

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

JANUARY 9, 2023

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Chvatal, Posey, Lacey, Vear, Opyd

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold
Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance Blake Ertmanis
Director of Finance & Human Resources Cassandra Todd
Direction of Recreation Kevin Miller
Recording Secretary Linda Muth

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Derke Price
Nancy Bramson, Becky Lorentzen, Harold Gibson,
Marian Honel-Wilson, Jeff Dieter, Nancy LaBreacht,
Regina McClinton, Beth Wallace, Bernadine Sims

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda. He wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year and encouraged all to take advantage of the Park District for their fitness goals.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments/Participation (Board Manual Section #152)

None

Public Art Presentation, Community Diversity Group

Becky Lorentzen and Nancy Bramson were introduced from the Arts Committee of the Community Diversity Group. Becky stated that their group has been working on an art project that will benefit the Park District in addition to bringing the community together. She explained that their mission promotes equity for all, and they were established in 1992, with the Arts Committee recently added.

Becky and Nancy gave a detailed presentation for a mosaic mural at the community center and the group's vision for the project. It included information on Green Star Movement's tile installation, project examples, artist

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renderings, cost/fundraising, project timeline, design workshop process, installation, unveiling event, lifespan and maintenance, benefits to the Park District, and particulars requested for District assistance. They opened up the floor to questions from the Board and staff.

Commissioner Posey stated she was delighted with the proposal and detailed presentation. It is a great first public art project for the District to undertake and it is in line with our mission and strategic plan. It is a great way to get people to look at parks in a different way. She asked if their group was requesting fee waivers for use of the community center as a meeting and project location. Becky answered that they will work with the District and Caring Place for availability, and will pay fees if required, but the more funds they can put directly into the art project, the better.

Commissioner Chvatal asked if there are examples of this type of art to view by driving by and what the fundraising timeline is. Nancy stated that the Green Star website includes art locations, and she will provide the link. She also referenced a 2011 mosaic art installation at Congress Park School which has panels attached to the doors above Raymond and Cossitt. She stated the fundraising timeline goal is to have most of the funds by the end of February or March as they must pay Green Star 30% up front, which is why they would like District approval prior to beginning. He also asked how much it would cost to resurface the asphalt area where the group would like to place a storage pod. Director Bechtold stated that it is already in the District's plans to remove and seed the area. Director Ertmanis recommended an alternate asphalt location for the pod to avoid the building's emergency exits. Blake asked whether the District would have to notify Green Star prior to removing any tile panels for building maintenance. Nancy answered that we would not; it would belong to the District at that point, but Green Star would repair the actual art and remove graffiti if needed.

Attorney Price cautioned the Board that they must retain the right to veto all the way up to approval of the final design and the agreement must reflect that. Government speech should be used with the District affirming that we accept the design and gift. We do not want the whole building to become a public forum. Attorney Price also stated that Commissioner Lacey's role would be the Park District liaison and she should not be a member of the steering committee.

President Opyd thanked the presenters and all the community members involved in the project for this amazing opportunity. The Board gave consensus to move forward with a contract for the public art project.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Vear moved to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 12, 2022; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated December 31, 2022; and Item 3.3 Approval of the

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Consolidated Vouchers for January dated January 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed by unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jenny Bechtold

- Director Bechtold reported that we continue to speak with Little League and Babe Ruth. Babe Ruth indicated that they do not want to transition to one field. They would like both fields but discussed possibly sharing the second field with Little League. We are exploring different options to accommodate both groups and how Babe Ruth would be involved if Little League makes field enhancements.

Director Miller added that the biggest concern from Babe Ruth is that in theory, they can program every game on one field, but it is not practical for many reasons. Their players have other commitments and cannot follow the sample schedule Kevin prepared. There are underlying issues including a men's league that plays on Sundays and Wednesday nights that we were not aware of.

Director of Finance & Human Resources Cassandra Todd

- Director Todd stated that she will have the new PTELL's for 2021 on Monday.
- Cassandra reported that the calendar year-end W2's and 1099's are complete.
- She stated she continues to work on the process for converting the budget process to online.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller reported that Recreation Supervisor Teresa Chapman accepted a position with Carol Stream and is no longer with the District. The position will be posted through January, and he currently has four applications. He hopes to conduct interviews in February with a start date of March 1st. He will oversee those areas for the next few months.
- Kevin stated that we are in the process of moving forward with ePACT, a new software that will allow all emergency and medical forms to be maintained in the cloud and protected for BASE, preschool, and day camps. It is easier for parents and will be implemented for summer camp this year and for BASE and preschool in the fall.

President Opyd stated that he still hears from the community that our online catalogue is not easy to navigate or search and that people want a cleaner look

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with online registration. We should keep this in mind for future improvements. Kevin indicated that he is discussing our brochure with the graphic artist.

Commissioner Vear asked if we were able to expand basketball. Kevin answered not quite and that it is challenging with space limitations. The volunteer coaches all work so they cannot practice at 4:30, which limits practice times. Zach has done a great job making it work. President Opyd asked for Kevin's take on the gap with 7th-8th grade. He answered that it is a combination of school activities and travel basketball being more popular than recreational with that age group.

Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance Blake Ertmanis

- Director Ertmanis reported that he and Jenny met with Cody/Braun and Abby regarding the new parking lot. They want to start on March 15th, and we should have the MWRD permit by then. The east side of the lot in front of the building will be closed off. The Board inquired when they project would be complete. Blake stated we do not have a completion date from the vendor but felt the project should be completed between Memorial Day and July 4th, weather permitting.

President Opyd asked if pedestrian traffic will need to be redirected and if there are program considerations. Blake stated that the bid mandated entry access throughout the project, but it may be a longer path. Kevin stated we will have enough parking in the north lot since basketball will be over, but fitness is the wild card. He added that we will notify renters, program contractors and participants.

Attorney Report

Attorney Price stated that Cook County announced that the first installment is delayed and will be due April 3rd.

Treasurer Report

Director of Finance Todd had nothing to add to her staff report.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Yarn Bombing License

Commissioner Posey stated that the La Grange Art League will discuss the license agreement at their Wednesday board meeting and hopefully approve it so we can get it on our agenda. Director Bechtold added that our meeting is not until February 9th so the Board may want to act tonight. Attorney Price suggested that the Board approve moving forward subject to approval by the Executive Director.

Commissioner Posey motioned to approve the yarn bombing license with the La Grange Art League subject to attorney and Executive Director final approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vear and passed by unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Board Business

Old Business

Discussion and/or Approval of Energy Procurement (Electric)

Director Bechtold reported that there was a 9% decrease in pricing, but it may have changed today as it changes daily. Last month's rate would have increased our annual cost by \$16,000 which has gone down to approximately \$10,000. This may be due to the mild winter so far, but it could go up or down. The Board may choose to lock-in or continue to watch the market. Commissioner Vear stated that based on the economy and world issues it looks good. Commissioners Posey and Lacey agreed with locking in the rate. President Opyd indicated he is on the fence, but it feels like a good time to jump. Commissioner Chvatal stated he could go either way. Jenny stated that tomorrow's rate could change 3-5% so the Board could give the Executive Director authorization to lock-in with that fluctuation.

President Opyd asked for a motion to allow the Executive Director to lock-in at the current rate plus an increase not to exceed 5%. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Lacey, and passed unanimously by Roll Call vote as follows:

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

New Business

None

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

Commissioner Lacey had no report at this time.

Parks and Facilities Committee

President Opyd and Commissioner Vear had no report at this time.

Recreation & Cultural Programming Committee/ Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

Commissioner Posey had nothing in addition to the agenda items.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Bernadine Sims, 117 Washington, La Grange, asked if there are any children's art programs scheduled for the summer.

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Director of Recreation Miller stated that we are currently developing those programs and that he would take her contact information and let her know at the end of the month when the process is complete.

Board Comments

Commissioner Posey thanked the Community Diversity Group and their Arts Committee for preparing tonight's great proposal. She is very excited about the possible project. She stated it was nice to see the large crowd at the meeting.

Commissioner Vear thanked the Community Diversity Group for the well thought out presentation which makes the Board's job easier.

Commissioner Lacey thanked everyone for starting this year off with a bang and providing direction. She looks forward to more from the Community Diversity Group and the community of La Grange to help us do a better job for them.

Commissioner Chvatal stated that he appreciates the presentation and looks forward to the project.

President Opyd stated he is excited that this group wants to work with us to engage the public and bring great things to the community. We cannot do this on our own, but we can accomplish it together. It is an inspiring project for the entire village.

President Opyd announced that the Board will convene to executive session and the public is welcome to rejoin the meeting afterward.

Executive Session

At 7:00 P.M. Commissioner Vear motioned for the Board to convene to executive session pursuant to Item 12.4 Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

At 7:23 P.M. Commissioner Lacey motioned the Board arise from Executive Session and Commissioner Chvatal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:24 P.M.

Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

None


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Adjournment

Commissioner Vear moved for adjournment at 7:24 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Brian Opyd, President



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved February 13, 2023