



## Wilmette Park District **Board Brief**

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

### **2022 Tax Proposed Levy**

Before the start of the Regular Park Board Meeting on December 13, the park board held a public hearing for the 2022 Proposed Tax Levy. Director Wilson pointed out there is a 16% decrease from the previous year.

The Tax Levy ordinance and reduction resolution were proposed and approved at the end of the Regular Park Board Meeting.

### **Updates on the Gillson Comprehensive Plan**

Design Consultant Andy Tinucci of Woodhouse Tinucci Architects presented an update on the Gillson Comprehensive Plan at the December 13 meeting.

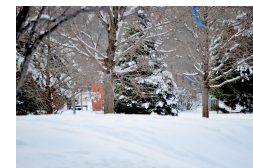
Tinucci's presentation focused on two interior roads, and possible updates to be considered for the overall circulation of traffic in the park. Tinucci presented three different potential improvements for Middle Drive, and another four potential improvements for Upper Drive. Each option was presented with a breakdown of the associated costs.

Commissioners decided that the roadways and circulation must be the first step in narrowing down options for the Gillson Comprehensive Plan. "This is incredibly helpful information," commented President Murdock.

Because both Middle and Upper Drive require repair to the subterranean infrastructure and must be addressed regardless of the circulation plan, the time is right to determine if a new traffic pattern would better serve the evolving needs of Gillson Park.

### **Public Comment and Further Discussions**

Members of the public expressed sentiments at the December 13 meeting including a concern to preserve the historic integrity of the park, as well as to allocate significant funds and attention to the trees and plantings to be determined in the forthcoming landscape plan. Several members of the public



#### **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**  
Commissioner

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**Patrick Duffy**  
Commissioner

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**Allison Frazier**  
Commissioner

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expressed a preference for a concept which fixes the immediate needs of the park but makes no additional changes.

Residents and commissioners agreed that the number one goal of the Gillson Comprehensive Plan is to increase safety in and around the park. Tinucci confirmed that “throughout the whole process, the comprehensive plan has aimed to improve safety in the park.” Various walkways and accessibility features have been explored in previously proposed concepts.

Questions arose regarding the location of Upper Drive on MWRD property. Director Wilson explained that any work, repair or relocation of Upper Drive would need to be discussed and approved by the MWRD; however, he anticipates their full cooperation.

## Narrowing Down the Gillson Comprehensive Plan

Commissioners discussed their views on the proposed circulation changes for Gillson Park. The goal of the discussion was to ultimately work towards a list of three options. These three options will be proposed to the public for feedback in another community survey.

“The path along Harbor Drive is not controversial – we are all looking forward to that part of the project,” explained President Murdock. With nothing salvageable between Upper and Middle Drive, commissioners turned their full attention to these two roads.

“Where do we want the arteries to be,” asked Commissioner Kosloskus. Commissioners agreed that should Upper Drive remain, the responsible decision would be to invest in relocating the road to land owned and controlled by the park district. Looking at Middle Drive, commissioners strongly supported keeping Middle Drive as a walking path, closed to vehicular traffic. With these preferences, Kosloskus proposed the following three options to gauge the community’s preference on circulation patterns in the park:

- 3 Roads – Overlook Drive, Middle Drive and Upper Drive
  - Middle Drive will be reconstructed for pedestrians and emergency vehicles only
- 2 Roads – Overlook Drive and Upper Drive
  - Middle Drive will be removed and replaced with lawn
- 1 Road – Overlook Drive
  - Middle Drive & Upper Drive will be removed and replaced with lawn

## Committee Reports and Plan Approvals

The Golf Cart Path Project had good news reported at the December 13 meeting. Commissioner Anderson was excited to share that, “the path has been completed and is fully paved.”

The Landscape Master Plan, as recommended by the Parks and Rec. Committee was approved, along with the West Park Master Plan, as recommended by the Centennial Committee.

Director Wilson’s report included approval of a Renosys PVC liner to be

**Kara Kosloskus**

Commissioner

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installed in the main pool at Centennial Family Aquatic Center to resolve leaking issues. This item was approved by the park board.

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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, January 10 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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