

**MINUTES**  
**Public Hearing**  
**Great Western Trail: Forest Preserve to Old Mill Park—Segment 1**  
**Tuesday November 7, 2017**  
**6:00 to 7:30 P.M.**  
**Sycamore Park District Club House**  
**940 East State Street in Sycamore, IL**

President Strack called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Will the secretary please call the roll. Commissioners Graves, Schulz, Kroeger, Tucker and Strack were present. No Commissioners were absent.

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are physically present and will be participating in the meeting in person: **Commissioners Graves, Schulz, Kroeger, Tucker and Strack.**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present, but will be participating in the meeting via video and/or audio conferencing: **None**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present, and will not be participating in the meeting: **None.**

Staff members present were Director Dan Gible, Executive Director; Kirk Lundbeck, Supt. Of Golf Services; Marketing and Program Supervisor, Sarah Rex.

The Sycamore Park District's Engineering Firm who is completing Phase I Engineering on this trail project, at Sycamore Park District's expense, was represented by John Mayer—PE, CFM and Vice President, as well as Andrew Kustus—PE, CFM, Environmental Engineer. The firm is Engineering Resource Associates of Warrenville, Illinois.

At the start of the meeting, no public were present.

**Agenda Approval** –  
**Motion**

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Schulz seconded the Motion.

**AGENDA**

- I. Call Meeting to Order (Roll Call Vote)
- II. Summary Review of the Key Aspects of the Trail Plan: Andrew Kustus,  
Engineer for Engineering Resource Associates
- III. Questions from the Board of Commissioners
- IV. OPEN HOUSE TIME: Until 7:00 PM
- V. PUBLIC INPUT/COMMENT
- VI. ADJOURNMENT (Voice Vote)

**Voice Vote**

President Strack called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners voted Aye. The motion was approved 5-0.

## **II. Summary Review of the Key Aspects of the Trail Plan: Andrew Kustus, Engineering Resource Associates**

Director Gibble introduced Engineering Resource Associates, explaining that they would take some time to introduce the key aspects and land matters related to the proposed trail project.

Engineer Kustus explained that we would build a 10' wide asphalt trail beginning on the east where the DeKalb County Forest Preserve terminated their recent extension of the Great Western Trail at the new Sycamore Forest Preserve. That preserve was created when FEMA worked with DeKalb County to remove an old Mobile Home Park that flooded on a regular basis. The trail would terminate on the west at Old Mill Park, but the ITEP Grant that will be applied for by December 1, 2017 with IDOT, will only cover the first of two Segments to be done. This Grant Application will be for Segment 1.

Kustus displayed several large graphics showing the route of the trail, the properties that would be impacted by the proposed route, and the topography.

Gibble emphasized that a good portion of Segment 1 will be on Forest Preserve District land, and that the INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT approved by DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Board, and the Sycamore Park District Board would address how the costs of the project would be shared, and who would take long-term responsibility for the maintenance.

Kustus highlighted the Forest Preserve land, the Manzco property, the Ehrler property and the IDOT property as those impacted by Segment 1. Further he showed where 1 large bridge would cross the Kishwaukee River, and two small bridges would go to address small creeks that flow into the Kishwaukee River. The total distance estimate of Segment 1 would be about 0.8 miles.

## **III. Questions from the Board of Commissioners**

At this time, President Strack asked if there were any questions. No public was present, and President Strack indicated that he thought this was because we had already had numerous meetings and hearings about this trail when we completed our Long-Range Plan: Vision 20/20 and held public hearings at that time.

Gibble indicated that after instruction from IDOT Land Acquisition Personnel in Ottawa, he had President Strack send the impacted land owners a letter and supporting documents provided by those IDOT Officials. President Strack followed through on that a few weeks ago.

Commissioners asked questions about City requirements for trail paving, status of prior grant received for another segment of this project, emergency vehicle access, forest preserve support of this project.

President Strack expressed frustration with the process of how we must acquire land, but he understands that we must follow IDOT procedures. Commissioner Schulz asked when we can firm up land acquisition. Strack indicated that we can't negotiate at this time. Engineer Mayer explains that this process protects abuse of land acquisition, and that we must wait until Phase II

Engineering for any negotiations to begin under the guidance of IDOT even though the park district will pay the entire cost (no request in the grant) for the land acquisition.

Commissioner Kroeger asked about City Manager, Brian Gregory's support of the land swap with IDOT, since the land swapped would be City of Sycamore land for the IDOT land. Gibble indicated that the City of Sycamore/Brian Gregory has indicated support, and that IDOT has made preliminary contact with Gregory about the trade. Gibble also indicated that IDOT Official, Kevin Marchek, had sent President Strack an initial letter of support for the idea of the land swap, but many details remain. Gibble explained that Nathan Schwartz would act as our Negotiator, and IDOT Officials in Ottawa supported that. Commissioner Strack informed Gibble and Mayer that Mr. Jacobsen is now registered as an Appraiser with the State of Illinois.

#### **IV. Open House Time Until 7:00 PM**

At approximately 6:43pm, President Strack noted that now the floor was open and the public could look at the displays and ask questions of the Board, Staff and Engineers. As no public was in attendance at this time, either, the Board got up and looked at the displays and asked questions of the Engineers and Director Gibble

#### **V. Public Input/Comment**

At 7:00pm, President Strack opened the floor for public comment, and noted that written comment forms were also available. He noted that this trail project was open for public input at our Public Hearings during our Long-Range Planning process, as well: VISION 20/20.

Staff, Engineers, and some Commissioners stayed until 7:30pm, but no public appeared. Commissioner Tucker noted that she felt the public wasn't there because there is no objection to the plans, and these was previously vetted and supported by our community. Gibble noted that two community wide surveys done by the district showed the trail projects as Number 1 amongst our residents, as well.

#### **Adjourn**

##### **Motion**

The Board adjourned the Special Meeting Regular Session at 7:30 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Schulz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kroeger.

##### **Voice Vote**

President Strack called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners voted Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Daniel Gibble  
Secretary, Sycamore Park District

**Approved, as presented, by Board of Commissioners, November 28, 2017 Regular Meeting**