

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL and DECATUR PARK DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 27, 2016

On Wednesday, April 27, 2016, the City Council and Decatur Park District of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in a special meeting at 5:30 p.m., at the Scovill Golf Course Banquet Center, 3909 West Main Street, Decatur, Illinois.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe presided; together with her being Councilmen Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, President Jack Kenny, Vice President Bob Brilley, Commissioners Chris Harrison, Chris Riley, and Stacey Young; Councilwoman Dana Ray was absent from the meeting. Eleven members were present and one member was absent. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared a quorum present.

City Manager Tim Gleason, City Corporation Counsel Wendy Morthland, City Clerk Debra Bright, Executive Director Bill Clevenger, Decatur Park District Attorneys Ed Flynn and Ed Booth attended the meeting as well.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved to recess to Study Session for the purpose of a discussion regarding Lakeshore Landing Project in Nelson Park, Lakefront Development, and Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel. On call of the roll, Councilmen Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Mayor Moore Wolfe, President Jack Kenny, Vice President Bob Brilley, Commissioners Chris Harrison, Chris Riley, and Stacey Young voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe thanked everyone for coming and explained the City Council and Decatur Park District wanted to take this time to share where the lakefront development is and where the development is going. With the City Council and Decatur Park District's collaborated efforts their hope is to save the community money.

President Jack Kenny introduced Greg Weykamp, Principal/President of Edgewater Resources, LLC. Mr. Weykamp gave an overview of the start of the lakefront development. Community input has been the groups focus from the beginning. The plan includes Overlook Mini Golf courses, batting cages, high rope courses, and a water park someday. We need to work together to get the grants back on track and moving again for the future amphitheater. Other designs include ADA fishing and boating accessibility, lighting up the bridges, and creating a path all around the lake. The dog parks, disc golf, Pier 36, Beach House renovations, waterfront entertainment district, new restaurants, and new docks will make the lakefront become a real destination place. Chandler Cove is an initial development project and will be restarted again. The dredging of the lake is transforming the area into a boating destination.

President Jack Kenny wanted everyone to be aware that progress has been made.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe asked Mr. Weykamp if he could suggest ways to get the funds to pay for the development. Mr. Weykamp said everyone is going to have to come together. He suggested pushing forward with the private/public sectors and partnerships.

Vice President Brilley said the development had come a long way and needed the public input as the design continued.

Stacey Young asked with the current economic situation and what they want to accomplish that would benefit the City, Park District and public what would be the priority. Mr. Weykamp said the dredging has its own funding and will continue. The most

transforming would be the amphitheater. If we could get the grant rolling again, it would be a really big deal. The ropes course is a great destination. The next phase of the marina is critical. Get the boat docks up to current code and get Chandler Cove going again.

Commissioner Chris Harrison explained that when the State money was halted, the Park District couldn't spend money either and that is why we are pursuing a waiver.

Councilman Pat McDaniel said the key is to get private developers involved. Look at priorities. Look at what can be done at little costs to bring people to the lake. We don't want to lose long time boat clubs.

Mr. Weykamp explained they don't want to displace a single boater but the boat docks have to be brought up to code.

Councilman Jerry Dawson is excited about the project and would like to do what they can with the resources they have.

Councilwoman Lisa Gregory thanked the Park District and Cindy Deadrick Wolfer for giving Decatur a lot of great places to enjoy. Councilwoman Lisa Gregory has heard from the boaters and they are concerned on how the boat docks will be handled. The only thing she seen different was the lighting of the bridges and anything that can be done to light those bridges up would be nice. She would like to see low costs and high impact.

Councilman Chris Funk asked if the housing plan wasn't dense enough. Mr. Weykamp said the number of units wasn't enough to make the impact needed to get that critical mass of residents needed down there. Councilman Chris Funk had concerns about the City's decreasing population and having demand for the housing units.

Mr. Weykamp said that is why it is important to go back and talk to the developers and get their input.

City Manager Tim Gleason explained that in 2015 the City decided to not advance any more boat dock construction and we knew that we wanted to get the elected officials together to give him and Executive Director Bill Clevenger direction on where they wanted them to take the lake front development. The City contributions to date is nearly \$1.3 million in a three year period and the City took last year off. There has been substantial development. City Manager Tim Gleason said this may be an opportunity to ask the developers again to see what interest there might be in Chandler Cove. There are ADA and safety considerations for the existing boat docks that have not been explored.

Executive Director Bill Clevenger took a look back 2010 - 2011 when two elected boards sat down together and tackled the issue together in a cooperative and collaborative manner. The development is a community opportunity for local people to come and enjoy and for people from other communities to come to Decatur and enjoy our lake.

Citizen comments:

Joel Hart asked how many boat slips were rented at the new docks. Executive Director Bill Clevenger said about half of the boat docks for the upcoming season.

Mark Carter asked if the boat clubs were going to have to have their boat docks ADA compliant. Mayor Moore Wolfe said yes. The lake shore is a public body and the boat docks have to be compliant. Mark Carter asked what the time frame was to get up to code. Corporate Counsel Wendy Morthland there is no time frame to be in compliance with the law. You need to be compliant and how the City will deal with that is to be determined.

Councilman Pat McDaniel said the City needs to come up with the standard of what essential things have to be done.

Corporation Counsel Wendy Morthland explained the City could not give the boat clubs time to be in compliance and hope that avoids the City's liability.

Mike Barber said the Decatur Boat Club was in the middle of an \$8,000 update. Members had heard rumors the City was going to do away with the boat clubs. Mr. Barber asked if the City was to take the boat docks out.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe said the City Council had not come to terms with that. The Council wants the boat clubs to stay active. The City has a responsibility to become ADA compliant. The City wants to do what is best for everybody.

Councilman Pat McDaniel asked if boat clubs will be able to keep their privacy. Executive Director Bill Clevenger said the Park District docks have a gate so anybody who rents a dock has access to that gated area. The water's edge would be accessible to walk all away around. The boat dock concept was never to eliminate boat clubs it was simply to create docking areas where boat clubs could stay together.

Greg Weykamp suggested developing a transition plan and working with the boaters.

A citizen said he didn't understand why the Park District closed part of Lake Shore Drive along Nelson Park. Greg Weykamp explained the decision came about from the Masterplan and people driving too fast through the Nelson Park area.

Vice President Bob Brilley explained a traffic study was done and there were safety issues.

Cindy Deadrick Wolfer said this is an opportunity for Decatur to make a quality of life impact by providing the things this lakefront can for this community and an economic opportunity by bringing people into this community. The development is also a health issue for people who need to be using the parks. Cindy Deadrick Wolfer requested both boards to come up with the resources to hire a person who everyday goes out and tries to sell the lakeshore landing and find the revenue to pay for the development.

Tim Dudley suggested to jump start the lakefront project and get it back on track we need 72 community leaders plus others to form a coalition and get the grant money released from the State.

Jim Taylor suggested installing speed bumps along Lake Shore Drive where the road is closed and make the road available to vehicles again.

President Jack Kenny said he hoped the community appreciates the fact the City and Park District are trying to work together for the good of the City.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe said there are a lot of opportunities to collaborate and work together.

There being no further business, Councilman Pat McDaniel moved the special meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman Jerry Dawson, and on call of the roll Councilmen Funk, Gregory, McDaniel, Dawson, Faber, Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe, President Jack Kenny, Vice President Bob Brilley, Commissioner Chris Harrison, Chris Riley, Stacey Young voted aye. The Mayor declared the special meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Approved June 6, 2016
Debra G. Bright
City Clerk