

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

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Lacey, Vear, Opyd
Commissioner Posey arrived at 6:11 P.M.

ABSENT: Commissioner Weber

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold
Director of Finance Jamie Hollock
Director of Recreation Kevin Miller
Director of Parks Maintenance Eric Krueger

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Derke Price
John Pluto
Rose Naseef
Mony Chabria
Theresa Hodgetts

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda and there were none.

Public Hearing Meeting

Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Park Commissioners to Sell Not to Exceed \$410,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds for the Payment of Land Condemned or Purchased for Parks, for the Building, Maintaining, Improving and Protecting of the Same and the Existing Land and Facilities of the District and for the Payment of the Expenses Incident Thereto (BINA Hearing)

Commissioner Vear motioned to open the Public Hearing and Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed by a Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

President Opyd opened the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Park District to sell not to exceed \$410,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds. There were no letters, communications or public attending for comments, therefore President Opyd closed the BINA Hearing.

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At 6:02 P.M. Commissioner Vear motioned to close the BINA Hearing. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

President Opyd mentioned that public comments are limited to three minutes and commentors should say their name and address.

Theresa Hodgetts, 330 8th Ave, La Grange, said she was opposed to the artificial turf in the 2024 Park Plan Proposal at Gordon Park but was in favor of the other improvements in the Plan.

Director Bechtold informed the public that the synthetic turf had been removed from the plans and the updated plans can be found on our website.

John Pluto, 718 East Ave, La Grange, shared in Theresa's concerns about synthetic turf being installed in La Grange.

Consent Agenda

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 12, 2024; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated August 31, 2024; Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for September dated September 9, 2024.

The motion was so moved by Commissioner Lacey, seconded by Commissioner Vear, and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

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

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jenny Bechtold

Director Bechtold presented her report to the Board, providing an update on the Stone Park renovation and the permit process. The Village requires any new impervious surface over 250 sq. ft. to have an engineering plan. Bids were obtained through Sourcewell for cost efficiency, but now the project must either reduce the new impervious surface or obtain an engineering plan to move forward. Staff reached out to Wight & Company for assistance, and they recommended incorporating a rain garden to help with stormwater management.

Cost estimates were shared, with the engineering plan projected to cost \$4,000 and the rain garden, including plants, estimated at \$12,000 to \$15,000. If the Village approves a tiered planting schedule, the rain garden installation could be reduced to approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000, with an additional \$5,000 to \$8,000 for the plants to be installed later. Overall, the minimum project cost is estimated at \$12,000 with a maximum of \$20,000.

The project was initially scheduled to begin on August 26, 2024, but due to permit delays, the new tentative start date is September 23, 2024. The timeline may be further delayed depending on the permit approval process. The staff recommended investing the additional funds in the Stone Park renovation to keep the sidewalks and add the rain garden. The Board reached a consensus to continue with the staff's recommendation to allocate up to \$20,000 for these additions and to work with the Village to implement the tiered planting plan.

Director of Finance, Jamie Hollock

- Director Hollock presented her report.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller presented his report. Kevin Miller added to his report that we are experiencing issues with the affiliate soccer groups using space outside of their permitted hours. We have informed the affiliates that if they are found using space not included in their permit, they will be charged the non-affiliate rate. Additionally, a second infraction could lead to the permanent loss of their affiliate status.

Director of Parks Maintenance Eric Krueger

- Director Krueger presented his report.

Attorney Report

Derke Price encouraged the District to be prepared for First Amendment auditors, who are now requesting certified copies of their requests. If they ask for a certified copy, staff should inform them that certification requires the Board Secretary's approval and may take some time. He emphasized that staff should not feel pressured to provide a certified copy on the spot; while they can offer a regular copy immediately, the certification process will take longer.

Additionally, he reminded the Board that the legislative survey is due soon. If there are any legislative items to discuss, they should send their comments to Director Bechtold.

Treasurer Report

No Report

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Action Items

None

Board Business

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

No report currently.

Parks and Facilities Committee

No report currently.

Recreation & Cultural Programming Committee/Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

Commissioner Posey stated that she still has a big audacious goal of bringing Midnight Circus to La Grange for a weekend for a potential fundraiser.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

John Pluto, 718 East Ave, La Grange, inquired about the use of herbicides in the parks. Mr. Pluto expressed a desire for a warning system about when the Park District will apply herbicides and fertilizers. He also requested a comprehensive plan for these applications.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone, La Grange, expressed her desire for markings to be placed in the parks when herbicides or pesticides are used. She also encouraged the District to consider reducing the impervious surface in Stone Park to address flooding issues in the Village overall.

Board Comments

Commissioner Vear thanked the public for coming out.

President Opyd thanked the public for attending the meeting and acknowledged the importance of discussing flooding and Stone Park, noting that it was on his mind during the conversation. He expressed his support for the rain garden to reduce reliance on the sewer system for managing water. Additionally, he mentioned that commissioners receive a significant amount of information during meetings and need time to process it, which is why they may not respond immediately.

Commissioners Posey and Lacey had no comments.

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Adjournment

Commissioner Lacey moved for an adjournment at 6:47PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Brian Opyd, President



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved October 14, 2024