



Notes
 Stakeholder Meeting – Winnetka Park District
 Western and Southwestern Stormwater Evaluation
 Village of Winnetka
 November 17, 2015

Meeting Location: Winnetka Park District Offices	Job No.: 1619.010
Meeting Purpose: Initial Stakeholder Meeting	

Discussion:

1. Introductions

<u>Name/Representing</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
• Robert Smith, Executive Director Winnetka Park District	540 Hibbard Road, Winnetka	rsmith@winpark.org 847-501-2070
• Costa Kotulas, Supt. of Parks Winnetka Park District	1380 Willow Road, Winnetka	ckotulas@winpark.org 847-501-2052
• Rob Bahan, Village Manager Village of Winnetka	510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka	rbahan@winnetka.org 847-716-3541
• Steve Saunders, PWD and Village Engineer, Village of Winnetka	1390 Willow Road, Winnetka	ssaunders@winnetka.org 847-716-3534
• Jim Bernahl, Asst. PWD Village of Winnetka	1390 Willow Road, Winnetka	jbernahl@winnetka.org 847-716-3261
• Mike Waldron, Project Manager Strand Associates, Inc.	1170 Houbolt Road, Joliet	mike.waldron@strand.com 815-744-4200
• Mark Shubak, Project Engineer Strand Associates, Inc.	910 Wingra Drive, Madison, WI	mark.shubak@strand.com 608-251-4843
• Michelle Kelly, Project Consultant Upland Design, Inc.	24042 Lockport St., Ste. 200, Plainfield, IL	mkelly@uplanddesign.com 815-254-0091

2. Items of Discussion – Skokie Playfields and Ice Arena

- a. The Winnetka Park District (District) recommended the Village and Strand revisit the Park District’s 2010 Master Plan for the long-term plans for the Skokie Playfields and the golf course.
- b. The District clarified that the new underground stormwater storage under the new artificial turf field and the additional volume created in the driving range was oversized to meet the District’s full buildout plans and did not include storing any offsite stormwater.
- c. Don Matthews is the District’s contact at Gewalt Hamilton Engineers regarding recent improvements to the Skokie Playfields.
- d. The District has looked at improving the bike path connectivity on the site but has run into opposition from other entities (New Trier High School, Forest Preserve District) to do so.
- e. The Ice Arena is a heavily used facility and off-limits for stormwater modifications.

3. Items of Discussion – Winnetka Golf Course

- a. The 2011 flood shut down golf course operations for 2 months and it took 2 years before the golf course fully recovered.
- b. The golf course experiences frequent interruptions in use due to stormwater and wet course conditions.
- c. The course does not have continuous stabilized golf cart paths, which would help with course playability.
- d. The District expressed concern with adding any additional stormwater contribution to the golf course.
- e. The District has intentions to dredge the drainage ditch that runs east to west immediately south of the 18th hole and repair the existing flap gate, but the price quote is \$0.24M.



- f. The levee between the Skokie Bypass Channel and the golf course did overtop in 1987 and in 2008 onto the golf course. The District would like to figure out how to improve the levee so this does not happen.
- g. The District indicated that the club house is an under-utilized facility and they would like to enhance year-round use. It is not currently used for many special events like weddings and banquets.
- h. The 9-hole course does not get extensive use, but the District sees the 9-hole course as a good learning and development course that is important to the growth of the game in Winnetka.
- i. Flood waters have come close to the ice arena but the facility has not flooded.
- j. The District is planning at the end of November solicit bids for renovation of the existing golf maintenance building in the northeast corner of the Skokie Playfields at an estimated cost of \$400k, which includes significant flood proofing improvements.
- k. The District indicated that this maintenance facility is awkward for them and they would prefer to relocate and construct a new facility, possibly in the area of the existing landscape materials yard west of the current maintenance facility and closer to the golf course.
- l. Rick Jacobsen is the architect of the golf course.
- m. The golf course is fully Park District funded and does not get any tax dollars.

4. Items of Discussion – Crow Island

- a. The District recently performed woodland restoration and constructed new facilities (fire ring, walking paths, etc.) at the Crow Island property. This was done under a grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Therefore, any modifications to the site performed in the next 10 years need to fit with the site uses and obtain approval from the IDNR.
- b. The District noted that the Winnetka Historical Society has property rights for the log cabin located on the northern portion of Crow Island.
- c. Crow Island is the site of an old landfill. A portion of the site overlays a layer of cinders and other slag from an old power plant. Anything in this area will take sensitivity to the environmental issues and the public perception.

5. Items of Discussion – West Elm Park, Hubbard Woods Park, Dwyer Park

- a. The West Elm Park has School District 36 partnerships and activities.
- b. Hubbard Woods Park is a small park site with frequent local use.
- c. Dwyer Park is near the post office and has heavy daily use. This is a very popular park. It is being studied with the Downtown Mater Plan for its role in area redevelopment.

6. Items of Discussion – Other

- a. The District irrigates the course from their surface ponds and Village water.
- b. The District expressed that they would prefer to have a well for irrigation – the old well no longer exists.
- c. The District does not feel that parking is deficient on site, but that on average parking is sufficient.

7. Potential Opportunities Identified

- a. Create additional water features on the 18-hole course that will enhance the course and also provide for additional stormwater storage.
- b. Regrade portions of 18-hole course to allow for additional ponding of stormwater on the course during less frequent storm events.



- c. Provide course improvements like stabilized cart paths to make the course more playable following more frequent rainfall events.
 - d. Relocation or removal of the 9-hole golf course could be considered if improvements to the 18-hole course and other facilities make it worthwhile for the District.
 - e. Relocation of golf maintenance facility and use of current site for above or below ground stormwater storage.
 - f. Big-picture reconfiguration of the 18-hole and 9-hole courses, club house, and other features in conjunction with other users like High School District and Forest Preserve District in an attempt to free up stormwater storage space.
 - g. Identify potential storage on the southern portion of Crow Island.
 - h. Identify potential storage on Dwyer Park in conjunction with the Downtown Master Plan.
8. Action Items
- a. The District will discuss internally the value of the 9-hole course and the ramifications of eliminating it.
 - b. The District most likely will delay contracting for improvements to the golf maintenance facility.
 - c. The Village and District will consider a joint survey of Winnetka residents to engage public opinion on District facilities.
 - d. The Village will proceed with conceptual alternatives and provide to the District for consideration.
9. Proposed Next Steps
- a. When the Village gets to the point of sharing conceptual plans and requests for use of the Park District properties, the District will want to engage two of their Board members in the discussions and considerations. This will help in communications with the entire Board.
 - b. The District will also want to engage Don Matthews and Scott Harris at Gewalt Hamilton Engineers in the concept plan discussions.
 - c. The Village will share concept alternatives with the District prior to the Village's public information meetings anticipated for January 2016.



