

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

1. Call to Order

President Johnson called the Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Roll call was taken:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Snyder	X	
Gibbs	X	
Johnson	X	
Linder		X
Karg	X	

Staff in attendance: Joe Vallez, Executive Director and Mary Dickson, Attorney.

Pledge of Allegiance: President Johnson led the Pledge.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs to approve the Agenda, as presented.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder			X
Snyder	X		

Motion carried.

3. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment

Robert Benson questioned how resident/non-resident fees are determined, and what the level of utilization of facilities is between both groups. He wanted residents to have input into the facilities available to them.

Michael Jaffee complimented the District on being a great place for families, and that the sale of 125 acres of White Pines is an important issue. He stated that the sale of the property to allow industrial use of the property is a one-time financial gain which is wrong over the long time. He argued in favor of allowing a referendum on the issue.

Mary Ann Medina spoke in opposition to the sale of White Pines property, stating, generally, that the reasons for the sale, i.e., to build other recreational amenities is not needed as there is already an indoor pool at Redmond Recreational Park, and there are soccer fields, basketball courts, and an unused baseball field at Veteran's Park and

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
Page 2**

baseball fields at DeOrio. She referenced many other Park amenities. Work on District facilities has become an issue because the District has allowed minor issues to become major issues.

John Wassinger opposes the sale of White Pines, stating the property came into Park District holdings based on a referendum, and there should be a referendum before the sale of any part of the property. He references a closed meeting he attended during the time he was a Commissioner at which the potential sale of land was discussed, and stated he has consistently supported open space. The decision to sell land should not be money driven. The District should do an environmental impact statement and give the public options to consider ranging from not selling any land, to selling 125 acres.

Ed DuBois spoke in opposition to the sale of White Pines property. His property backs up to the 14th hole, and he does not want to see big buildings and trucks on the property.

4. Staff Reports – Executive Director

Mr. Vallez summarized activities set forth in his Written Report, attached to the agenda. He responded to questions concerning the acquisition of fitness center equipment, signs at Breiter Palm Park, the hoped-for Kaboom project, the status of Fischer Farm and the potential sale of the District's Klein Road property.

During his report, President Johnson commented that the Park District is fiscally responsible, for example, when equipment was bought for the Leisure Center, it was bought over time, rather than all at once. The potential sale of White Pines Property has been talked about since the time that Mr. Wassinger was on the Board. Now, the decision must be made to continue to talk about it, or to make a decision about it. The District has capital project needs which money from a sale could aid. But there is no decision made, and the Board is looking at all options. The decision may take a year to make.

Commissioner Gibbs commented as well, stating she uses Park facilities and wishes more would. The Board members' integrity is being challenged by a lot of people, and she wants to do what is right for the whole community.

Commissioner Snyder stated he wanted the Board to commission a facilities assessment study so it had information relative to the capital projects which need to be completed and the cost involved, so that it could make an informed decision on the need to sell property. Mr. Vallez responded that he has discussed such a study with a vendor, and that it would cost approximately \$50,000.00.

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
Page 3**

5. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

6. Closed Session

There was no Closed Session called.

7. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder	X		
Snyder	X		

Motion carried. The meeting stands adjourned.

Approved:

President Rich Johnson

Secretary