

**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**

MARCH 4, 2019

President Vear called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Lacey, Jacobs*

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, Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, Brian Opyd, Dan Collins, Bob Sherman, Jim Boo, Hank Beckman from *The Doings*

*Commissioner Jacobs arrived at 7:11 P.M.

President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Park District Board to Appoint a New Commissioner to Fill a Vacancy
Commissioner Penicook motioned to appoint Dan Collins as commissioner to fill a vacancy left open by Commissioner Bob Ashby. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Lacey

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Jacobs

President Vear explained that the Board interviewed six candidates for the vacancy. Each candidate had excellent qualifications. Each candidate stated they would remain involved with the Park District even if they were not chosen as a commissioner.

Commissioner Penicook stated that the Board felt that someone with legal expertise was preferred because her term is up in May. As an attorney she has spent many hours over the years reviewing contracts and legal documents for

the Park District.

Director Bissias swore in Dan Collins as the newly appointed commissioner. The Board congratulated him and welcomed him to the Board.

Newly appointed Commissioner Dan Collins gave the public a short synopsis of his background. He is an attorney and has his own practice. He was past president of La Grange Little League and has been active in the community. He founded and has been active with the Lance Corporal Jonathon Collins Memorial Foundation in honor of his nephew who lost his life in Iraq.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments/Participation (Board Manual Section #152)

Bob Sherman, 735 S. Brainard, La Grange, stated the Board answered his first question as to the criteria the Board was looking for when choosing the candidate for the board vacancy. Legal expertise was the answer. His next question was why Dan did not run for commissioner in the election. Commissioner Collins responded that he was heavily involved with La Grange Little League and La Grange Softball. When the opening came up, it peaked his interest.

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason Drive, La Grange, stated he attended the meeting to see what the Board looked like. He was not in favor of the Board's closed session in selecting the new commissioner when there is an election in a month with three candidates running and only two open spots on the Board. He felt the Board was circumventing the election process. He felt that if someone is volunteering for the position, it should be open to the public and not in closed session. He stated a competitive election is the fabric of our society.

Attorney Jim Rock replied that from a legal perspective, there is no legally required process or timing for an appointment to fill a vacancy. Commissioner Ashby's resignation occurred less than 123 days before the election. There was no time to put the vacancy on the ballot so there was an appointment. The Board decided to make the appointment as quickly as possible because of the potential for tie votes with only four commissioners, and of actions not moving forward due to no majority in the event of absenteeism. The Illinois Open Meetings Act allows the Board to use the personnel exemption to deliberate in closed session for such appointments.

Commissioner Jacobs arrived at 7:11 P.M.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Penicook motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 11, 2019; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 15, 2019; Item 3.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 21, 2019; Item 3.4

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - MARCH 4, 2019

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 22, 2019; Item 3.5 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Board Meeting of February 11, 2019; Item 3.7 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for March dated March 4, 2019. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Lacey, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Item 3.6 Approval of the Financial Reports dated February 28, 2019 will be voted on at the next meeting.

Staff Reports

Director Dean Bissias

Director Bissias stated that a copy of the Operating Budget for 2019-2020 was given to each board member for their review. It will be on display in the front office and online for 30 days. Commissioner Penicook asked the Board to look at page 4 of the budget and noted the positive balance of \$230,773 of revenue minus expenses.

Staff Comments

Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung

- Tomorrow March 5, 2019 is the first day of BASE registration for the 2019-2020 school year.

Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Clark

- The fitness center is booming. There have been 2,000 more visits this February than last February.
- There are challenges with the parking situation, however, our memberships are steady.
- In collaboration with the Lyons Township High School media department, we are making a commercial to put on our website and social media. It will be an overview of our facility where customers can view the facility first hand without coming here in person.

Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller

- The summer brochure is going to the printer tomorrow. It will include the new information on permitting dogs on leashes in our parks. There is a letter from President Vear in the brochure highlighting the rules pertaining to leashed dogs in our parks.
- Youth Developmental League has ended.
- The 5th Grade Travel Basketball team is going to the state tournament.
- The Bulls/Sox Academy are in transition. The Chicago Bulls have scaled back their program offerings and have discontinued their travel

REGULAR BOARD MEETING – MARCH 4, 2019

basketball affiliations.

- Beginning in the fall of 2019, our travel teams will have new uniforms with the La Grange Lions moniker. We will also hire our own coaches. The structure of the program will not change.

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej

- 50% of the property tax revenue has been received already.
- Credit card chip readers were installed today. There is an installment billing glitch that should be fixed by tomorrow.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn

- Facility Rental Coordinator Katie Walsh is on maternity leave. Betsy Angela was born Friday, March 1, 2019.
- The Rec Center is busy with rentals.
- User groups are hopeful to be using the outdoor fields by the end of March.
- Commissioner Jacobs noted there were several trees cut down in Sedgwick Park. The tree service did a great job pruning many trees in all the parks.
- Commissioner Jacobs would like to see a report on who is renting our facilities. Chris explained that our facilities are a central location for people all over the Chicagoland area. Our renters are not just from our immediate area. Because of our RecTrac upgrade, staff is still learning how to look for and create reports for the information they need. You will see a rental report in the future.

Attorney Report

Attorney Jim Rock stated the Illinois General Assembly met and their first act was to increase the minimum wage to \$15.00 by 2025. This will affect the Park District.

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

None

Board Business

Old Business

None

New Business

First Reading of the General Operations Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Allowing the Budget to be Put on Display (Minimum 30-Day Requirement)

Commissioner Penicook motioned to present the Operating Budget for the first

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - MARCH 4, 2019

reading and put it on display for 30 days. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

None

Public Relations Committee

None

Finance & Capital Project Committee

None

User Group Committee

None

Marketing Committee

None

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Brian Opyd, 109 8th Avenue, La Grange, stated that families around Waiola Park are requesting more shade near the Waiola Park playground area. They also requested two sets of playground equipment, one for younger and one for older children. Director Bissias stated the equipment will be replaced in the 2019-2020 Capital Budget.

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason Drive, La Grange, reminded the Board that as a taxpayer, he wants them to be careful with their spending. He wondered why the Park District was spending \$90,000 on lawn mowers when other communities contract it out. He questioned the Board on their hiring of lawyer Phil Fornaro and real estate consultant Brad Belcaster. He would like to hear more on some of these ideas from the candidates.

President Vear responded that we do hire lawyers and real estate consultants for special circumstances. They are not employees.

Board Comments

Commissioner Collins stated he is looking forward to working with the Board and helping the Park District move forward. There is a fantastic staff in place and he is excited for the future.

Commissioner Jacobs stated she appreciates all the comments from the public. She wants the public to know that the Board listens to them.

Commissioner Lacey stated that Brian and Tim have added excitement to the meetings. She stated that whatever happens in the election, she hopes they

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - MARCH 11, 2019

Commissioner Lacey stated she was accustomed to former Commissioners Ashby and Walsh scrutinizing the point system which made past MBO meetings a long evening. She stated this meeting was perfect and she understood everything. She thanked staff and Director Bissias and thought they were wonderful. She stated if she could pay them she would.

Commissioner Penicook stated she feels confident with staff in their ability for budgeting and impressed with their work making a lean budget. She feels increased communication is necessary with the library and schools to avoid duplicate efforts. She thanked staff for attending tonight. The Board appreciates their time. She wishes staff the best of luck in the future with the budget.

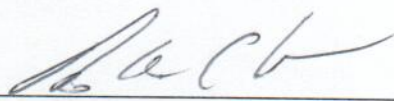
President Vear stated that in former Commissioner Bob Ashby's defense, the MBO point system does not move the necessities higher on the list as it should.

Director Bissias stated that staff sits together at two different times to rate each item as a group. When looking at the capital budget, we decide if we really need it or if it is a luxury. Our wish list is over \$1.2 million. Director Bissias stated these items never go away. They are just not funded this year.

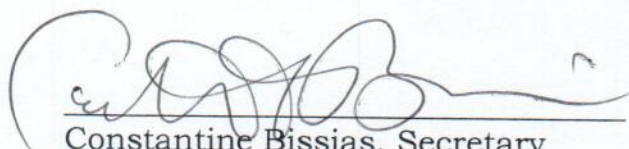
President Vear appreciates all the work staff puts into budgeting and he is hopeful the right choices will be made. He thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Adjournment

Commissioner Penicook moved for adjournment at 9:29 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Robert Vear, President



Constantine Bissias, Secretary
Approved 04/08/2019