

Elmhurst Park District Board
May 8, 2006
7:00 pm to 9:00pm

All Commissioners Present
Visitors: 11; Staff: 8; Press 1
Observer: L. Kratz

The meeting was called to order by Board President Goworowski at 7:00 pm. Cheri Niewiara, representing citizens concerned about the School District 205 referenda building projects asked the Commissioners to consider working with the School District to improve plans for additional parking at Jefferson School. She suggested an intergovernmental agreement whereby the School District would move its planned parking lot expansion from behind the school, along the railroad tracks, to the east side of the school, alongside Van Voorst Park. In exchange, the park could be expanded to additional land behind the school. She cited improved safety and traffic flow for the cooperative effort and encouraged use of porous material rather than paving for improved drainage.

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved with slight wording changes to the April 24 minutes to indicate elections were conducted with roll call votes. There was no New Business. Committee Appointments were unanimously approved. Commissioner Kies proposed a new committee to work with/monitor city government. Discussion covered a variety of alternatives to the present system and the proposal was tabled for further consideration.

There was a brief update on the East End Pool project. Construction plans are being finalized and bids are expected in June and July. The pool will be open until August 5th when there will be a special ground breaking/last day event.

The Board then voted to move to the Committee of the Whole – Continued Discussion of Wilder Mansion. Representatives of John McHugh Construction Company presented their cost determinations for several levels of development: To bring the building up to existing building codes, McHugh projects a cost of \$2,047,965. First floor renovations to include an open space senior center/banquet area, meeting rooms, Wilder Room restoration, catering/teaching kitchen and exterior restrooms, would run \$1,725,566. Lower Level work to create a preschool program area, an area for both preschool and after school programs, and storage, would cost \$1,110,165. For the second floor, rough-in only (bringing the second floor to code) costs would run \$197,275. For more extensive work on that level, the cost would rise to \$796,985. Additional costs for each level would include such items as subcontractor's bonds, permit fees, insurance, and contingency costs.

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of restoration with the McHugh representatives. Although it is possible to phase in renovation work on the Wilder Mansion and the 1964 addition, costs will rise over time. Some concern was expressed about using the main floor of the building for a senior center because the current configuration does not have direct street level access (although there is an elevator). The type of architect needed for the project was discussed and several commissioners expressed a preference for a restoration architect. The next step in the process will be the May 22 presentation by the Elmhurst Historical Museum on its Strategic Plan.

The Commissioners voted to move out of the Committee of the Whole and voted to go into closed session at 9:00 pm.