

MINUTES
Public Hearing
Sports Complex: Ball Diamond Project
Tuesday July 9, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Community Center Building
480 S. Airport Road in Sycamore, IL

President Kroeger called the Sycamore Park District (SPD) Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Will the secretary please call the roll. Commissioners Kroeger, Schulz, and Doty were present. Commissioners Graves and Strack was absent.

Commissioner Strack arrived at 6:04 pm.

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are physically present and will be participating in the meeting in person: **Commissioners Kroeger, Schulz, and Doty.**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present, but will be participating in the meeting via video and/or audio conferencing: **None**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present, and will not be participating in the meeting: **Commissioner Strack and Commissioner Graves at this time. Commissioner Strack arrived at 6:04 pm.**

Staff members present were Executive/Secretary Director Dan Gible, Supt. of Finance Hienbuecher, Supt. Of Parks Jeff Donahoe, Supt. of Recreation Theresa Tevsh, and OSLAD Grant Writer Terri Gible.

The Sycamore Park District's Engineering Firm was represented by John Meyer with Engineering Resource Associates.

Written Comment forms submitted by David and Sharon Coleman of 1265 Hillside Road, Mary Kasper of 23911 Airport Road, and Jill Carpenter of 1453 Ridge Drive are made a part of the record of these minutes by attachment to them in their approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Guests at the Meeting:

John Mayer with ERA (Engineering Resource Associates)
Chauncey Carrick, 6 Primrose Lane, Sycamore
David and Sharon Coleman, 1265 Hillside, Sycamore
Linda and Dale Swedberg – no address provided
Jill Carpenter, 1453 Ridge Drive, Sycamore
Dag Grada, 1626 Schifly Lane, DeKalb
Bob and Mary Kasper, 23911 Airport Road, Sycamore
Paul Bouchard, 973 Constance, Sycamore
Keith Hernandez, Reporter for the Daily Chronicle

Summary Review of the Key Aspects of the Ball Diamond Project Plan: John Mayer, Engineer for Engineering Resource Associates (ERA)

President Kroeger opened the meeting introducing Director Gibble along with John Mayer from ERA. Gibble put the project in context of the overall ACTION 2020 plan. He indicated that this plan has been in evolution for about 4 years, reviewed on at least three occasions with key user groups like Sycamore Girls Softball (SGS) and Sycamore Youth Baseball (SYB). During the adoption process of ACTION 2020, the district held over 70 meetings and public hearings that included the plans for the ball diamond expansion. These latest hearings are to finalize the plan, so as to be prepared for submitting a grant application to IDNR, assure that the park neighbors and citizens of the community can have two final opportunities to comment on the site plan, and changes made to meet their wishes. Gibble then introduced John Mayer from ERA who went through two OPTIONS.

After highlighting the details, Gibble told the attendees that staff, board and engineers would welcome questions and comments, and that they could address them from their seat or they could come up closer to the drawings and ask anyone they wished to about their ideas, concerns, suggestions, or issues.

Specific questions included:

- Screening yards from the fields
- If the fields would be lighted
- Drainage and Impact on Neighbors' Septic Field
- Relation of Outfields and Home Plates to the Neighbors' Property Line
- Safety Lighting

Drew, Gibble and the Board provided responses to these concerns:

- Trees will be provided along the property line as shown, but if neighbors want input on where exactly those trees get placed (requested by one of the attendees) the park district will include the neighbors when final staking of their locations take place-barring City of Sycamore issues with this approach.
- The Board has agreed to not light the fields, and Gibble made clear that the district simply had no money to afford this luxury.
- Drainage: Because IDNR and the City control codes that improve drainage when construction occurs, these matters should be greatly improved. Further, Mayer pointed out they knew exactly where the drainage lines are buried near the neighbors' property line and noted the Septic Field location of the neighbors for future reference so as to NOT interfere with them.
- Several of the neighbors liked OPTION 2 (NOTE: Both options presented at this meeting are attached to these minutes as a permanent record of the plans as of the time of this meeting). However, they preferred the two fields closest to the property line be turned 180 degrees from how they are shown on Option 2.
- See written comments included as an attachment to these minutes regarding lighting. Gibble stated that the fields would not be lit at this time, and only safety lighting will be placed on the Bathroom Building, and the Shelter in this phase.

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After all questions were addressed, President Kroeger asked how the group felt about the plan, and their was general agreement that if their input (by the bullet points, above) was attended to by SPD and ERA, the plan was acceptable. Gibble informed the group that the revised plan with their input would be presented at the July 23, 2019 Public Hearing at 5:30pm at the 435 Airport Road. The Board would formally adopt it at their Regular Meeting on July 23, 2019 at 6:00pm.

Adjourn

Motion

The Board adjourned the Special Meeting Hearing Session at 7:08 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Schulz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doty.

Voice Vote

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Strack was absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Gibble
Secretary
Sycamore Park District