



**SOUTH BEND BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL PARK BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

MEETING TIME: 5:00 PM

**MEETING LOCATION: O'BRIEN CENTER BOARDROOM, 321 E. WALTER STREET,
SOUTH BEND, IN 46614**

RE: ELBEL PARK / ELBEL GOLF COURSE



- I. Call to Order- Vice-President Mark Neal
- II. Review of Past Board Proceedings
- III. Future Board Business Protocols
- IV. Update on Current Status of Elbel Golf Course
- V. Public Input – Comments Limited to Elbel Golf Course/Elbel Park only
- VI. Adjournment

**City of South Bend Board of Parks Commissioners
2016 Regular Meeting Dates**

Meeting Date	Time	Agenda Items Due By 5pm*	Meeting Announcement & Agenda Posted By 5pm*
Tuesday, January 19	4:00 PM	Tuesday, January 12	Thursday, January 14
Monday, February 15	4:00 PM	Monday, February 08	Thursday, February 11
Monday, March 21	4:00 PM	Monday, March 14	Thursday, March 17
Monday, April 18	4:00 PM	Monday, April 11	Thursday, April 14
Monday, May 16	4:00 PM	Monday, May 09	Thursday, May 12
Monday, June 20	4:00 PM	Monday, June 13	Thursday, June 16
Monday, July 18	4:00 PM	Monday, July 11	Thursday, July 14
Monday, August 15	4:00 PM	Monday, August 08	Thursday, August 11
Monday, September 19	4:00 PM	Monday, September 12	Thursday, September 15
Monday, October 17	4:00 PM	Monday, October 10	Thursday, October 13
Monday, November 21	4:00 PM	Monday, November 14	Thursday, November 17
Monday, December 19	4:00 PM	Monday, December 12	Thursday, December 15

Park Board meetings are scheduled to take place at O'Brien Center Board Room. 321 E. Walter Street, South Bend, IN 46614

The Board of Park Commissioners operate under Indiana's Open Door Law (Ind. Code 5-14-1.5)

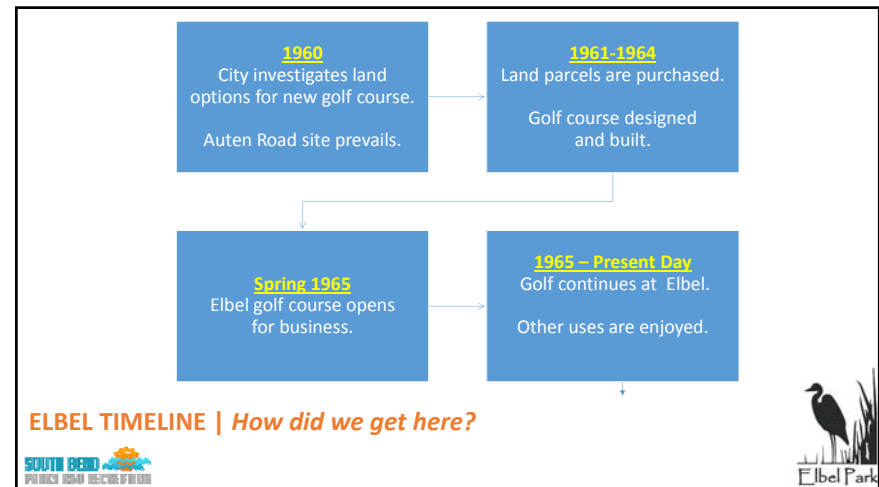
Any special or rescheduled meetings will be announced publicly via website, social media, and issued media statement, at least 48 hours in advance.

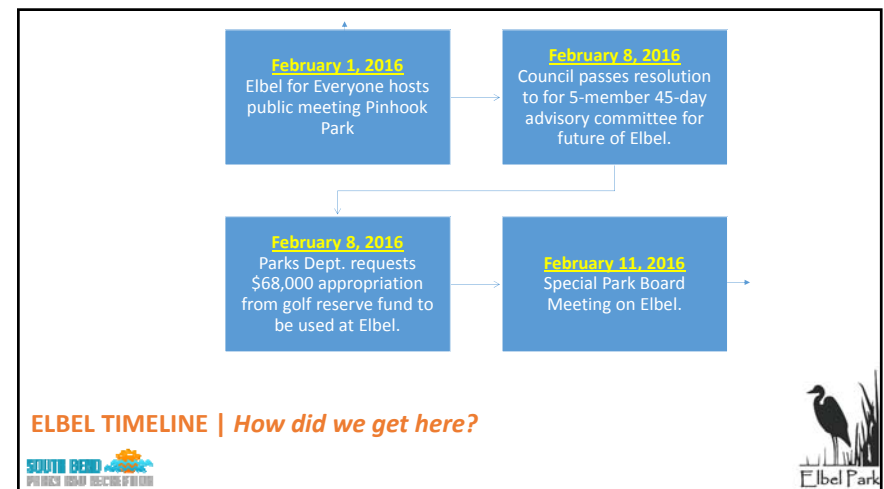
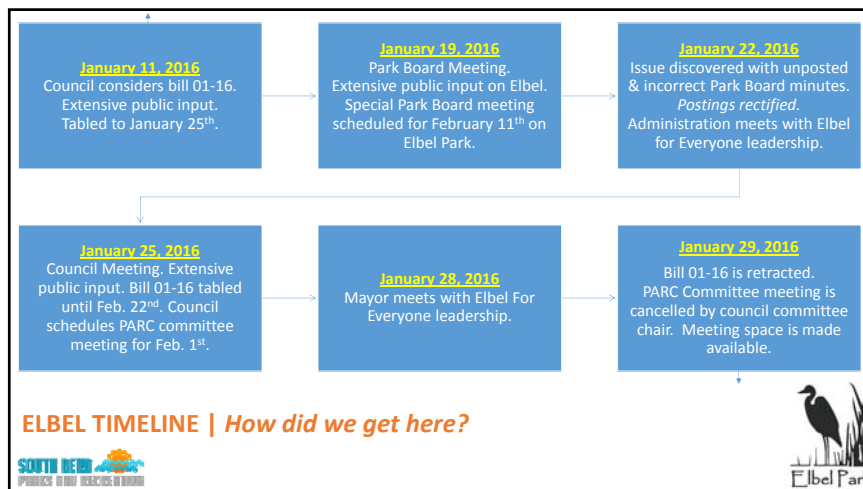
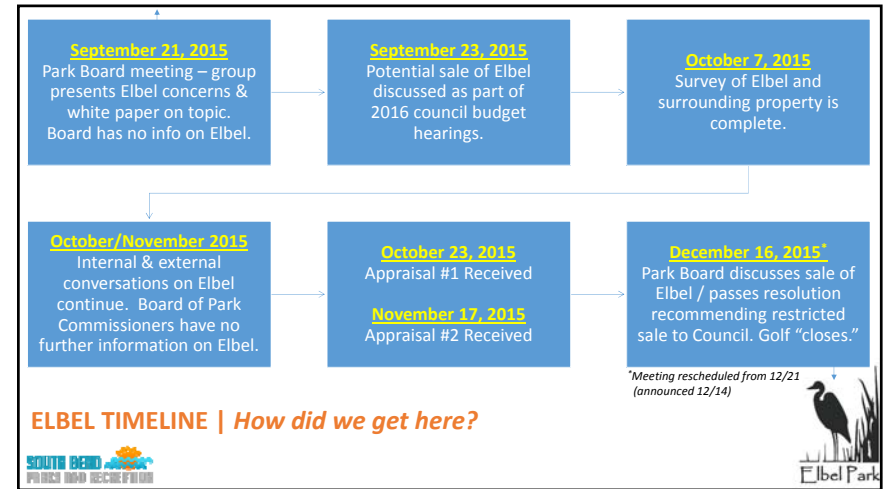
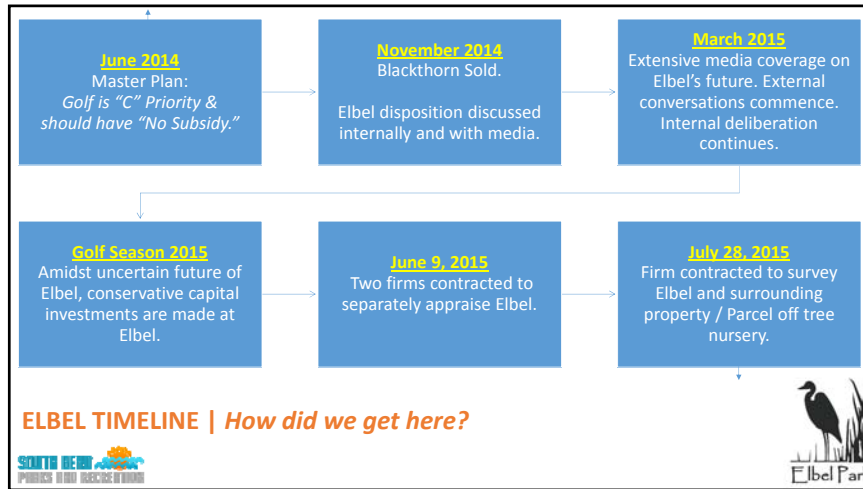
Meeting minutes will be posted online within 48 hours of board approval.

Meeting Announcements, Agendas and Approved Minutes can be viewed online:
<http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us/government/division/parks-recreation-board>

Communications to the Board of Park Commissioners Directed to Park Board Secretary:
 Ron O'Connor
 321 East Walter Ave
 South Bend, IN 46614
roconnor@southbendin.gov







Major Questions / Concerns



Major Questions / Concerns:

Selling, leasing, or altering the use of Elbel was not discussed in the 5 Year Parks Master Plan.

Why is this being considered now?



Major Questions / Concerns:

2015 saw a considerable decrease in capital expenditures at Elbel and 2014 was comparatively modest as well.

Why?

What happened to the capital money that was budgeted?



Major Questions / Concerns:

The council-approved Parks Department budget has Elbel fully funded for 2016.

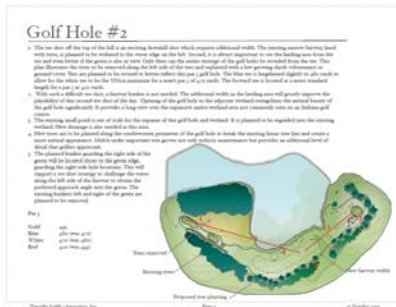
Why will it require a special appropriation?

Why are loss (subsidy) estimates anticipated to be higher than budgeted?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Why have a considerable amount of trees been removed from Elbel in recent years?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Why did Elbel Golf Course “disappear” from the Parks Department websites?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Why were some benches, trash receptacles and hole markers removed from the course?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Has the city sold off any land around Elbel?

What about the Karl Stevens Memorial tree nursery?



Major Questions / Concerns:

How can I get a better accounting of Elbel's financial performance?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Why don't you just raise prices to cover the golf subsidy?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Why not use a portion of the \$5 Million Park Bond at Elbel?

How does the recent Park Bond factor into all of this?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Indiana has lost a significant percentage of its valuable wetlands in recent years.

Why would you put more of this scarce resource in jeopardy?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Have you studied the floristic and wildlife quality at Elbel?

Have you fully considered other uses for Elbel Park?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Will golf be played at Elbel this year?



Major Questions / Concerns:

I've heard talks about a lease...

What are the details of this option?

Would a lease simply be a step towards a sale?



Major Questions / Concerns:

Will the Board of Park Commissioners act independently of the Council's Advisory Committee on Elbel?



Parks Department *Elbel* Focus

Short Term

- Work collaboratively with advisory committee during 45-day process
- Ensure 2016 golf season is setup for success
- Act upon recommendations of advisory committee

Mid/Long Term

- Protect unique ecological assets
- Maintain public access
- Balance needs of various park users *(at Elbel & throughout city)*
- Achieve financial stability compatible with Five Year Master Plan



ELBEL | *In Perspective*

- Environmental Health of *all* Parks
- Cross-Programming/Usage & Marketing
- Prioritizing Needs of Community & Value Propositioning
- Parks Department to be Lead Strategist & Resource with Regard to Parks Decisions
- Leverage Community: Seek Input & Creative Resources



COMMUNITY INPUT

All outstanding questions will be compiled & answered via Elbel Advisory Committee

