



## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Roll Call was answered by Members Wackerlin, Cairns, Sivakumar, Donahue, Carman, Vice-Chairman Andrea, and Chairwoman Tredore.

Also present were, Director of Parks and Recreation Trevor Bosack, Recreation Superintendent Kim Buscemi, Recreation Supervisor Casie Peltz, Superintendent of Public Properties Scott Parchutz, Trustee Wendy Anderson, Trustee Diane Murphy, President Ray Bogadanowski, and Recording Secretary Dana Popovich.

## Audience Participation

Chairwoman Tredore asked if anyone wanted to speak before the Larsen Park presentation or wait until after. The audience members indicated after the presentation.

## Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the Parks and Recreation meeting minutes of March 2, 2023 was made by Member Wackerlin, and seconded by Member Cairns. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 7-0.

## Old Business

None

## New Business

### A. Informational Item concerning Larsen Park Concept Design

Parks and Recreation Director Trevor Bosack thanked everyone for coming to the presentation. Director Bosack stated that Liz Dafoe from Upland Design was going to walk us through the Larsen Park design concept.

Upland Design Architect Dafoe said she was very excited to share the proposed design concept with everyone. She said she had surveys, and if anyone had any questions to please raise their hand during the presentation. She said there would be plenty of time after the presentation as well.

Upland Design Architect Dafoe stated that the vision statement that the Lake in the Hills staff came up with was to provide a premier gathering space with unique features that embrace nature and recognize local history that enhances the community. In following with the vision statement, Ms. Dafoe was prepared to present designs that Upland Design had developed. The vision is to reimagine Larsen Park as a unique hub on the East side of the Village that will provide multiple activities for multi-generations to share in. The first thing that Upland Design wanted to create was an identity for the park. One of the ways to accomplish this was to create gateway features upon entering the park. Ideas included a mural at the entrance welcoming guests, educational signage, and improved park access to help create an identity. Upland Design Architect Dafoe said that they wanted to create a central core. As you enter into the central core you will see an entry garden with vine tunnels and a musical discovery path for kids and adults to enjoy. As you move through the area you will come upon a play area which is designed for ages 5-12. There will be a play area for ages 2-5 as well. She discussed the many features in both of the design concepts and encouraged everyone to look at the design concept boards. Upland Design is also proposing an amphitheater for people to gather and enjoy entertainment with tiered seating. A teen activity area for adolescents to have a space to gather, which would include a pump track for them to use their bikes, scooters or skateboards. Adjacent to that area would be a rock-climbing feature, as well as an area for them to just meet and hang out in. Ms. Dafoe said they are also proposing a Ninja Course, four pickleball courts, and a sled hill with a warming station. She said they will be adding a lot of trees along with landscaping, that will include landscaping along Pyott Road. Upland Design Architect



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Ms. Dafoe ended her presentation. She said the next step would be to gather the feedback and work with staff to make any changes that we need to the plan. Ms. Dafoe asked if there were any questions.

An audience member said she didn't have a question but just wanted to thank Ms. Dafoe and the village staff. She said the park looks amazing and this is exactly what the Larsen's would have liked to have seen. She also said they should plant some apple trees because the Larsen's would invite families to pick apples and that would be a great way to keep that tradition.

Member Sivakumar said it looks beautiful and the concept is fantastic. She asked if a child in a wheelchair would be able to access it.

Ms. Dafoe thanked her for her question and said yes, it is wheelchair accessible.

Member Carman asked about the Food Pantry parking and asked if there will be less parking.

Ms. Dafoe said that there is a bit of separation between the park and the Food Pantry and doesn't think parking will decrease.

The president of the Food Pantry was concerned about the gardens at the Food Pantry and also the chicken coop, and hopes that it is not disturbed.

Ms. Dafoe said that they will keep that all intact and if they need to make some adjustments they will.

An audience member said that she thinks that there is a lot going on and her property is right along the back part of where they plan to put an amphitheater and is worried about the noise. She feels that would be something that would make her want to move. She was also concerned about the bike path that is already there and would that still be retained.

Ms. Dafoe said yes that is incorporated in the design.

A few of the audience were concerned about the upkeep of the park considering the magnitude of it. Another concern was the sled hill and worries that they will be sledding right into their property. A few of the residents said this would cause them to move.

Another concern that a few audience members had was fishing and are they keeping the dock that already exists there.

Ms. Dafoe said the deck that they are proposing would be larger than the deck that is there now, and you can fish from it. She said that fishing at the water's edge would be possible as well.

One resident asked if the park would be locked up at night. He is worried about cars coming and going all hours of the night.

Ms. Dafoe said that is something we can look at.

Member Carman asked the audience that if the concert would end between nine and ten would that be acceptable?

The audience member replied no, that is too late.



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Member Wackerlin asked if there would be water fountains.

Ms. Dafoe said that there would be water fountains.

Vice-Chairman Andrea asked what would the seating capacity look like for the amphitheater.

Ms. Dafoe said roughly between one hundred to two hundred.

A resident asked about the timeline for building the park, and how long would it take to be completed.

Ms. Dafoe said it could possibly take between five to ten years for completion.

Member Sivakumar asked about the lifespan of the materials they will be using.

Ms. Dafoe said it is made out of Ravinia wood that comes from Canada, and has a similar lifespan to the material that is used in traditional playground equipment. It would require routine maintenance.

Member Sivakumar asked if there would be any issue with bugs.

Ms. Dafoe said it is treated wood, so there wouldn't be any issues with bugs.

Vice-Chairman Andrea asked what type of maintenance is associated with it.

Ms. Dafoe said that is a great question, and she thinks it would just need to be cleaned. It also may require some staining.

Member Wackerlin asked if they would put weather safety equipment near the splash pad and pickleball courts.

Ms. Dafoe said that is something that can definitely be added.

Ms. Dafoe asked if there were any more questions.

Chairwoman Tredore thanked everyone for coming and sharing their comments.

## Staff Reports

Director Bosack discussed upcoming events which included a Blacklight Easter Egg hunt, the Bunny Trail Event that has over 950 people signed up, and the Run through the Hills Race that takes place on April 15.

Recreation Superintendent Kim Buscemi reviewed recent past events starting with the Lucky Gold Hunt. She thanked Member Wackerlin for his help with the event. Superintendent Buscemi stated that he really saved the day, and took great photographs, as well as helping with the event. She also asked for Volunteers for the upcoming events.

Superintendent Buscemi stated that one of the department's strategic objectives is to create new partnerships with other parks and recreation organizations to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and the breadth of our programming. Superintendent Buscemi asked the Board to look over the list of community partners that the department has worked with in the past twelve months. She also stated the summer brochure will be out on May 3, 2023.



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Superintendent of Public Properties Scott Parchutz said they are still looking for seasonal workers and if they know anyone interested to direct them to our website.

## Village Trustee Liaison Report

Village Trustee Wendy Anderson said that there was a lot of audience feedback and is looking forward to talking with them after the meeting.

## Member Reports

Member Donahue had Ken Carpenter Park and the Bike Path. She said she would like to revisit the parks because it was swampy due to the weather.

Member Carman had Cattail Park and Jaycee Park. She thinks we should make Jaycee Park into a teen park and add another basketball court to Jaycee Park due to the fact that it is always crowded. Member Carman spoke to some of the teens at the park and asked them what would they like to see added to Jaycee Park. The teens said they would like a charging station for their phones, water fountains, and a grill to cook on when they have tournaments. Member Carman said that was just a few of their ideas, and she thought they were very good.

Member Sivakumar had Kennedy Triangle and she had no idea where it was, so Director Bosack drew her a map. She thought it was nice, but very small. There were just a few benches, and she thought it needed a trash can, but other than that no issues.

Vice-Chairman Andrea said that the two parks he had were rained out, and he will revisit next month.

Chairwoman Tredore had the Bark Park and she said it is amazing.

Member Cairns had The Fen and thought the trail's held up really well considering how much rain we have got. He said the parking lot looked good as well.

Member Wackerlin had Echo Park and said that with all the rain we had, he noticed a big pile of mud right at the entrance of the park. He thinks it came from spillover from the retaining wall. Member Wackerlin said he spoke to a few families that were there and they all really liked the park.

## Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice-Chairman Andrea, and seconded by Member Cairns. The motion was approved by a voice vote 7-0.

There being no further business to discuss, the Parks and Recreation Board meeting was adjourned at 7:51PM.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Popovich".

Dana Popovich

Recording Secretary