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MUSEUMS & HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Glenview Park District Administration Building
1930 Prairie Street
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 8:30 AM

1. Roll Call

Committee Chair Dave Tosh called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM

Commissioners Present: Committee Chair: Dave Tosh; Committee Member: Angie Katsamakidis; Dan Peterson

Official Staff Present: Deputy Executive Director Katie Skibbe, Superintendent of Leisure Services Todd Price, Superintendent of Park and Facility Services Jim Warnstedt, Director of Wagner Farm Jon Kuester, Wagner Farm Manager Blake Lanphier, The Grove Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Phil Munro, The Grove Customer Service Representative Ashley DeAngeles, Recording Secretary Laney Hauptert

Absent: Committee Member: Bill Casey

Late Arrivals, Early Departure: Dan Peterson left at 9:40 AM

2. Agenda Topics

a. Agreement for Construction Manager at Risk for the Grove Interpretive Center Renovation Project

Superintendent of Park and Facility Services Jim Warnstedt reported on The Grove Interpretive Center renovation and the results of the Request For Proposal process for a Construction Manager at Risk. The Park District received 4 proposals. Superintendent Warnstedt recommended to the Committee the proposal from Frederick Quinn Corporation of Addison, Illinois. He also explained that the Park District has worked with Frederick Quinn Corporation in the past for the construction of the Park & Facility Services East and West projects. The final draft of the contract was presented to the Committee with the request for a recommendation to bring the contract with Frederick Quinn Corporation to the full board at the March board meeting.

Committee Chair Dave Tosh inquired about the fees associated with the contract. Superintendent Warnstedt explained that each company that submitted a bid had a fee associated with their bids, but Frederick Quinn Corporation had the lowest fee associated with their bid, as well as setting a guaranteed maximum price and ensuring that 100% of the savings would go back to the Park District.

Committee member Dan Peterson had questions about the insurance and how the insurance fees affected the total cost. Superintendent Warnstedt explained that all of the companies have to carry the insurance cost, but that he would reach out to Derke Price at Ancel Glink for further clarification.

Committee member Angie Katsamakidis asked how the project was being paid for, to which Superintendent Warnstedt informed the committee that the project was funded by the referendum. This item will be placed on the March Park Board meeting agenda as a staff recommendation.

b. Update on the Grove Deer Study results

Superintendent of Leisure Services Todd Price reported to the Committee that the staff have been conducting studies on the deer population at the Grove. He presented the result of the study of the deer population from 2014 to 2018. Due to data as well as complaints from nearby neighborhoods, the Park District is planning to get a permit and participate in a cull for 20 deer. Per the requirements of the IDNR license, the meat would be processed by an approved USDA facility and then donated. Staff has spoken to Jill Brickman at the Northfield Township Food Bank and they have a freezer large enough to accommodate the meat and a population that would gratefully put it to use.

The Park District currently has a permit to cull 20 deer, but the permit will expire at the end of the month. Superintendent Todd Price included that he did not think it would be feasible to cull 20 deer in that time frame, so the Park District will likely have to apply for another permit next season.

Superintendent Todd Price assured the Committee that the deer would be euthanized using only humane methods once they are in the traps. He also insisted that while the Park District is not advertising the cull, he and the Grove staff are prepared to educate the public using the deer population studies on why the cull is necessary.

The Committee discussed the exact method that the Grove staff would be using to cull the deer in order to make sure that the correct information would be give out if people were to ask. The Grove staff will be box trapping the deer by baiting them with corn, trapping them in the box, and then euthanizing them through a “Captive Bolt” method. The traps will only be used from dawn to dusk when the Grove is closed to the public.

Committee member Dan Peterson asked why it would not be possible to cull 20 deer before the permit expires. Superintendent Todd Price clarified that the process of culling deer is not mechanical, and in the time that the Park District has left before the permit expires, he does not believe it is feasible. Superintendent Price also assured the Committee that the Village and the Police Department are aware of the plans for the cull.

Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds at The Grove Phil Munro informed the Committee that the deer had been going into the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as eating a lot of the plants at the Redfield Estate. Superintendent Todd Price added that the deer at the Grove are getting bolder, a sign that they are overpopulated.

c. Update on Livestock usage at Wagner Farm

Director of Wagner Farm Jon Kuester presented to the Commissioners on what staff sees as the present and future of Wagner Farm, elaborating that it was always envisioned as a “working interpretive farm”, meaning that the farm sells products.

Farm Manager Blake Lanphier explained that the farm sales are currently divided into four categories: farm stand, seasonal sales, livestock products, and other. He added that in the past few years, the farm has created a mobile chicken coop, achieved zero food waste, and began to sell pork.

Committee member Angie Katsamakakis inquired about what the farm staff does with the leftover eggs, to which Director of Wagner Farm Jon Kuester included that the farm has never had that problem since the eggs sell out in hours. Committee member Angie Katsamakakis wondered if it would be possible to track where the people come from to buy the eggs since there is such a high demand.

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Wagner Farm Manager Blake Lanphier discussed the recent addition of raising pork at Wagner Farm, adding that the Park District decided to raise Berkshire breed pork since it is renown as being the highest quality. Director of Wagner Farm Jon Kuester added that the sale of pork is direct sales from Wagner Farm, explaining the reasoning behind the higher price.

Committee member Dan Peterson asked about the stage of the process that Wagner Farm covers of raising pork. Farm Manager Blake Lanphier informed the Committee that the Park District buys the pigs at one month old and keeps them until they are six months old.

Committee member Angie Katsamakakis questioned whether or not selling pork raised at Wagner Farm had negative repercussions, to which Superintendent Todd Price explained that it has had the opposite effect. He elaborated by saying that while consumers used to look for food products that were organic, they are now looking for products that are local, and companies such as Forza Meats are taking advantage of being able to call their products local. He clarified that once the pigs are matured, we sell the pig directly to the company that will be offering pork to its consumers. Farm Manager Blake Lanphier added that this production adds another way that Wagner Farm can continue to educate people and gain exposure for opportunities at the site.

Director of Wagner Farm Jon Kuester told the Committee that the Farm will also be increasing the production of produce. He added that since only perfect produce sells, the leftovers will be put in the Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) box where people can prepay for a box of produce every week during the season. This process will be a joint effort with North Suburban Special Education District (NSSED) in which the profits will be equally split. He is also looking to develop a partnership with Franco Francese and Coarse Italian at Glenview Park Golf Club.

Director of Wagner Farm Jon Kuester included that staff is looking to reduce the median age of the dairy cows, since as the cows get older, they have more health problems and would not be able to be used for the expansion and would not be able to be used in increased programming opportunities. He added that the farm is hoping to expand pork, beef, and dairy production through local partnerships, such as Coarse Italian, Forza Meats, and 1871 Dairy. He mentioned that 1871 Dairy would be processing the milk that we are getting from the cows at the farm so that milk and other dairy products could be sold on site.

Committee member Dan Peterson asked about the financial comparison between the farm operational costs and the museum operational costs.

Committee member Angie Katsamakakis inquired about the farmers market, to which Wagner Farm Director Jon Kuester responded by saying that he is looking for a new farmer's market manager. He added that the farmer's market will have no major changes this year, but there will be a new Fall Festival event this year.

d. Other

None

3. Matters from the Public

None

4. Adjourn

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Commissioner Dave Tosh adjourned the Open Session at 9:44 AM

ATTEST:

David M. Dillon
Board President

Michael D. McCarty
Board Secretary

Approved this 21st day of March 2019.