

**River Forest Park District
Public Hearing Minutes of
March 21, 2022**

The Board of Commissioners of the River Forest Park District convened at 7:00 PM for a Public Hearing on Monday, March 21, 2022 at the River Forest Park District, 401 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

Roll call was taken with Commissioners Bade, Cargie, Grant, Healy, and Libera present. Also present was Todd Abrams (WT Engineering), Fred Kolkman (Kolkman Tennis & Sport Surfaces) (virtually), Jennifer Snow (Park District), Lisa Scheiner (Village of River Forest), Maryanne Fishman Sara Lisy, Joan O'Connor, Joe O'Conner, Agatha Gallo, and Kitty Bingham.

President Libera gave opening remarks on the Keystone Park East Project. Director Sletten and Todd Abrams gave a presentation on the Keystone Park East Project. Director Sletten also requested public feedback on the idea of lighting the 5th (south) tennis court and the basketball hoop area.

Joan O'Conner, River Forest, asked for clarification on where the basketball hoop area will be located, and Director Sletten showed on the projection screen the basketball hoop area would be located between the south tennis court and Central Avenue. Ms. O'Conner asked if the new lights would be better or the same as the ones at Keystone Park West as far as light spillage, and Mr. Abrams explained the new light design and the reduced light spillage. Ms. O'Conner asked is if the new tennis courts would be made of clay, and Director Sletten responded the tennis courts are all asphalt.

Agatha Gallo, River Forest, was concerned with the light spillage into the neighborhood across the Union Pacific railroad tracks and asked if more trees can be planted along Central Avenue, and Director Sletten explained the landscape plan only allows for one tree to be planted along Central Avenue due to lack of planting space. Ms. Gallo expressed concerns with water in the retention swale and Mr. Abrams explained the swale is considered a "dry swale" and water will be in this swale a minimum number of times a year. Fences are typically not designed around dry swales. Director Sletten noted that the Park District has dry swales at Keystone West and Priory Parks with neither enclosed by fences. Ms. Gallo asked if there was still a plan to build a paddle hut at the platform tennis courts and if a membership was still required to play on those courts, and Director Sletten stated that a Paddle Hut has been discussed in the past but there are no current plans or funding allocated for a paddle hut at this time and the use of the platform tennis courts is still membership based. Kitty Bingham noted the platform tennis courts are open to the public during some of the weekday hours.

Commissioner Cargie asked what time the lights turn off at night, and Director Sletten responded the Keystone East baseball, batting cage, and tennis court lights turn off at 10:00 PM. The platform tennis courts turn off at 11:00 PM.

Commissioner Healy asked if the basketball hoop area lights would be on the same 10:00PM schedule, and Director Sletten responded that the request would be for a 10:00 PM turn-off time for the basketball hoop area lights.

Sarah Lisy, River Forest is in favor of the basketball hoops being open to the public; however, noted the addition of the lighted basketball hoop area came after the original notice, and Director Sletten responded that the Park District is aware of the change and will hold a second Public Hearing on April 11th, for public feedback specific to the basketball hoop area lights.

Commissioner Bade moved to adjourn at 7:40 PM, seconded by Commissioner Healy. A voice vote followed, and the motion was approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sletten, Secretary