



## Wilmette Park District **Board Brief**

Updates of interest from your Wilmette Park District Board of Park Commissioners

### **Board Approves 2021 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance**

The Fiscal Year 2021 budget totals approximately \$22.3 million in total operating revenue and other proceeds, while operating expenditures and other expenses are approximately \$16.5 million. A surplus from operations of \$5.8 million is budgeted and will be offset by Capital Expenditures of \$2.9 million and Debt Service of \$2.4 million resulting in a bottom line surplus of \$553 thousand. “Overall, taxes are going down,” said Commissioner Bryan Abbott. “I love saying that.”

The 2021 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance has been available to the public at our Administrative Office since early December. It is required by law to conduct a public hearing prior to adoption of the ordinance. The hearing was held prior to the regular monthly Board meeting on Monday, January 11. No public comments were made, and the board approved the ordinance.

### **Nine Candidates Vie for Three Park District Board Seats on April 6**

In April of this year, the next local election will take place, and the Park District has solidified the candidates who will appear on the ballot. There are nine candidates seeking one of three available seats on the Board of Park Commissioners. “The Wilmette community is fortunate to have as many people as it does, who are interested in volunteering their time,” expressed Steve Wilson, Wilmette Park District’s executive director.

### **Commissioners Provide Feedback on Gillson Park Comprehensive Plan; Input Meeting Dates Set**

Since consultants from Lakota Group and Woodhouse Tinucci Architects presented to the board in December, the board members have been sharing feedback on the presentation to pass along to the consultants. Additionally, the team has worked with the consultants on the schedule and process to gather public input from stakeholders and from the public at large. The meetings are



#### **Wilmette Board of Park Commissioners**

**Gordon Anderson**  
President

[email](#)

**Julia Goebel**  
Vice President

[email](#)

**Amy Wolfe**  
Commissioner

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**Bryan Abbott**  
Commissioner

[email](#)

**Cecilia Clarke**  
Commissioner

[email](#)

**Mike Murdock**  
Commissioner

[email](#)

as follows:

**Stakeholder meetings-** January 20 and 21. Private invitations will be sent to stakeholders to attend a meeting with their group. These virtual meetings will run all day long.

**Virtual open houses-** January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – specific information will be shared with the community shortly. These will be evening meetings held via Zoom.

**Additional communication tools-** we will have presentation boards and a suggestion box located in one of our facilities to share information and collect input from those not online.

Additionally, staff is developing a **Website** to contain all the specifics, from start to finish, of the project to make certain the public has access to all information, all the time, as we move through the project.

## Community Playfields Fitness Loop Designs Reviewed

At the January 11 meeting, it was reported that we are continuing to wait for District 39 to provide information on restroom facilities adjacent to the park and under what terms we could use them. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed several preliminary concepts for a 1-mile long soft-surface fitness loop in the park.

## 59 Respond to Community Gardens Survey

Current Garden Plot lessors and members on the waiting list for a Garden Plot received a survey this month, designed to gather input about the program, and how it can be expanded and improved. We received 59 respondents, and results are currently being reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

## New Dog Park Location Research Continues

At the January 11 meeting, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Mike Murdock reported that sites including Howard and Mallinckrodt Parks have been added the list of options.

## Outdoor Ice Rink Update

Park staff have been patiently waiting for Mother Nature to cooperate with temperatures so they can start flooding the ice rinks. Currently, the predicted temperatures look good for ice making soon.

**Todd Shissler**

Commissioner

[email](#)

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**Wilmette Park District**

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To read the full minutes from our past Board meetings, click [here](#).

Minutes are posted after they are approved at a subsequent meeting.

Next Board meeting: Monday, February xx at 7:30 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings are being held virtually until further notice. Meetings will be available on Channel 6 locally for Comcast subscribers, as well as

available on our shared YouTube channel with the Village of Wilmette. *Please check our [website](#) for updates.*

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