

Joint Meeting of Elmhurst Park District Comm. Unit Dist. 205 Board of Education
Feb. 4, 2008
7:05 pm – 8:25 pm

Public: 7 Staff: 4 Press: 1
Observer: J. Dorner

Elmhurst Park District Vice President Healy called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Healy read a statement sent by Park Board President Colette Kubiesa, apologizing for being absent due to travel conditions.

Public Comment:

Park Board Commissioner Ubriaco, who was in the audience, thanked all for being at this meeting.

Discussion Items:

DuPage County Water Detention: Paul Fichtner, County Board member from District 1, was in the audience and was called on to give both the Park and School Board representatives an overview of a storm water detention issue. The federal government enacted new guidelines for water returning to local streams and rivers. The County is required to treat this water. The County storm water department had its budget cut several years ago and has been using its reserves since the cut. The reserves will be gone this year. The County was considering a fee to charge all residents, businesses and governmental agency in the County for this treatment. (The County is unable to increase taxes or implement a new one (without referendum) because it is not home rule. If this treatment cost could be a tax, then the costs to municipalities, school districts and park districts could be exempted. But, a fee issued by the County would have to be paid by all entities.) Since the transportation legislation “bail out,” which was enacted to save the CTA/RTA, contained a provision for DuPage County to increase taxes by 0.25%, the County will realize an additional \$47 million dollars. The County budget is about \$15 or \$20 million dollars in deficit and an additional \$26 million backlogged on projects. Mr. Fichtner stated that he thought that the County will fund all of the water treatment out of the transportation legislation. Although several Board members asked if their Boards should send a letter expressing support for using some of this “windfall” for the water treatment, Mr. Fichtner thought it wasn’t necessary. He did say that if input from local authorities was necessary, he would contact both the School and Park Boards.

Overview of Park District and School District initiatives: Rich Grodsky, Park District Executive Director, reviewed the Park District’s strategic priorities.

- Maintain current facilities – including creating preventive maintenance standards,
- Create green space – by creating a land acquisition fund,
- Comprehensively and strategically optimize current and future facility space – the District will be hiring a consultant to analyze all their interior spaces,
- Ensure organizational health – which includes analyzing technology,
- Optimize relationships with organizations, individuals and the community – including monthly meetings and email lists with these groups,
- Forecast, evaluate and implement best practices – that would include expansion of programs (e.g. recreation station expansion).

Dr. Lynn Krizic, Superintendent of Unit School District #205 reviewed what the School District’s current initiatives are.

- All of the elementary (except Hawthorne) and middle school additions have been completed on time and in budget; Hawthorne is also expected to be completed on time and in budget. There will be some additional work done at Conrad Fischer with water detention and Bryan Middle School will have air conditioning installed by the beginning of the next school year.
- A facility task force, with 4 sub-groups is meeting
 - Early childhood – to determine short- and long-term solution(s) for space.
 - Optimum use of facilities
 - Infra-structure (technology included)
 - Enrollment – boundaries and waivers for home school attendance are included.
- A Superintendent’s task force to investigate privately funding improvements to the York athletic stadium.
- Strategic Planning Project with a community meeting scheduled for March 13th.
- Technology
 - VoIP for telephones
 - A move from T1 to fiber

School District Summary of Census Report Dr. Krizic gave partial and preliminary findings received from the School District’s hired demographer. Results for early childhood will be received at a later date as an appendix. General findings:

- Edison and Jackson will remain where they currently are for the next five years.
- Emerson will increase by 80 in the next five years.
- Field will increase by 40 in the next five years.
- Fischer will increase by 50 in the next three years and then decrease by 20 in the next two.
- Hawthorne will remain the same for three years and then drop 25 in the next two.
- Jefferson will increase by 10 in the next two years and then decrease to its current enrollment in the following three years.
- Lincoln will increase by 55 in the next three years and then decline by 17 the following two years.
- Bryan will increase by 100 in the next seven years.
- Churchville will remain the same for four years and then increase by 100 the following two years.
- Sandburg will increase by 70 in the next four years and then decline by 25 the following six years.
- York will rise slowly from 2561 growing to 2763 in 2014-15 and up to 2,913 in 2017-18.

The Park Board thanked the School District for this information and said they could probably use this information for program planning.

Several ideas were discussed for upcoming agenda items. It was stated that the next joint meeting would be held in August.