



Elk Grove Park District Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2024

6:00 p.m.

President Walz called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

In attendance: President Walz, Commissioner Biedke, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Cooke, Commissioner O'Malley

Staff: Ben Curcio, Brad Sholes, Tiffany Greene, Mark Kosbab and Kelly Carbon

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Resident Crites asked the Board if they had visited the pickle glass structure in Sycamore. President Walz informed the audience that the structure will not be complete until August 20th. Some Board members might go out to visit the project but there is no plan for an official field trip for the Board, Staff or the public. Staff reminded everyone that the Sycamore project is a private project.

Several residents raised a number of concerns about the Mead Park home run fence project. Many believe Mead Park is unsuitable for girls' softball fields with fences and note that the PE teachers and Athletic Director at Mead Junior High were not consulted. There are also complaints that Mead staff are not supportive of the project. The fences limited the use of the park for PE students. The new fences and scoreboards may obstruct views for residents and there is worry about the park being converted from an open space into a softball complex. A petition from 100 residents requests that Mead Park remain multipurpose and that the softball project be moved. There are also concerns about the lack of transparency and resident outreach.

President Walz clarified that no lights are planned for the park and that the fence would be temporary for part of the year. There is no plan for a dome or additional fields. President Walz emphasized the historical success of softball fields at Mead Park and that the project is partly funded by the Girls Softball Program. Commissioners had mixed responses. Commissioner Biedke raised safety concerns about the temporary fence. Commissioner O'Malley noted the need for better communication and consideration of declining softball participation.

In conclusion, President Walz stated that the fence installation will be on hold until the Board provides further direction, and the issue will be discussed at a future meeting.

Due to time constraints, Agenda Item #4 - Discussion on Five Year Capital Projects, Agenda Item #5 - Discussion on Youth Sports League Advisory Boards, Agenda Item #6 - Old Business and Agenda Item #7 - New Business were not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.