

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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

President Vear called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Lacey, Opyd, Vear

ABSENT: Commissioner Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold
Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej
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

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 Opyd motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 16, 2021; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of August 16, 2021; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Reports dated August 31, 2021; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for September dated September 13, 2021.

Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Opyd, Lacey, Vear

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Jacobs

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jenny Bechtold

- Director Jenny Bechtold stated that a revised site plan for the new parcel follows her written board report.
- Jenny attended the 30th anniversary of the diversity unity rally. She congratulated Commissioner Lacey on receiving the community service award at the rally for her work with the Lacey/Hill Community Outreach.
- She reported that the district is not under the federal vaccine mandate nor do we meet the 100-employee vaccine mandate for the State. We are following the school mandates, including BASE, and the school district tests BASE employees weekly. We are not required to mandate vaccines in our building at this point, and that is our direction unless the Board feels differently.

Commissioner Opyd stated that the new site plan reverses the flow of traffic in front of the building and asked if there will be an additional cost. Jenny stated that it would not add much to the cost, and we will still try to fill in the other entrance. She is not aware of any required extra curb cuts at this time.

President Vear stated that as long as we follow the vaccine mandates, we are in a good spot. He asked Jenny how the finances stand with the fitness center and the status of the new fitness superintendent. She answered that she is cutting expenses wherever possible and that we are ahead of the game, with a current bottom line of \$79,254.00. The new fitness supervisor, Dom Adjoumani, starts tomorrow. He has a corporate fitness background and a good business background, and he should do well with this combination. President Vear asked if we received the final questionnaire from PRI. Jenny stated that it has been turned in to PRI with the changes suggested by the Board and staff, and she posed several questions to them such as the ranking of the items. She hopes to have answers and a final draft this week with the goal of sending it out at the beginning of October.

Staff Comments

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej

- Superintendent Kuniej stated that her report includes the financials for the Endless Summerfest event with a comparison to 2019. Although we had fewer sponsors, the revenue was comparable due to an increase in carnival receipts. The bottom line is a split between the two organizations of just under \$39,000. One expense that is not reflected is our full-time staff wages for all the hours we put in for the event.

Director Bechtold stated that she met with Nancy (from LGBA) regarding the numbers and is working to get our non-exempt staff covered as an expense of about \$8,000 for the two weeks prior and week after the event, when non-exempt full-time staff is pulled away from their jobs to work on the fest. LGBA will present this to their board and get back to us. Planning for next year's event will begin in October and we could vote at the next meeting if we want to

take action; right now, it is a discussion.

Commissioner Opyd stated he reviewed the financials comparing year-to-year and there were some spikes in utilities and program costs, which he assumes is related to limited people in the building. Leynette concurred and stated it may also be due to timing as we changed electric vendors. Chris added that the splash pad was closed last year so there was definitely a spike in the water bill for this year. President Vear asked for clarification of the gas deal we have with locked-in rates. Leynette stated that the rate we locked in was higher than the previous year, but it had been anticipated to jump so we locked in.

Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Superintendent Miller stated that enrollment for fall programs is going well.
- Kevin reported that they are working on special events. The Trunk-or-Treat event is on October 9th, and we have \$800 in sponsorships and five vehicles participating so far. There were 25-30 vehicles last year, and Andrea is working to get at least 25 for this year's event.

President Vear gave kudos to Kevin and Andrea. They are doing a lot of excellent work together, and he sees more on social media. He asked what the sponsorships were for this event last year. Kevin did not have the number but stated \$800 is good for this outdoor event. When it was previously held indoors sponsorships normally ran between \$900-\$1,200.

Commissioner Opyd asked if the statistic of 60% of classes running is comparable to our norm and to other districts, and he suggested adding a 12-month trend on the internet chart to see the long-term impact of the work being done. Kevin reported that 62% has been our highest so it is on par for La Grange. While we are below the national average of 70% our summer numbers have averaged 7 participants per class, which is the most in the last seven years or so and has traditionally been at 5 per class. We are doing a good job of streamlining what people want by turning over programs that are not successful and implementing new ones.

Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung

- Superintendent Hartung explained that District 102 will begin COVID screenings soon. All unvaccinated BASE staff, as well as some that are vaccinated, will be screened weekly.

Commissioner Opyd asked if a large number of BASE staff are unvaccinated. Leanna answered that there are five, which is a small amount compared to the total staff. President Vear asked if there are still hiring problems. Leanna answered yes and that many candidates do not show up for interviews. BASE at St. Francis will open as soon as we have the staff for it.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn

- Superintendent Finn reported that he has been busy the past month with facility projects. The signs have been installed at Gordon Park and they look great.
- Chris stated that the outdoor soccer groups are in full swing and Little League is doing fall baseball.
- He is working with Kevin and Zach to determine gym rental availability that does not conflict with rec programming. He has several renters interested in fall gym space.
- Open gym fees and membership fees have been changed, and he will be evaluating potential room rental fee changes for the beginning of the year.

President Vear asked how room rentals are doing and how the mask mandate works in the banquet room. Chris said rentals are doing well, and there were 8 or 9 this past weekend. We are not at pre-COVID numbers, which were 6-8 room rentals per day, but rentals are still coming in. Only a couple of renters cancelled their reservations due to the new mask mandate. Masks are required at all times except when eating or drinking. President Vear stated that his wife reserved the banquet room on behalf of a group she works with, and she thought it was a good deal, especially with the pop and ice option. She complimented the staff she interacted with, especially Madonna and Linda.

Park Foreman Claudia Galla

- Foreman Galla reported that her department will seed the athletic fields in October.
- Claudia stated she will plan for tree removals and trimming once she completes training on the GIS system, which is a mapping system for tree locations and inventory. The system will include information on our trees such as species, age, and health of the tree. She is making progress slowly but surely on learning the system. She would like to do a tree walk in November, and work on attracting a strong base of volunteers that are interested in this project.

Commissioner Opyd stated that he recently walked through Gordon Park and noticed some areas that looked as if they used to be mulched but are now overgrown with weeds. There was discussion on changing them back to turf for easier maintenance and limiting the number of flower beds to concentrate resources where they are needed. He also asked the status of the concrete pad near the gazebo, which has a barricade on it. Claudia stated that the circuit piece at that location had been stolen and they are getting prices to replace it. The new piece would need to be comparable and look similar to the rest of the circuit. Commissioner Opyd suggested that it be replaced soon or removed.

Attorney Report

Attorney Price agreed with Jenny's comments that the current federal and state

REGULAR BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

vaccine mandates do not apply to the district and we should go with what we are doing. He noted that there is specific IDPH guidance that gymnasts should not wear masks when on an apparatus or tumbling.

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Updated 2021-2022 Capital Budget

Director Bechtold referenced her written memo which explains that we would like to remove the underground gas tanks. In order to do this, we must have above-ground tanks ready to go. We would like to allocate the \$30,000 remaining in the capital budget for above-ground tanks. The funds would cover the cost of the tanks themselves as well as the additional project expenses. A bid process would not be required since multiple vendors would be involved, and none of their costs are over \$25,000. She is requesting Board approval of this item.

After Board discussion Commissioner Opyd motioned to approve allocating the \$30,000 in reserves for the purpose of installing above-ground gas tanks. President Vear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Opyd, Vear, Lacey
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Jacobs

Board Business

Old Business

New Business

President to Announce an October 11, 2021 “BINA Hearing” A Public Hearing Regarding the Sale of 2021 General Obligation Bonds (PDLG Annual Rollover Bonds)

President Vear announced the October 11, 2021 “BINA Hearing” A Public Hearing Regarding the Sale of 2021 General Obligation Bonds (PDLG Annual Rollover Bonds)

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

Commissioner Lacey had no report at this time.

Parks and Open Lands

Commissioner Jacobs was not in attendance to report.

Finance & Capital Project Committee

President Vear had no report at this time.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

User Group Committee

Committee is currently unassigned.

Marketing/ Social Media Committee

Commissioner Opyd stated the committee met the first week in September and will have their minutes approved at the next meeting. The primary purpose was to look at upcoming marketing activities for the remainder of the year, as well as sponsorships. It is a tight schedule, but a lot of exciting things are going on. Their next meeting is tentatively planned for December.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

None

Board Comments

Commissioner Opyd stated he is disappointed to be back to a virtual format, but he is glad we are still meeting. He continues to like the direction staff is taking; keep up the good work. The results from the Endless Summerfest are exciting and he thanked staff for making it a success for the community. He heard from many people that they enjoyed the carnival rides and getting out.

President Vear thanked everyone. He thinks things are going well, and people, like his wife, are very happy with the service and smiling faces.

Commissioner Lacey – No comments due to technical difficulties

Executive Session

At 7:50 P.M. Commissioner Opyd motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 12.7 the Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office Vacancy 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(3) and Item 12.3 Setting the Price of Real Property 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(6). Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Opyd, Lacey, Vear

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Jacobs

At 8:11 P.M. Commissioner Opyd motioned the Board arise from Executive Session and President Vear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 8:12 P.M.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Adjournment

Commissioner Lacey moved for adjournment at 8:12 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Opyd and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Robert Vear, President



Jenny Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved October 11, 2021