

Iles Park Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Minutes February 3, 2020, 6pm
Track Shack
23 attendees



Derek Harms, Executive Director, Springfield Park District

Derek provided an overview of the OSLAD grant to update Iles Park:

- OSLAD amount is \$400,000; Park District will match that amount. Total \$800,000.
- **Timeline**
 - Grant requires completion in 24 months from when papers are signed. Still waiting to sign papers.
 - Some work in summer of 2020; completion by end of 2021.
- **Skate Park**
 - Will be an at-grade park intended to serve beginning level skaters.
 - Concrete pad with modular ramps and tricks.
 - Fenced; shelter for shade
 - Public input will be sought on the design: neighbors, skate shops
- **Walking Path**
 - 8' wide asphalt ¾ mile loop around park
 - Will cross Oak St near the skate park.
 - Will also connect to Ash somewhere to connect city-wide bike paths.
 - *Question:* could there be additional lighting on footpath? Can be very dark at night – a safety issue.
- **Playground**
 - Accessible; community-size; completely replace current playground, which is dated.
 - Public input will be sought on the design.
 - Will use FIBAR for surface; there will be some transfer ramps.
 - Budget for playground is \$160,000.
 - New playground at Douglas park, very nice, cost \$160,000, but \$30,000 worth of labor was provided by the Park District.
 - Park District may not have staff needed to install Iles Park playground due to short timeframe for completion and other projects.
- **Great Lawn, Trees, Art Walk**
 - Great lawn in southwest corner.
 - All trees will remain.
 - Bump-outs on path will contain art; possibly partnership with Springfield Art Association. Bolted down? May rotate different art.
 - *Question:* add picnic tables for DHS employees? Needs shade and shelters are expensive. But current tables are in grass beneath trees. Add more closer to shelter?
- **Ball Field (used for pickup games & adult softball)**
 - Restore infield dirt
 - Plaza to northeast of field
 - Replace line fences
- **Parking**
 - Along Oak and on east side of ball field, where 9th St used to be.
 - Overhead utility lines will be buried here.

- There will be a turnaround on south end.
- City will deed 9th Street and the part of Oak that is west of 8th Street to the Park District.
- More than 17 spots.
- **Bioswale**
 - In southeast corner near new rail underpass
 - Low area with natural plantings; not a permanent water feature; for managing water runoff during heavy rains.
- **Historic Stone Shelter**
 - No plans to upgrade as part of this project
 - It's beautiful; intent is to keep it.
 - At night it draws unwanted activity.
 - Opening it up would be a lot of work due to stone construction.
 - More lights were recently added.
 - Possibility to add motion-sensing lights.
 - Can the picnic tables in the shelter be moved? They are currently bolted to the floor in a configuration that makes use difficult.
- **Pickleball Courts**
 - Will stay; no changes.
 - Conversion from tennis to pickleball was funded by an individual.
 - Popularity caused Park District to make more courts at Douglas Park
- **Additional / future work**
 - The neighborhood could solicit additional work through businesses and/or fund some improvements ourselves.
 - Paved area in far northeast corner (foundation of old plant) will not be part of this project. The site has been cleaned up a bit, but it's still hazardous.
 - Parking lot in far northwest corner is not included in this plan; long term this might become an amphitheater.
 - No plans to close 8th Street between the old lot and the old foundation; it's part of historic Route 66?
 - Restrooms (on Oak St) are not part of this plan; Park District could look at updating them operationally. They need cleaned up, painted.
 - No plans for a basketball court right now. There would be lots of interest in the neighborhood. Neighbors want to keep it away from playground.
 - *Question:* will there be a first aid center? None planned. Good project for business – maybe the nearby Ambulance company?
 - *Question:* can the water fountain also have a dog fountain?
 - *Question:* would the Park District help us prepare to submit for additional grants? Yes / depends / let them know what we need.
 - *Other ideas:* little free library, flower garden set-aside
- Curt will keep us informed about public input meetings.
- Email suggestions to dharms@SpringfieldParks.org
- *See plan on last page.*

Neighborhood Police Officer Mike Badger

- There have been 73 reports of BB guns being used to shoot out windows in cars throughout the city. If you hear pops, look for info; get license plate number, vehicle color, etc. Call 911.
- Burglaries are stable.
- Homeless problems continue. Police hands are tied by the courts. Police try to get them into treatment and help them. The old liquor store has been cleaned out .
- If you see homeless squatting on private property, let Mike know. He will talk with property owner to get them banned from that location.

Michelle Coffin, Treasurer

- Balance currently \$2,920.52.
- \$70 from last month's meeting and coupon book income \$37.50.
- 2020 dues due now

Curt Drew, President

- **Upcoming dates**
 - Easter Bunny – April 4, 2020 at Curt & Janine's house – photos!
 - April 6 – Track Shack
 - Garage sale – May 2 & 3, 2020 with Harvard Park
 - Ward 6 Cleanup April 18 – we'll do streets but encourage owners to clean up their own alleys
 - National Night Out (NNO) 6th year – August 4th
- **Fundraising**
 - 2020 coupon books available – Iles Park gets \$12.50 per book.
- **IPNA Signs**
 - Move 8th St to 5th & Cedar. Hanson will work with us.
 - One for alley at Ash near 3rd maybe wait until red house is resolved.
 - Probably Feb or March for moves
 - \$250 new sign; moving \$75/hour
- **Updates & Initiatives**
 - Charlie Rs on S 6th is undergoing renovation.
 - Rug place on S 6th has new owners and is staying there.
 - Encourage new neighbors to move here, especially those with children.
 - Encourage businesses

Next Meeting

- March 2, 6pm Restoration Church

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kneedler, Secretary

Iles Park Plan

