



### Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call – The retreat was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Bass, Gunderson, Lenertz, Spencer, Voelz, Director Major, Superintendent Kaspar and Secretary Medeiros. Absent was Commissioner Pavlica and Superintendent Gasparini.
- II. Overview of previous master plans and facility plans. Justification of purpose for projects. All projects listed were completed with non-binding referendum funds and grants in an effort to utilize District funds in a fiscally responsible manner.
  - A. 2008
    - Signage – Parks and Facilities received updated signage
    - Skate Park – President Lenertz pushed for Skate Park based on community youth request. Community youth were involved in the design process.
    - Turtle Splash – Name change from POFAC, new water features, face lift, improved entrance, concession, admission, bath house areas.
    - Playgrounds – Several playground updates with District and grant funds.
    - Pioneer – OSLAD grant and strong partnership with City resulted in paths, splash pad, playground, etc.
    - Recreation Center – Staff began working on the dream of a recreation center and many variations were discussed.
  - B. 2010
    - Maintenance Facility – Staff began researching many buildings in the area for a new Parks Maintenance Facility. An opportunity was brought to us by the Dyer family for a vacated property on Hawthorne Lane. The District sold the Administration building to the City and purchased the new Maintenance Facility.
    - Fitness Center – Staff worked in conjunction with the City to utilize the empty building at the corner of Washington and Fremont St. for a small scale Fitness Center. The communities high usage of the facility made it evident to staff that a recreation center was needed more than ever in the community.

- Kress Creek – OSLAD grant enabled the District to complete a trail system and a partnership with United Way offered a grant opportunity to install a Chicago Bears playground.

#### C. 2013 to present

- Reed-Keppler Ball Fields – New entry way, new fencing, updated playground, field improvements, and new pavilion.
- ARC Center – Passing of a referendum enabled the District to build the ARC Center.
- Zone250 – A revenue producing sports training facility built with PARC grant funds.
- Pioneer – Field improvements, additional trails and lighting.
- Aging Facilities – District removed aging facilities at Easton, Kress Creek, and Reed-Keppler.
- District Wide –Improvements to trash cans, parking lots, asphalt, and trails as well as several new/upgraded pavilions throughout the District.
- Equipment/Vehicles – An accelerated plan was put into place for investment in our aging fleet and equipment for better efficiency.
- Toucan’s Hideaway – A revenue producing added feature to Turtle Splash.
- The Shell – A community partnership with the City to provide free entertainment to the community.
- Gun Club – As Reed-Keppler grew up around the Gun Club it became evident this was no longer a viable location for this type of venue. Lease terms were ending and the District informed the Gun Club the use of Reed-Keppler Park would no longer be an option.

### III. Status of current projects

- Easton – Dramatic changes have been made to Easton over the last couple of years with a pavilion, playground, clearing of the wooded area, path system. Current projects are plantings to make the park more visible as an entry to the City and a swing unit will be installed.
- Tree Inventory – Staff is currently executing the recommendations of Graf Tree Care as part of the tree inventory and will continue to do so over the next 2 to 3 years.

IV. Discussion on direction of Park District needs for the next 3 to 10 years. Capital project emphasis.

A. Identify Needs – Commissioners and Staff identified the following needs which have been suggested by staff and community:

- Pre-School – Is there an enough demand to justify a new pre-school building and should the District be in the pre-school business.
- Turtle Splash – An aging facility and a need to reserve funds for the potential of large costly repairs.
- Additional playing fields – Is there a need for more playing fields in the District. Staff does not believe there is a need – Commissioners suggested adding cricket fields as this may be a growing sport.
- DAA Property – DAA suggested usage of property located off of Smith Road by the District. What would be placed there and funds were discussed.
- Indoor Pool – An indoor pool for swim lessons and water fitness classes.
- Expanded Trails/Passive Usage/Kress Creek – Completion of Kress Creek Farms and Earth Works completion.
- Bike Park – The possibility of a BMX Bike Track at Pioneer Park.
- Theatre Facility
- Indoor Baseball / Soccer Dome
- Park Storage – The need for additional storage – staging areas.
- Solar Power
- Fitness Equipment
- Playgrounds
- Tree Inventory
- Retirement/Staffing Needs/Future

V. Discussion of specific projects to meet the needs of the District, staffing and budgetary concerns in relation to projects, prioritization of projects in terms of needs, time line for development and recommended course of action.

- Pre-school – Staff and Commissioners agreed that they were unsure at this time if there was a large enough need for a new pre-school facility or if this is the direction

the District should be going. The current facility is aging but we are serving a niche in the community. This will continue to be evaluated over a 5 year period.

- Turtle Splash – While turtle splash is an aging facility and a tragic expensive repair is always a possibility staff believes keeping up with maintenance and identifying issues are definitely items which are priority and have proven helpful. The District has non-binding funds which could be used for extensive repairs if needed. This will remain an ongoing priority with an emphasis on a 10 year mark.
- Additional Playing Fields – Staff and Commissioners chose to place additional fields except for those already slated in the Kress Creek Farms plans on hold at this time.
- DAA Property – The Board chose to remove this option from the list. The property is extensive and funds as well as the ability to maintain are both issues.
- Indoor Pool – The Board chose to remove the option of an indoor pool from the list. The facility would require a referendum and the Board does not believe there is a large enough need at this time to warrant a referendum.
- Expanded Trails / Passive Usage at Kress Creek – The Board would like to move forward and make the completion of the Kress Creek plans a priority. Upcoming grant opportunities were discussed and will be investigated in an effort to reduce the costs to the District. The board has asked that Earth Works complete its project by spring of 2019 and the plan for Kress Creek be completed in the next 3 to 5 years.
- Bike Park – The Board discussed proposed location, possible other locations, whether there was a true need, maintenance concerns and the possibility of other options which could be placed in more than just one park. The prospect of this project as well as other variations will be revisited over the next 3 to 5 years.
- Theater – Theater has been on the rise in the District, the program is exceptional with high participation and a strong support group. This could be a credible market but a facility would cost 7M to 15M and would require a referendum or a public/private partnership. The Board did not feel this was a priority project, has no desire to go to referendum but would like to keep the option open for discussion over the next 3 to 5 years.
- Indoor Baseball/Soccer Dome – The Board chose to remove this option from the list. The cost to build and maintain such a facility far outweighs the revenue it would produce and the need for such a facility is not significant.
- Park Storage – The Parks Department is in need of additional storage for staging materials, etc. The approximate cost to complete this project is 100K. The board felt this was an immediate priority which should be completed in the next 3-5 years.
- Solar – Utilizing solar energy is an efficient way to power our District. The Board identified this as a priority item which should be completed in the next 3 to 5 years.

- Tree Inventory – The tree inventory recommendations are currently being addressed and the Board has identified this a being a priority item which should be completed in the next 3 to 5 years. Maintaining after recommendations are complete will be an ongoing priority item.
- Fitness Equipment – A plan needs to be developed for the regular replacement of fitness equipment. This plan should be completed and put into action over the next 3 to 5 years.
- Playgrounds – Once the swing unit is in place at Easton and the new climbing unit at Reed-Keppler Park our current playground inventory will be complete. The Board will revisit this in 10 years at which time they will develop a plan for playground replacement.
- Retirement/Staffing Needs/Future - Director Major plans to retire 2021/2022 and encouraged the Board to look with-in for a new Director in an effort to maintain the current culture of the District. The Parks Department is currently fully staffed and a foreman position will be filled in the next 3 years as a result of the development of current new staff. Commissioners are encouraged to recruit new Board Members who fit the culture of the District. Continued growth of reserve funds are a priority. A yearly retreat was suggested.

VI. Adjournment – the retreat adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa L. Medeiros". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Melissa L. Medeiros, Secretary