

MINUTES
REGULAR PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE PARK
AUGUST 9, 2021 - 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER THE REGULAR MEETING & ROLL CALL

President Stastny called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners present were Bob Corte, MJ Dorris, Alexandria Zuck and Lucy Stastny. Commissioner Ronovsky was absent. Also, present was Executive Director Jessica Cannaday, Building and Grounds Supervisor, Ray Drexler, Financial Consultant, Phil Mesi and Office Manager, Theresa Jackson as Recorder.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PARK DISTRICT MISSION

The Community Park District of La Grange Park shall offer high quality, affordable and accessible park and recreation facilities, programs, and services in a financially responsible manner.

4. OPEN FORUM

Jamie Zaura – Commented she would like to see the preservation of the American Nuclear Society building and hopes the Park District will have interest in exploring the purchase and renovation of the property.

Mike Bogert – Commented that she would like to see the historic and unique building used and not torn down. She also made mention of the benefits of keeping the building intact.

Marilyn Strojny – Previously the principal of the school and would like to see the ANS building being used and not torn down.

Charles Hitzeman – Expressed concerns about the basketball event that took place in Memorial Park in July. He wanted to know what is being done to make sure that all protocols are followed. Additionally, he expressed concerns regarding firearm incidents, concerns regarding AYSO receiving reduced permit fees, concerns regarding increased garbage in parks, and stated things were getting worse, not better. He says park hours and dog policies are unclear.

Mary Ryan – Stated concerns about Memorial Park basketball event. She also made mention of some deferred maintenance in parks, needed repairs to (village owned) sidewalks, disrepair of the courts at Robinhood and Yena parks. She also suggests creating a senior walking track.

Sue Hitzeman – Expressed concerns with basketball games in Memorial Park. She stated she traveled 2 hours to defend her home because of comments she heard were made on social media about a “take over.”

Nicholas Michaels – Introduced himself as the incoming president of the La Grange Park Little League and supporter of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.” He also commented that the basketball event at Memorial Park was a positive event for the community and designed to help children get into college who otherwise would not have the opportunity.

Jeremy Vitell – Asked if the park district was following COVID protocols and restrictions. He stated the protocols should be communicated to and consistent with all athletic groups in La Grange Park such as Little League and AYSO.

Jonathan Allen – Stated he would like to see the American Nuclear Society building repurposed and is willing to help if needed.

Molly Martin – Communicated her support for “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.” Molly is also on the board of the new LGP Parks and Recreation Foundation, and she communicated that the foundation has set up a fund to benefit each individual park.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 9, 2021 AGENDA

Commissioner Corte made a motion to approve the August 9th Agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Zuck. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

President Stastny suggested corrections to amend wording in items 12a and 9c. Commissioner Zuck made a motion to approve meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Corte. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- a. Resident Tim Gallagher was present to thank the Community Park District for its support over the past 10 years with “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.” This is a group of families in the Stone Monroe Park area that come together each year to support a community member in need. This year’s fundraiser will take place at Stone Monroe Park on September 4, and all are invited.

8. STAFF RECOGNITION
None.

9. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Executive Report
A written report was included in the packet and introduced by Executive

Director Jessica Cannaday. Executive Director Cannaday updated the board on the status of the Multi-Sport Court project and stated manufacturing and shipping delays still have the project on hold. The contractors and project manager are looking into options to expedite the opening. She stated that summer program revenue was 50% higher than the average of the prior 5 normal years. She announced that the district was in the process of establishing a 24-hour hotline for residents to report vandalism or park damage. Discussion took place and questions were asked and answered.

b. Office Report

A written report by Office Manager Theresa Jackson was included in the board packet. There were no questions.

c. Recreation Report

Written reports from the Recreation Manager and Marketing and Finance Coordinator were included in the board packet and presented by Executive Director Cannaday. She mentioned Recreation Manager Jusk has done an outstanding job staffing and succession planning for Ready Teddy. She also mentioned Finance and Marketing Coordinator Kennedy's exceptional contribution to obtaining new sponsorships and making sure that Pickleball is up and running. There were no questions.

d. Parks Report

A written report was included in the board packet and presented by Building and Grounds Supervisor Ray Drexler. Questions were asked and answered.

e. Financial Report

Financial Consultant Phil Mesi gave his July financial report. He stated that property tax receipts were delayed. There were no questions asked.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

11. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

Commissioner Corte made a motion to approve the monthly disbursements in the amount of \$154,277.93. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zuck. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of General Use Policy

The board discussed park hours and there was consensus to keep parks with artificial lights open until 10pm. No action was taken.

There was consensus to submit sections 3.8.3 and 3.13.2 for review by corporate counsel and presented for review at the September 13 board meeting.

14. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Corte made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session in Accordance with the Open Meetings Act under Section 2(c)(5) to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body at 8:08pm. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dorris and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

15. CLOSED SESSION

- a. The Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the Public Body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

16. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING & ROLL CALL

Commissioner Dorris made a motion to reconvene at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Corte. Commissioners present were Bob Corte, MJ Dorris, Alexandria Zuck and Lucy Stastny. Commissioner Ronovsky was absent. Also, present was Executive Director Jessica Cannaday.

17. ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was board consensus to form community focus groups to gauge support and explore alternate financing options for the acquisition of the American Nuclear Society Building. Executive Director Cannaday was directed to execute focus groups during the week of August 9.

18. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zuck made a motion to adjourn at 9 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Corte. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Secretary

Approved September 13, 2021