

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS
536 EAST AVENUE, LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS**

DECEMBER 13, 2021

President Vear called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Opyd, Posey, Lawrence, Vear

ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold
Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn
Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller
Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung
Park Foreman Claudia Galla
Recording Secretary Linda Muth

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Derke Price

*Commissioner Lacey joined the meeting at 6:06 P.M.

President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments/Participation (Board Manual Section #152)

None

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Posey motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 8, 2021; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of November 8, 2021; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Reports dated November 30, 2021; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for December dated December 13, 2021. Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion, which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Posey, Lawrence, Opyd, Vear

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

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Staff Reports

Executive Director Jenny Bechtold

- Director Bechtold reported that she is attending the Village of La Grange meeting later tonight to request a zoning extension and approval of the gas tanks.
- Jenny stated that the survey deadline for the comprehensive master plan has been extended a couple of times and we have received 655 generic survey responses. We were hoping for 400 statistically valid responses but have only received 229, which is 11.5%. Our options are to keep promoting it as we have been or to send out another mailing with postcard reminders or surveys to new households. Her preference is to get as many as we can without spending more money, but she would like the Board's feedback.

The Board discussed the survey responses. Jenny stated that 400 responses are needed for the survey to be statistically valid. The last survey Readex did with PRI hit 350, but they think our responses are lower due to the length of the survey. We would like to move forward with the CMP and not be delayed five weeks with another mailing so it can be included in the budget process. The Board agreed and thought the combined results were good with 850 completed surveys.

- Jenny reported that she and Leynette have been looking into the behind the scenes work required to start a park district foundation. We can join the National Association of Park Foundations for a fee of \$375 and they will help us with a start-up strategy, by-laws, and the key components.
- Juneteenth has been named a federal holiday and the district will recognize it, however, it will not be a staff holiday and our facility will remain open. This is similar to how we acknowledge several other federal holidays.

Staff Comments

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej

Director Bechtold stated that Leynette is out of town and she will cover the ordinances for her.

Commissioner Opyd stated he would like to see the user fees broken down for anyone renting fields for athletic purposes; they are currently lumped together in the income statement. He is also interested in how the fees compare to other communities. Chris stated that currently only the soccer groups pay user fees. He conferred with La Grange Park and Western Springs when we started charging for soccer fields to make sure we were all on the same page and charging similar rates to avoid overuse of lower-priced fields in our area. Chris stated that he is working on updating our affiliate agreement and evaluating potential fees for Little League and Babe Ruth for field use at Gordon, Gilbert and Waiola.

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Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Superintendent Miller reported that all the holiday special events were very successful. He thanked the commissioners that came out for the tree lighting.
- Kevin stated that resident registration opened for winter/spring programs and numbers are good so far, with the youth league close to maxing out.

Commissioner Opyd stated that the numbers seem to be rebounding from 2019. He asked if we expect special interest programs and the 66% for athletics to continue to rise or if we need to look more closely at programming, and whether COVID is affecting the numbers. Kevin answered that it is a bit of both. Our contractors have been affected by staff shortages which resulted in some cancelled classes, but we are running fewer classes with more participants. We are still rebounding and working to bring in new contractors.

President Vear stated that the numbers show a lot of interest in programming and asked if there was any interest in the district offering CPR and AED training for the public. Kevin stated that we offered it prior to him joining the district, and the numbers were low. The Fire Department offers training in the American Red Cross standard which is what most people prefer.

La Grange Fitness Report

- Director Bechtold reported that there will be an increase of \$3 per month for each member starting in January. Dom completed an analysis of surrounding facilities and our prices will still be comparable and in the target range.
- Jenny stated they are expanding the fitness center hours a bit.

Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung

- Superintendent Hartung reported that she received a letter from St. Francis last week informing us that they have secured another contractor to run their before and after school program. We have been unable to run it due to staff shortages. The new program costs are higher than ours, and she hopes to get them back next year. She has received positive feedback from St. Francis.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn

- Superintendent Finn stated that weekend rentals in November and December have been good and are close to our old numbers. Renting the playground privately has been working well.
- The Secret Santa program that utilizes space in our building is wrapping up.
- Chris will begin working with user groups next month on their field use for spring and summer.

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President Vear asked if we have repeat rental customers from Chicago, which has double the number of rentals booked by La Grange residents. Chris stated that we do have repeat customers, and many are from the Midway area of Chicago.

Park Foreman Claudia Galla

- Foreman Galla reported that the Adopt-A-Park program has launched online. She contacted the people from the tree walk that expressed interest in participating and has received a few responses.
- Claudia stated that they will begin painting the community center at the end of the month.

Commissioner Opyd asked Claudia about the volunteer leadership class she attended. Claudia stated the class was about how to motivate, inspire, and communicate with volunteers, which will be helpful for the Adopt-A-Park program. President Vear asked about the status of the MWRD applying biosolids on the fields. Claudia stated that it did not work out due to the amount of rain we had at the time, but we will try again next year.

Attorney Report

Attorney will report later in the meeting.

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance 21-04 An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois for the 2021 Tax Levy Year

Director Bechtold stated that Supt. of Finance Kuniej spoke about this at last month's meeting and it is the same as she proposed then.

Commissioner Opyd motioned to approve Ordinance 21-04 an Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois for the 2021 Tax Levy Year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Opyd, Lacey, Posey, Lawrence, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance 21-05 An Ordinance Directing the Cook County Clerk to Reduce the Park District of La Grange's Real Estate Tax Levy 2021

Commissioner Posey motioned to approve Ordinance 21-05 an Ordinance Directing the Cook County Clerk to Reduce the Park District of La Grange's Real Estate Tax Levy 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Opyd and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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AYES: Commissioners Posey, Opyd, Lacey, Lawrence, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance 21-06 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2021 to pay principal of and interest on \$1,590,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois

Commissioner Lawrence motioned to approve 21-06 an Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2021 to pay principal of and interest on \$1,590,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Lawrence, Lacey, Posey, Opyd, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance 21-07 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2021 to pay the principal of and interest on \$2,505,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020A, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois

Commissioner Opyd motioned to approve Ordinance 21-07 an Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2021 to pay the principal of and interest on \$2,505,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020A, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Opyd, Lawrence, Posey, Lacey, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Discussion and/or Approval of Resolution 21-04 Authorizing the Release and Continued Retention, Respectively, of Certain Executive Session Minutes and Authorizing the Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Certain Board Executive Sessions

Director Bechtold stated that this item relates to executive session minutes, which must be reviewed every six months and was last done in November 2019. The executive minutes include three sessions through June of 2020 and include the Nicor property, which is now open.

Commissioner Lawrence motioned to approve Resolution 21-04 Authorizing the Release and Continued Retention, Respectively, of Certain Executive Session Minutes and Authorizing the Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Certain

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Board Executive Sessions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Lawrence, Posey, Lacey, Opyd, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Board Business

New Business

Old Business

Discussion and/or Approval of Board Meeting Dates for 2022

In order to reduce some of the conflicting scheduling with the village meetings, the Board decided to move all the meeting times up to 6:00 p.m. President Vear recited the 2022 board meeting dates for approval, which was so moved by Commissioner Posey. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Lawrence, Lacey, Posey, Opyd, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

Commissioner Lacey had no report at this time.

Parks and Open Lands

Commissioner Lawrence stated that they plan to meet in January. She will reach out to the members to see if they remain interested in serving and will post the meeting in advance.

Finance & Capital Project Committee

President Vear had no report at this time.

Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

Commissioner Posey reported that she is preparing goals for her committee and making a list of potential members. Send anyone that may be interested her way.

Marketing/ Social Media Committee

Commissioner Opyd stated that they are meeting this Friday.

Attorney Report

Attorney Price stated the zoning application for the park will be filed by Thursday to be on the (village) agenda for January 11th. He would like it to be clear that it is a park that may include the ability to bring a dogs, which has

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been twisted to a dog park. The proposal is just for an open space for passive recreation, and we are going for park rezoning. The plan is part of our mission, which is where the limit is for units of government.

Director Bechtold reported that she did some research on phase 1 for the property and solicited quotes from G2 and Tricore. One came in lower by about \$700 so we are going with G2 at a fee of \$2,000. G2 did a preliminary investigation and had some concerns which may require a phase 2. Attorney Price stated that PDRMA will require a phase 1, and phase 2 is a natural; people want to know that it is safe. He added that professional services cannot be secured by bid and must be based on qualifications.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

None

Board Comments

Commissioner Opyd thanked staff for the tree lighting event. It was great to see so many happy families there. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Lawrence also complimented the tree lighting event which was well-attended, even with the cold weather.

President Vear was sorry to have missed the event and wished everyone happy holidays.

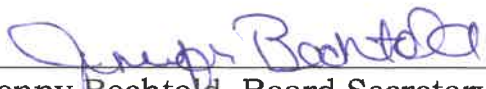
Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

Adjournment

Commissioner Opyd moved for adjournment at 6:53 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Robert Vear, President



Jenny Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved January 10, 2022