

**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**

**MAY 13, 2019**

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Lacey, Jacobs, Collins

ABSENT: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, Brian Opyd, Tim O'Brien, Bob Ashby, Bob Sherman

President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no changes to the agenda.

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

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

Bob Sherman, 735 S. Brainard, La Grange, stated that the board members that are leaving the board had many years of experience. He is excited for the new board members to bring their energy and enthusiasm to the Park District.

Brian Opyd, 109 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, La Grange, loved the Easter Egg Hunt at Sedgwick Park. He thanked staff for their hard work. He suggested in the future putting something different in the eggs in addition to the candy that would be low cost and encourage athletic interaction. He suggested a pass to the playground or gym.

*Swearing In of Elected Officials/Commissioners*

*Brian Opyd and Tim O'Brien*

Director Bissias swore in Brian Opyd and Tim O'Brien as new Park District board members. Everyone congratulated them.

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*Thank You Presentation to Mary Ellen Penicook, Lynn Lacey and Bob Ashby for their Years of Dedicated Service to the Park District*

Director Bissias presented past commissioners Mary Ellen Penicook, Lynn Lacey and Bob Ashby with Park District shirts. They also received plaques with a clock for their years of outstanding contributions, community leadership and service.

President Vear added that having the vision for this building was an amazing accomplishment for the past commissioners. They also fought a good fight through all the legal battles which paved the way for the future of all park districts in Illinois. They should be proud of all they have done.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Jacobs motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Public Hearing Meeting of April 8, 2019; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 8, 2019; Item 3.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Board Meeting of April 8, 2019; Item 3.4 Approval of the Financial Reports dated April 30, 2019; Item 3.5 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for May dated May 13, 2019. Commissioner Opyd seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Director Dean Bissias**

- He thanked the former commissioners for all their time and effort in the growth of the Park District, and for putting up with him.
- The Pet Parade is Saturday, June 1, 2019.
- He thanked former Commissioner Ashby for sending a note praising the Gordon Park drainage through all this rain. There is a significant improvement since it was redeveloped.

### **Staff Comments**

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

- The preliminary fiscal year-end financial report is included in the board packet. There are a few additional bills expected.
- The financial report should be completed next month.
- The auditors were here today.
- She is setting up the new staff for summer.
- On Friday she leaves for a week to the GFOA Conference.



**Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller**

- Park Pride is Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM. About 60-70 volunteers are now preregistered and will be working at the Rec Center and Sedgwick Park.
- Staff is working on getting summer programs up and running.
- He has been busy hiring summer staff, conducting CPR classes and working on the fall brochure.
- On May 22, 2019 there will be a “meet the artist” reception at the La Grange Art League from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. The Park District of La Grange is the premier sponsor for the summer art project in downtown La Grange. The board members are encouraged to attend this event.

**Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn**

- Indoor and outdoor rentals are still busy.
- Most of the replacement signs for dogs in the parks are up. He is waiting for JULIE to check the utilities before they dig the posts for the dog waste dispensers. He has all the dispensers and bags.
- He is finishing up the capital projects from last year and starting on projects for this year.
- The lawn mowers were delivered today.
- He has been working with contractors bidding on the replacement of the doors/windows in the front lobby. The replacement doors will be sliding doors because the handicap doors are frequently broken.
- Today was the first day in two weeks that all the soccer fields were open due to all the rain we have had.

**Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Clark Bechtold**

- The fitness center is offering a flash sale of 50% off the initiation fee if joining today, May 18, 2019.
- Mailers were sent out to former members to say we want you back!
- There are 2,276 members as of today.
- Summer is slower but we are hopeful for an increase due to college students coming home for the summer.

Commissioner Opyd asked if the fitness center is reaching saturation. Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Clark Bechtold responded that we can take on more members pending the parking situation.

President Vear commended her for all the visuals in her board report.

**Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung**

- She is finalizing summer camp staff.
- The end of the school year is June 5, 2019.

### **Attorney Report**

Attorney Jim Rock told the Board about a Park District Boot Camp at the end of May and early June. He encouraged all commissioners to attend. There will be a variety of topics discussed including the open meetings act. Attendance is online or in person. Director Bissias will have all the information.

### **Treasurer Report**

Director Bissias reviewed the budget with Treasurer Rob Metzger and he signed off on it.

### **Action Items**

*Discussion and/or Approval of Winning Bid for Replacement of Entrance and Exit Doors to the Recreation Center (Capital Budget Item)*

Director Bissias explained this item was approved in the Capital Budget. It went out for bid and now the Board must approve the bid.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn explained the new doors will slide and have a motion sensor. We only have one door that is handicap accessible and now there will be two doors. The vendor was recommended by two other park districts and their price was lower than budgeted. Commissioner Opyd motioned to approve the winning bid from S & J Door, Inc. for replacement of the entrance and exit doors to the Recreation Center for a cost of \$40,700.

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

*Discussion and/or Approval of Board Policy Section 320 Fund Balance Policy*

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej explained this is an update to clarify the Fund Balance Policy. Commissioner Jacobs motioned to approve the Board Policy Section 320 Fund Balance Policy. 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

### **Board Business**

#### **Old Business**

*None*



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### **New Business**

#### **Discussion, Nomination and Approval of: (Normally voted on in June)**

##### *Board President*

Commissioner Jacobs nominated Commissioner Vear for Board President. Commissioner Vear accepted the nomination.

##### *Board Vice President and Board 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

Commissioners Jacobs, Collins, O'Brien, Opyd were asked to think about these positions for nominations next month.

##### *Board Secretary*

Commissioner Opyd nominated Director Bissias for Board Secretary. Director Bissias accepted the nomination.

##### *Board Treasurer*

Commissioner O'Brien nominated Rob Metzger for Board Treasurer. Director Bissias accepted his nomination on Rob Metzger's behalf.

Commissioner Jacobs suggested having Treasurer Metzger come and review the financials with the new Board.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Administration Committee*

Commissioner Collins would like to chair this committee.

#### *Public Relations Committee*

Commissioner Jacobs suggested combining the Public Relations and Marketing Committees together. Commissioner Opyd has a background in social media and would be interested in this committee.

#### *Finance & Capital Project Committee*

None

#### *User Group Committee*

Commissioner O'Brien would like to chair this committee.

#### *Marketing Committee*

None

Commissioner Jacobs suggested a parks and open land committee that she would be interested in.

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

Mary Ellen Penicook, 135 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, La Grange, thanked Director Bissias for all he has done and his great leadership. She thanked staff for all they do and how well they all work together. Her suggestion is to work together with other

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communities to persuade the Cook County Forest Preserve to create a dog park. La Grange does not have room for one without taking away from our recreation areas.

### **Board Comments**

Commissioner Collins thanked former Commissioners Penicook, Lacey and Ashby for their years of service. It is a thankless job. He was impressed with the amazing Park District staff and their professional and concise reports.

Commissioner Jacobs appreciated the former commissioners' fellowship and guidance. Moving forward, this new Board has big shoes to fill. She complimented Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn on the new concise dog signs in the parks.

Commissioner Opyd thanked Lynn Lacey, Mary Ellen Penicook, and Bob Ashby and stated it was a pleasure to interact with them. He hopes this new Board demonstrates their professionalism going forward.

Commissioner O'Brien thanked Lynn Lacey, Mary Ellen Penicook and Bob Ashby and he is looking forward to the next four years.

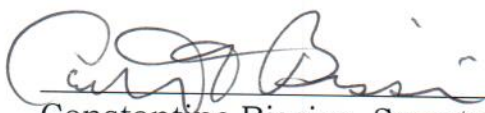
President Vear also thanked Lynn Lacey, Mary Ellen Penicook and Bob Ashby for a great working relationship with staff and Director Bissias. He stated staff does everything and the Board is only the cheerleaders.

### **Executive Session**

None

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Opyd moved for adjournment at 8:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Brien and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

  
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Robert Vear, President  
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Constantine Bissias, Secretary  
Approved 06/10/2019