

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

JULY 12, 2021

President Vear called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners O'Brien, Jacobs, Opyd, Lacey, Vear

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Interim 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
Marlene Schemmel, Nancy Bramson

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 June 14, 2021; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated June 30, 2021; Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for July dated July 12, 2021. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Opyd, Jacobs, O'Brien, Lacey, Vear

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

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Staff Reports

Interim Director's Report

- Interim Executive Director Jenny Bechtold stated that she has an update on the underground and above ground gas tanks. The Village institutional code only allows above ground tanks at gas stations. They know this needs to be changed and plan to amend the zoning code, which will take 90 days. This means the earliest we can move forward is the end of September or early October.

Commissioner Jacobs, Jenny and Claudia briefly discussed the reimbursement program for replacing the tanks and the district's gas usage.

Staff Comments

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn

- Superintendent Finn reported on the progress of installing the signs at Gordon Park. The Village does not require permits and he is obtaining quotes on the installation.

Commissioners Vear and Jacobs stated that the charts included with Chris' written report are helpful.

Superintendent of Recreation Kevin

- Superintendent Miller stated that Andrea's Chalk the Park event was on Saturday. He and Jenny were there, and it was a good event with 10-12 families participating.

President Vear asked about the drop in Learning Ladders Preschool enrollment. Kevin stated that we lost a lot of teachers that retired or returned to work full-time, and only one teacher is returning.

There was brief discussion on which day the commissioners will work at the upcoming Summerfest, and they agreed to work Sunday.

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej

- Superintendent Kuniej reported that she received the draft of the annual financial audit report and is working on the statistics and management letter. She will have a presentation at the next board meeting.

Park Foreman Claudia Galla

- Foreman Galla stated that the tall grass at the butterfly garden has been cut and they are getting the park ready for the fest.
- The door on the information kiosk has been repaired.

Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung

- Superintendent Hartung stated that her written report includes a picture of the garden plots that the kids in the BASE summer camp are tending.

Attorney Report

Attorney Price stated that the Governor extended the emergency declaration, but it will expire before the next meeting if it is not extended again. This means we will be back to the old rules for remote attendance. New legislation has been signed concerning medication, including cannabis. It relieves us from having to administer it, but we must allow parents or nurses to come in to administer medication. All the districts they work with are dealing with a labor shortage. Delivering services is a burden that falls to the people you do have. He recommended considering budgets and working to retain staff, which is less expensive than hiring and training new staff.

Commissioner Jacobs asked if other districts were keeping remote meeting attendance as an option for the public. Attorney Price said that several are, but that there are challenges to this format. In addition to the required time, effort and expense, every commissioner must have a camera in front of them. A room view camera would also be required, and sound quality can be poor. An IT person would also need to attend.

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of the Agreement Regarding Co-Sponsoring of a Musical Festival (Endless Summerfest)

Director Bechtold stated that this is an agreement with LGBA for the fest. It was reviewed internally, and the changes were sent to legal counsel. The memo in the meeting packet highlights the changes. It is being changed from one year to three years to match the Windy City agreement. The termination provision has been modified to 90 days after the fest date of the prior year. Staff recommends approval of this agreement.

Commissioner Opyd recused himself from this action item.

Commissioner O'Brien motioned to approve the Agreement Regarding Co-Sponsoring of a Musical Festival (Endless Summerfest) and Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners O'Brien, Lacey, Jacobs, Vear
NAYES: None
PRESENT: Commissioner Opyd
ABSENT: None

Discussion and/or Approval of the Windy City Amusement Inc. Agreement (Endless Summerfest)

Director Bechtold stated that she highlighted the changes in her memo. There are verbiage changes, and the main change concerns the carnival. In past years LGBA worked the carnival and the Park District focused on the festival.

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With the labor challenges this year, we asked Windy City to handle the carnival side which they are doing at the same 35%. Windy City does not process credit cards so we will need one or two people to do credit cards there. She is requesting approval of this action item subject to the approval of our attorney and President Vear.

Commissioner O'Brien motioned to approve the Windy City Amusement Inc. Agreement subject to final approval of the Park District attorney and board president. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of the 610 East Ave. Site Plan Design

Director Bechtold stated that WT Group and Cody/Braun have prepared three new options for the site plan for the 610 East Ave. site. Thanks to a La Grange citizen who pushed us in this direction, the plans all shift the parking to the north end of the parcel. We need to select a site design in order to submit the grant.

Option A includes the largest detention pond with some volume control storage under the lot. It has approximately .2 acres of green space and is within our 2-million-dollar budget, at 1.9 million. Option B is just under a half acre and provides for a smaller pond for 50% of the detention at a cost of \$250,000. The pond in Options A and B would be 4-feet deep. Option C does not require a detention pond. It is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre with all the volume control and detention under the parking lot.

There was Board discussion of the options with Director Bechtold. Commissioner Jacobs stated she is happy the site design is being amended but stressed that it is important to stay under three feet for digging. She thinks the Henry Bros. price tag may be inflated and their 21% management fee is high. We know the gas tanks are coming out and could add that area to the site plan to increase our chances of a partnership award. It is also a key element to keep the trees to absorb storm water and for aesthetics. Director Bechtold discussed the potential complications in the timing for the project if the removal of the gas tanks is included.

Superintendent of Facilities Finn advised that the existing concrete pads and gravel must remain. They are mandated by the Village as emergency exits.

President Vear asked what was being done with the area in front of the building and Director Bechtold answered that it was a handicapped area, and we could investigate permeable pavers there. He asked the Board to determine their preference of the three options. He stated that we want the best chance for a

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grant and thought Option B was a good choice. Commissioner Opyd asked if we were confident that the pavers would give us enough points, and he supported saving the trees.

After Board discussion Commissioner O'Brien motioned to approve the 610 East Ave. site plan design Option B with the possibility of permeable pavers on the front section of the recreation center and investigating saving the trees. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of an OSLAD Grant Application with the Assistance of an Independent Grant Writing Firm

Director Bechtold stated that the grant process is projected to open on July 15th. She reached out to IDNR to make sure our project is in line to score competitively. We thought the walking track around the perimeter would be an amenity that is a shoo-in, however, because it uses public infrastructure (the sidewalk) it will not score points. The pickleball courts would not receive points since they would be dual-use, and the parking lot would not get points because it is mainly for indoor recreation. Our project does not score competitively and would have to be altered to reduce infrastructure to under 40%. We want to maximize OSLAD grant opportunities but are unable to add amenities this year due to our tight budget, which would not maximize OSLAD and could limit future OSLAD grants.

Commissioner Opyd stated that we could envision going back for a second pass when funds are better. Jenny agreed with this approach and felt the new master plan could also be used to maximize a future grant.

Commissioner Jacobs appreciated the analysis but stated that OSLAD is a matching grant and she is concerned that if we wait, we will not have the money next year. Jenny stated that she and Supt. of Finance Leynette Kuniej have been reviewing a 5-year projection. Leynette explained that we have been able to contribute to projects in the past, but now we need to build our fund balance in the recreation fund and not overcommit this year. She recommends spending time to get our rec funds going again and look at the master plan for guidance and suggests waiting a year to recoup our financial position. Jenny expressed concern about deferring more maintenance in our parks and buildings, and while it is "free" money it puts us above our budget. President Vear and Commissioner Lacey agreed. Commissioner Opyd stated that this approach is fiscally reasonable, and there may be other revenue sources such as a foundation or creative avenues. If we wait, we can plan for a stronger OSLAD application.

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Board Business

New Business

None

Old Business

None

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

Commissioner Lacey had no report at this time.

Parks and Open Lands

Commissioner Jacobs reported that they held an informal meeting with two people. They want to emphasize with the Board, executive director, and PRI that the word needs to get out better regarding the master plan and survey, and it is essential to get data.

Finance & Capital Project Committee

President Vear had no report at this time but stressed the importance of the MWRD partnership.

User Group Committee

Commissioner O'Brien had no report at this time.

Marketing/ Social Media Committee

Commissioner Opyd had no report at this time. The committee plans to reconvene at the end of August.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

None

Board Comments

Commissioner O'Brien thanked everyone for coming out for the long evening with two meetings. He appreciates the event staff put on last week for a fun evening for those affected by the recent flood.

Commissioner Opyd thanked staff for their work in the parks. He noticed improvements at Elm Park, and the butterfly garden at Gordon looks clean and crisp. It makes a huge impact and is appreciated. He also thanked staff for their reports, including the rental information and maintenance schedule.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that the reports are wonderful. We should put them on our website in a way that is easy to find. She thanked staff for their work during this tenuous time the last couple of months.

Commissioner Lacey stated that the last couple of months have been amazing with more people involved and coming to meetings. She thanked staff for doing a fantastic job.

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President Vear thanked everyone for being here for the long meeting, including staff. He knows it is not easy to endure discussions about topics we have diverse opinions on. The last time he was here for a special meeting, it rained heavily, and he saw the flooding in the front lot and hopes it can be addressed.

Interim Executive Director Bechtold and Recording Secretary Linda Muth exited the regular meeting.

Executive Session

At 8:32 P.M. Commissioner Jacobs motioned the Board convene to Executive Session. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

At 9:04 P.M. Commissioner Opyd motioned that the Board arise from Executive Session and Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

The Board resumed the regular meeting.

Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session (if necessary)


Personnel, 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)

Adjournment

Commissioner O'Brien moved for adjournment at 9:05 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Robert Vear, President



Jenny Bechtold, Interim Board Secretary
Approved August 16, 2021