

Minutes

The Special meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Brauer, Gunderson, Hunter, Jones, Lenertz, Spelman and Voelz.

President Lenertz resided.

President Lenertz thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

President Lenertz informed all those in attendance of the process that has evolved since 2008 to bring us to this point. President Lenertz expressed gratitude to the schools for their constant support in the use of their buildings but there is a need for the Park District to have a place we can call home. President Lenertz stressed the graciousness the City of West Chicago has shown to us in the plans for the new “campus” type area.

Director Major introduced Bill Hofherr and Paul Hanley from George K Baum, a consulting firm for Referendums. George K Baum presented the audience and the Board with the results from the non-scientific mail survey mailed in late September to 4800 households.

There was some discussion in regards to modification of the current plan and educating the taxpayers as well as the need for a decision to move forward or postpone.

President Lenertz opened the floor to any residents who would like to speak, there were none.

The Board of Park Commissioners introduced themselves and explained why the new Community Center was important to them and if they were in support of it.

Commissioner Hunter – In Support of and talked about this being something she has strived for as a Board Member since she was first elected to the Board. Commissioner Hunter would like the Board to decide to move forward.

Commissioner Gunderson – In Support of and talked about what a Community Center could mean to families, etc. in West Chicago.

Commissioner Brauer – In Support of and talked about continuously hearing how we need to be under one roof and the frustration for staff when classes are cancelled due to external overbooked facilities. Commissioner Brauer suggested an advisory referendum.

Commissioner Jones – In Support of and spoke about the Community wanting the facility, schools are filled and the District needs space for growing programs.

Commissioner Voelz – In Support of and echoed Commissioners Brauer and Jones. Commissioner Voelz would like to move forward and give it to the people, allowing them to decide.

Commissioner Spelman – No Opinion and spoke about being aware of how staff and remaining Board Members feel. Commissioner Spelman stated he was the newest member of the Board and is still absorbing all the information. Commissioner Spelman wants to hear more about how the people feel.

President Lenertz – In Support of and spoke about the improvement to our tax base, the down town area and the positive benefit to the children. The City of West Chicago and the Western DuPage Chamber are behind us and the new Community Center will be good for all of us. President Lenertz would like to move forward.

Mayor Michael Kwasman spoke briefly about the need for a Community Center and the support of the City. Mayor Kwasman urged the Board to knock on doors, set-up public coffee meetings, and to be more progressive and to decide

what the Park District wants to be when it “grows up”. The partnership is strong between the City and the District and the City is in no hurry to rush anything as they want to make sure it is done right. Mayor Kwasman spoke about the greatness of West Chicago and the progress that has been made. Crime rate in West Chicago has decreased 23% and Mayor Kwasman reminded everyone that “busy kids do not get in trouble”.

David Sabathne stated it was time for the Board to stop asking what people think and show them what they can have. Mr. Sabathne also spoke about the benefits of a Community Center in West Chicago.

Mike Wheeland felt the public needed more education and would like to see the athletic field improvements kept in place.

President Lenertz thanked everyone for their attendance and informed them the final decision would be made at the December 13 Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Voelz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa L. Medeiros, Secretary