:

- 1.) Repairs to the courts
- 2.) New Playground equipment
- 3.) Path with exercise stations
- 4.) Garage for storage of equipment at Berkeley Park

Commissioners voting “aye” were: J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, K. Lowe, and T. Larem. Motion carried

D.) New Flags at Memorial Corner: The Village of Berkeley is looking into adding 5 to 7 new flags and poles at the Memorial Corner which will be paid for by the American Legion Post and the Village Hall. There is no new information yet.

E.) Williams Architect design- voted on

Public Comment: Resident Lori Graham stated she has sat in on Park District meetings and AdHoc meetings and hears a lot of distrust in what the village is telling the park district. It all seems very one sided and being told what to do and what should be changed. She feels “what does the village know about running a park district, and doing programming?” She wants improvement for the small town and what’s best for all residents. It seems like the village wants to swallow up the park district.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ditchfield and seconded by Commissioner Lowe to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m.

Commissioners voting “aye” were: J. Traina, D. Ditchfield, K. Lowe, and T. Larem Motion carried.