



Wilmette Park District

Board Brief

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

Following are highlights from the April 11 Regular Meeting of the Wilmette Board of Park Commissioners, held in the Council Chambers of Wilmette Village Hall.



West Park Enhancements Scaled Back

At the April 11 Park Board meeting, the Board of Park Commissioners discussed details regarding the proposed enhancements to West Park, which received a negative recommendation by the Wilmette Zoning Board of Appeals on April 6.

Commissioners examined all aspects in depth: sound, light, parking, green space, and the community's response. At the end of the discussion, the Board voted 6-0 (with Allison Frazier absent) to modify the conceptual plan.

The existing concept will be scaled back to reduce the proposed number of platform tennis courts from four to two, (to be located south of the current courts) and completely eliminate the proposed pickleball courts and associated lighting. The currently-proposed expanded paddle hut, associated decking, and parking reconstruction remains in place.

West Park's playground will remain in its current location. Plans to update playground equipment have been put on hold pending further analysis.

Board Members and staff will present the modified conceptual plan to the Wilmette Village Board for consideration of a special-use permit on April 26.

Notable items discussed:

- Lighting – assuring appropriate shields, functional timers, minimally acceptable brightness levels
- Potential for additional discussion with sound, light consultants
- The importance of tree replacement, landscaping and additional plantings
- Reasons for expanded hut size related to capacity limits
- 10 p.m. vs. 11 p.m. "lights out" at paddle: 11 p.m. is industry standard, and negatively impactful to adjust, given league parameters
- Acknowledgement of West Park neighbor concerns, and the need to balance them with the recreational interests of the community

**Wilmette
Board of Park
Commissioners**

Mike Murdock
President

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Julia Goebel
Vice President

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Lindsay Anderson
Commissioner

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Cecilia Clarke
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Patrick Duffy
Commissioner

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Allison Frazier
Commissioner

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Wilmette Park District Comprehensive and Strategic Plan Consultants Selected

The Board approved consulting firm BerryDunn to develop a long-term comprehensive and strategic plan for the Wilmette Park District. This will be a year-long process.

BerryDunn is a leading consulting firm with a specialized Parks, Recreation, and Libraries practice led by former parks and recreation practitioners and experts, who use their backgrounds to provide grounded and actionable recommendations to clients like us. BerryDunn was selected after presentations from three candidates for the project.

Additional Items Covered on April 11

Langdon Beach Revetment- Vice President Goebel reported that the Lakefront Committee discussed revetments at Langdon Beach, to provide shoreline protection as well as open access to the beach, both now and in the future. SmithGroup has started the permitting process, which could take up to 90 days. After permits have been obtained, revetment work can begin.

Lakeview Center Renovation- Quinn Corporation has been selected to manage the project as General Contractor. Drawings will be ready to send to bid in coming days. Work on the Lakeview Center is slated to begin fall 2022.

Wilmette Golf Club - The course officially opened for the season on April 8. Construction to rebuild the water-damaged golf shop and office area is still underway, partially done by Park District construction staff, and funded through insurance. At the meeting, the Board approved a construction bid to to begin renovation of the Grill Room inside the golf clubhouse.

At the **Centennial Family Aquatic Center**, Parks staff is installing a new PVC liner in our lap pool to address leakage issues, and new food vendor options are under consideration for the Aquatic Center and Ice Rinks.

The Wilmette Park District staff's **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee** agreed that educational sessions would benefit all employees, and will be added to the staff training calendar. The Committee also plans to review Park District recreation programs for opportunities to improve inclusivity.

Banking Change - The Financial Planning and Policy Committee approved staff recommendations to move Wilmette Park District banking to Wintrust Bank.

The Board's **Intergovernmental Committee** meets on an as-needed basis to develop topics for discussion with other elected governmental bodies within the Village of Wilmette. In the most recent meeting, the committee discussed sustainability practices.

Memorial Tree Program - Staff prepared a comprehensive research report on neighboring park districts' memorial programs, to help us develop a new memorial tree policy within the Wilmette Park District.

Kara Kosloskus

Commissioner

[email](#)

Wilmette Park District

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Parks and Planning Team Busy With Spring

Our Parks and Planning unit reported the installation of **Wilmette's first public electric car charging station** at the Community Recreation Center! In addition, the unit also recently purchased three battery-powered, zero-emissions mowers.

Additionally, contractor installation of the **playground equipment at Maple Park** has begun; Parks staff top-dressed the **West Park synthetic turf field** with infill to provide a uniform surface and depth; they installed **cold patch to reduce potholes in the roads at Gillson Park**; completed season start-up for the athletic fields (**installed batting cage nets and windscreens; lined fields**); completed cleanup within the District's **planting beds**; removed **snow fencing**; and **completed turf work at Hibbard Park** to open the field for the spring season. They also **painted the walls along the CFC track and the outdoor batting cages**, and **built lifeguard chairs and SUP racks** for the beach. As if that wasn't all, Parks staff **framed in a ceiling at the Golf Shop** and **moved power sources** within the room; **removed the wainscoting and carpet** from the grill room in the Golf Clubhouse; and worked with a contractor to **replace the water heater and grease trap** at the Mallinckrodt Center.

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, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall at 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette. All meetings are open to the public. Details will be posted on the [Park Board](#) page on our website.

Meetings will be available on Channel 6 locally for Comcast subscribers. View a live meeting online [here](#), or view previous meeting recordings [here](#). *Please check our [website](#) for updates.*

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