November 3, 2010

State of Illinois
County of Cook
Village of Stickney

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in Special Session on Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Stickney Village Hall, Council Chambers, 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Cook County, Illinois

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:
Trustees Lazansky, Mares, Morelli and Schimel,
Absent: Walik and Zeedyk

President O'Reilly informed the audience that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the redevelopment of the Kidde Park on 42nd and Oak Park. In then introduced the architect, John Vann of LandTech Architecture.

All people in the audience were asked to register their attendance.

Mr. Vann then explained that he is principal and owner of LandTech Landscape Architecture. This is a park and recreation design firm that has practiced in the State of Illinois for 28 years. His firm is registered with the State of Illinois as a landscape architect. He is working with us to try to assist us in obtaining some state financial assistance in redoing the Kidde Park or Tot Lot.

Trustee Mares had contacted Mr. Van to bring the Kidde Park back up to a condition the Village would be proud of. There is a need for some creative rejuvenation on this dated park. He explained that he plans to gets the entire child involved in their play activity. There should be things to touch, spin, have things to run around and use their brains.

The main reason he is here is the funding from the State of Illinois. He explained the following: (Both programs are run by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources)

The first one is the Park and Recreation Construction Program which was authorized by the General Assembly a few months ago. It allows for a 75% match. The Village is responsible for 25% of the cost. The deadline is November 29, 2010.

The second one is the Open Space Acquisition Development Fund which is an annual program. This is a 50/50 program.

These grants can be applied for multiple times if the first time fails.

This meeting is to provide public information about why we are doing this, what we are trying to do and get feedback from the public. The company will submit a concept that is very close to what they will be doing. There will be an effective cost. There is a variable that will allow changes to the concept. This concept is part of the grant process. There are many communities that have been successful in accomplishing this.

The park is approximately 89 x 90 feet. There will be a complete face lift of that park. The chipped tires are buried and the equipment doesn't meet today's standards. We will start over and make things attractive and new. We were shown a conceptual drawing of the proposed park. A new entrance will be closer to the library parking lot. A sidewalk will be closer to the library and landscaping will be kept near the closest resident at the northeast corner. The focal feature will be in corner near the library. There will be a complete small ribbon sidewalk around the entire park. All this is under the ADA requirements. Beyond that is the new playground area. There will be a small shelter and a sand/water play area. Where there will be a fabric liner and drainage. It will be about one foot in depth. There already is a water source available. He elaborated on the interactive play accomplished with this feature. There will be flat limestone rocks near the sand/play area to sit on. He enforced the fact that these are safely included in the park.

The small 16 foot square shelter will accommodate a small picnic table….maybe two. This would supply some shade.

We are looking at four new swings. Two will be bucket swings and two will be belt swings. There will be two potential spring-riders. The play structure will be 40 x 20 feet. They are looking for an upper and lower body strength structure. A final design could be adapted after the grant is received.

Mr. Van then explained the landscaping. He wants to bring in some grasses and lower trees on the perimeters. Security will be kept as the main concept of the plan. Some low berms could be considered. Consideration of the park maintenance will be in order. He wants to soften the look of the park. He wants to disguise the fence.

Trustee Lazansky asked about how much grant money is available. He was told that the for the Park Grant that is due on November 29, there is a total sum of $25 million. Originally this was part of a larger bill passed of $150 million but they only sold $25 million in bonds. There is some speculation that they may have another one if the $150 million is sold. It is unsure when and if it will take place.

The other grant is funded in July and is approximately $20 million. This year it was lower because it is funded by the real estate transfer tax. We all know that there were fewer property transfers. This grant is the 50/50. The fund is at $10 or $11 million awarded this year.

He finally responded that he felt we could see $180,000 to $200,000 cost for the park. This would be all the grading, equipment, everything.

Trustee Mares reminded us that there still is some open areas in this park that could be added to at a later date.

We learned about the construction of the material that will be used. The products are heavy duty construction material that will last a long time and no material will be so hot to burn legs.

Trustee Lazansky asked about the longevity of the equipment. We were told that 15 years is typical. Part of the grant application will include that our current equipment has outlived its normal life and safety requirements. Maintenance of equipment is near to nothing. He suggested that observation should be done at least once a week. They will have to redress the sand area, look for graffiti, equipment disruptions and address any safety issues.

The safety surfaces of the playground were then discussed. What is working today is finely ground up rubber. It is very expensive with no maintenance. It is a unitary rubber service. You could also do tiles. He didn't recommend that. That has a life expectancy of 10 years or so. After that you would have to top it off. The other material that is being included in the pledge is a processed wood fiber that has to go through screens. It has to meet a certain defined size. It meets the excessive-surface standards. Someone will need to maintain the surface by topping it off or readdress the wear/use patterns. Both are a safe surface you can count on. He uses both products. The rubber is six times more expensive. The wood chips would be $1,000 every two years to replenish the park.

The following answers were given to questions: A question was raised over termites in the chips. Mr. Vann will look into it. He did acknowledge that this product is being used all over the area. The fencing on the play equipment will be aluminum or steel that is powder coated with the surface paint. It will not flake off. Graffiti will be removed with special solvents. He is looking for the appropriate balance of what is fun and what needs to be plastic and what isn't. The plastic can take a beating. The present fencing might be replaced. The front fence might be more ornamental in appearance. It is up to the Village as to what they want. The shelter is made out of steel. Graffiti comes off with a paint remover. The roof will be kept up high.

Trustee Mares reminded us that a tree that was donated by the Kadolph family in memory of Betty Kadolph will be kept safe and secure in this park.

There being no further business at this special meeting, Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Mares that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which, said Board of Trustees adopted the motion at 6:30 p.m. and President O'Reilly declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Audrey McAdams, Clerk

Approved by me, this 4th day of November, 2010

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Daniel O'Reilly, President