

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

**DECEMBER 9, 2019**

**President Vear called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Jacobs, O'Brien, Opyd, Collins

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn, Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej, Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller, Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung, Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Bechtold, Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, Bob Sherman

President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

*Public Comments/Participation (Board Manual Section #152)*

None

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Collins motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 18, 2019; Item 3.2 Approval of the Executive Session Meeting of November 18, 2019; Item 3.3 Financial Reports dated November 30, 2019; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for December dated December 9, 2019. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Jacobs, O'Brien, Opyd, Collins

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**Staff Reports**

***Staff Comments***

**Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Bechtold**

- The fitness center is very busy with 2,608 members.
- The fitness center has new card swipers which allow a membership card to be put on a member's phone for check-in. The member will no longer

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have to carry the actual membership card.

### **Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung**

- The December winter camp dates are cancelled due to low enrollment.
- The January winter camp dates are running.

### **Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller**

- Staff is busy with holiday events, Santa visits, budget, summer brochure, and Summerfest planning.
- We are partnering with the La Grange Library to offer a walking book club. It will meet at the recreation center twice a month. An adult librarian will lead the group for a 30-minute walk and a 30-minute book discussion. It is an 8-week program and sign up is at the La Grange Library. All ages are invited.

### **Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej**

- She is preparing to work with Tyler Technology this week.
- She is working on the year-end W2's, 1099's and changing over to the new tax rates for 2020 for employees.
- In 2021, the budget process will be available online for staff, conserving on paper.

### **Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn**

- Rentals have been very busy. December slows down a bit due to the holidays.
- Open gym and the playground are busy over the holidays.
- LED replacement lights have been installed at Waiola Park, Gilbert Park, and Sedgwick Park tennis and 47<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot.
- We are waiting for the fixtures for the pathway at Denning Park.
- All new ceiling tiles were installed at the Community Center before Thanksgiving. Lynn Lacey thanked the Park District for improving the center and for allowing her to use it for her Thanksgiving community event.

### **Director's Report**

- The new White Sox contract has had some revisions that will benefit the Park District.
- Director Bissias will be out of the office December 20, 2019 through January 6, 2020. He is available on his cell phone if needed.

### **Attorney Report**

None

### **Treasurer Report**

None

Commissioner Jacobs arrived at 7:13 P.M.

**Action Items**

*Discussion and/or Possible Approval of IDNR PARC Grant Resolution 19-04 for the Expansion of the La Grange Fitness Center*

- Director Bissias explained that the Board must approve this resolution to move forward with the grant application.
- The maximum amount for the grant is \$2.5 million. We are working on a budget and expect the project to cost around \$1 million. If awarded, the grant covers 75% of the cost. It would also cover part of our roof replacement.
- He reviewed the diagram of the fitness center expansion. It is a total of 3,850 sq. ft. and includes a 2,000 sq. ft. group exercise room and a weight room. We would be able to expand the cardio equipment in the fitness center.
- Fitness equipment is not included in the grant; only the construction costs are covered.
- We will be using Henry Bros. for the construction manager instead of W.B. Olsen for this project.
- Commissioner Jacobs asked about applying for the solar roof installation project instead of the fitness center expansion. Director Bissias stated the roof project would be covered under a different grant.
- Commissioner Jacobs asked about adding a lap pool in the new fitness area. Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Bechtold stated we have outgrown the fitness center in two years and expanding it is more crucial than adding a lap pool. A pool is an expensive project and they do not make money.

Commissioner O'Brien motioned to approve the IDNR PARC Grant Resolution 19-04 for the expansion of the La Grange Fitness Center. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Jacobs, O'Brien, Collins, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Ordinance 19-11 an Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois for the 2019 Tax Levy Year*

Commissioner Collins motioned to accept Ordinance 19-11 an Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois for the 2019 tax levy year. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Jacobs, O'Brien, Collins, Opyd  
NAYES: None

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ABSENT: None

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Ordinance 19-12 an Ordinance Directing the Cook County Clerk to Reduce the Park District of La Grange's Real Estate Tax Levy Year 2019*

Commissioner Collins motioned to accept Ordinance 19-12 directing the Cook County Clerk to reduce the Park District of La Grange's real estate tax levy year 2019. Commissioner Opyd seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Jacobs, O'Brien, Collins, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Ordinance 19-13 an Ordinance Abating the Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Year 2019 to Pay the Principal of and Interest on \$2,530,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2012 C, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois*

Commissioner Collins motioned to accept Ordinance 19-13 an Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2019 to pay the principal of and interest on \$2,530,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2012 C, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Jacobs, O'Brien, Collins, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Ordinance 19-14 an Ordinance Abating the Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Year 2019 to Pay the 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 Opyd motioned to accept Ordinance 19-14 abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2019 to pay the 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 O'Brien seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Jacobs, Collins, O'Brien, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

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**Board Business**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Committee Reports**

*Administration Committee*

None

*Parks and Open Lands*

None

*Finance & Capital Project Committee*

None

*User Group Committee*

None

*Marketing/ Social Media Committee*

Commissioner Opyd stated he ran some reports on our website usage. He found that the most hits were for our room rentals. Toddler gym and the playground were at the bottom of the list. He felt this was a good gauge to evaluate what areas of the website warrant expansion.

**Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)**

Bob Sherman, 735 S. Brainard, La Grange, complimented staff for the festive trees at Waiola Park. He wishes the Board and staff a wonderful holiday.

**Board Comments**

Commissioner Collins stated the LED lights at Waiola Park are a positive change and look good. Adding the fire and police department with Santa's arrival at the Holiday Tree Lighting at Waiola Park was a great idea.

Commissioner O'Brien stated the Holiday Tree Lighting was a great evening and he was glad to be part of it. He wishes everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Commissioner Jacobs wished everyone happy Hanukah and a happy holiday season.

Commissioner Opyd thanked staff for working on the PARC Grant.

President Vear made note of the Endless Summerfest income increase and the fitness center income increase in the General Fund. He gave high accolades to

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everyone here that made that happen. President Vear stated he is involved with the Y Men's Club. They sell Christmas trees at the Gordon Park handball courts and help many charities with the money they make. He thanked the Park District for letting them use the area and their good relationship. He received compliments on the Gilbert Park tennis courts. He also stated he recycled his Christmas lights in the container in the Recreation Center lobby. He thanked everyone for recycling and happy holidays to all!

Director Bissias stated that this Saturday the Park District is teaming with the La Grange Police Department to "Stuff the Squad". They are asking for everyone to bring a gift to the Park District. Any child who puts a gift in the squad car will get a free pass to the playground.

**Executive Session**

At 7:47 P.M. Commissioner Jacobs motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 12.2 Acquisition of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5); Item 12.4 Personnel, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Jacobs, O'Brien, Collins, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

At 8:22 P.M. the Board resumed the regular meeting.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Collins moved for adjournment at 8:22 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Opyd and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

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Robert Vear, President

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Constantine Bissias, Secretary  
*Approved 01/13/2020*