

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

**AUGUST 15, 2022**

**President Opyd called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioners Posey, Lacey, Opyd, Vear

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold  
Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance Blake Ertmanis  
Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej  
Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller  
Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung  
Recording Secretary Linda Muth

OTHERS PRESENT: \*Attorney Megan Mack  
Jamie Wilkey – Lauterbach & Amen, LLP  
Eric Hornig & Bridget Deatrick – Hitchcock Design Group  
Mike Chvatal, Nancy Bramson, Becky Lorentzen

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda. He stated that this meeting is starting earlier because it will be a long meeting and encouraged the public to make their comments during the first opportunity for public comments.

\*Attorney Megan Mack arrived at 6:28 p.m.

**Selection of New Commissioner**

*Approval and/or Discussion of Mike Chvatal to Fill the Commissioner Vacancy of Lacey Lawrence*

After brief discussion Commissioner Posey motioned that Mike Chvatal be appointed to fill the commissioner vacancy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vear and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

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### *Administration of Oath*

Director Bechtold congratulated Commissioner Chvatal on his appointment to the Board. He was sworn in and read the Oath of Office.

### **Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

#### *Public Comments/Participation (Board Manual Section #152)*

Becky Lorentzen thanked the District for the Summerfest event and announced that diversity days is coming up in La Grange with the 31<sup>st</sup> annual unity rally at the village hall on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Awards will be presented to Al Banks and posthumously to Sister Marlene. There will also be a Friday night movie on the 9<sup>th</sup>, *Driving While Black*, with popcorn and pizza and discussion afterwards. It is a good opportunity to see the history of what has been happening.

#### *2021-2022 Audit Presentation by Lauterbach & Amen, LLP*

Jamie Wilkey from Lauterbach & Amen stated she was in attendance to present the April 30, 2022 comprehensive financial report. She gave a brief overview of the audit process and brought the following sections to the Board's attention:

Page 6 is a copy of the District's certificate of achievement in excellence in financial reporting for last year's audit. It is the highest level of financial reporting for any government entity and is administered by the GFOA.

Pages 9-11 include the independent auditor's report. It was a clean, unmodified opinion of the highest level with not a single material adjusting journal entry. We are in the top few out of 60 districts, and she thanked Leynette for an outstanding job.

Pages 13-21 are intended to be the executive summary of the annual audit and it is an important piece from a commissioner's standpoint. She noted that total equity increased from programs and recreation with activities rebounding from COVID and that open positions during the year reduced salary and benefits. Bonded debt also decreased.

Pages 65-66 indicate that the District's IMRF pension obligation is funded at 108%, exceeding the legal requirement that it be 90% funded by 2040. IMRF is a 12/31 reporter, so the spring volatility is not reflected.

The statistical section begins on page 96 and provides 10-year financial trends including property tax and debt history.

Jamie stated that one management letter has been issued regarding the new GASB standards on how leases are reported which will be effective next fiscal year. She added that it is a clean audit opinion reflecting tremendous and outstanding work.

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President Opyd thanked Jamie for her presentation. He also thanked Supt. of Finance Leynette Kuniej and her team for the great result and hopes we have the same result next year with the new finance person.

### *Hitchcock Design Group Update/ Visioning Workshop*

Director Bechtold introduced Bridget Deatrick and Eric Hornig from Hitchcock Design who have been brought in to finalize the District's CMP. Bridget presented highlights of the data they are using for the plan. It was followed by a visioning workshop with the Board to gather their input on the District's priorities and objectives for the 10-year comprehensive master plan.

### **Consent Agenda**

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Vear moved to approve Item 4.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 11, 2022; Item 4.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of July 11, 2022; Item 4.3 Approval of the Financial Reports dated July 31, 2022; Item 4.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for August dated August 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Lacey, Posey  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: Commissioner Chvatal

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Executive Director Jenny Bechtold**

- Director Bechtold stated that following her written report are cost estimates from Cody/Braun for the project next door. We are still working through several issues and do not yet have approval from the Village. She referenced the updated pricing, which is based on 20% of the soil being contaminated and requiring removal. If we must remove 100% of the soil the asphalt price increases by \$300,000 and the total project cost for permeable pavers would be over 3 million dollars. G2 did additional soil boring last week so we can better plan our finances. Alternates for the pickleball courts, EV stations and landscaping have been provided to reduce the project cost if needed. We may have to look at what our finances will allow for this project, and the project will most likely not begin until early spring.

Commissioner Vear and President Opyd discussed the project, including the option of adding EV stations and pickleball courts later and the Village's request that lighting be added for the courts. There was discussion of the Village requirement of an additional 6" of volume control at the detention pond, likely due to flooding problems in La Grange, which is not a requirement of MWRD.

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- Jenny reported that an offer was made to the new finance person. She is waiting for a few pieces to come in this week before making an announcement. Their projected start date is August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- She stated that goals & objectives are included in this month's packet, and that De Sitter will replace the banquet room carpet with more modern carpet squares at the end of the month.
- Jenny explained that there are challenges with the splash pad and that the pump that needs replacement is delayed due to supply chain issues. Staff must go out to reset it 3-6 times per day. If it fails, we may have to close it for the remainder of the summer.
- She stated that village manager Andrianna Peterson has stepped down. Charity Jones will serve as the interim manager, and she has been great to work with.

### **Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller**

- Superintendent Miller reported that the recreation department is busy wrapping up summer and getting ready for fall programs.
- Kevin stated that the 5-year anniversary of La Grange Fitness is on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Dom will be offering free drop-in classes and raffling prizes.

### **Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance Blake Ertmanis**

- Director Ertmanis stated that Jenny hit on the splash pad issues. The new pump has a 28-60 day lead time so it will be ready for next year.
- Blake reported that a contractor will perform field work in October. Informal T-ball bases will be installed at Gilbert and Waiola, and work at Gordon Park will improve the fields. The fest took a toll on the Gordon fields.

Commissioner Vear asked if the cars parked at Gordon for the fest damaged the fields. Blake stated that the fields are currently hard and compacted so the impact was minimal, but once the fields are back up to athletic standards parking cars on it will cause more damage.

### **Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung**

- Superintendent Hartung stated that she has been busy with summer camp ending.
- Leanna reported she has been recruiting, hiring, and training staff for BASE. The first day for St. Francis is August 23<sup>rd</sup> and District 102 begins on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

President Opyd asked if Leanna would have to be on-site for the program. She stated that she would be on-site at Ogden until the new supervisor is trained, and Melissa would be on-site at St. Francis.

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### **Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej**

- Superintendent Kuniej reported that she is working on numbers for the fest, which look much like last year. Bills are still coming in, and she should have figures at the next board meeting.
- Leynette stated she is keeping tabs on the county, and there is no movement yet on property taxes. Our cash flow remains good.

### **Attorney Report**

Attorney Mack had no report at this time.

### **Treasurer Report**

Supt. of Finance Kuniej had nothing to add to her staff report.

### **Action Items**

None

### **Board Business**

#### **Old Business**

##### *Approval and/or Discussion of La Grange Little League Draft Agreement*

Director Bechtold stated that we had all the other affiliate agreements approved in April, but we continue to navigate this process with Little League. They have two sticking points; they want credit applied to any user fees for field work they put in and they are concerned about being responsible for fencing and infrastructure costs at Sedgwick. They also feel they should not have to pay user fees. Jenny referenced memo M22-032 in the board packet which details the fields/hours used by our affiliate groups and associated fees, in addition to the background and communication with Little League regarding the draft agreement. She stated that Little League does not want to move forward, and the issue is at the Board level now.

The Board and staff had considerable discussion regarding the draft agreement and information in memo M22-032. Points discussed included:

- The District's goal is to improve the fields and create equity among affiliate groups for their field use, fees, and responsibilities.
- There needs to be a common understanding of the desired level of quality of the fields.
- The District would like to create a positive partnership with Little League while basing the agreement on the numbers and the best interest of the community.
- The District has limited resources and many deferred maintenance projects requiring funding.
- The policies of neighboring towns related to affiliate fees for field use were discussed.
- The higher costs associated with maintaining baseball fields vs. soccer fields and fencing were discussed.
- Exhibit B in the memo was discussed. It details the fee structure

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proposed by Little League for 2022 which entails them charging an annual player fee of \$5 for younger registrants and \$10 for older registrants, resulting in projected fees of \$6,050 that would be paid to PDLG for field use.

The Board further discussed Little League's proposal in Exhibit B. President Opyd stated that \$6,000 was not an equitable number. The Board agreed and gave consensus to Director Bechtold not to move forward with Exhibit B and work on finalizing the agreement. The Board was in consensus that the user fees for Gilbert Park, Waiola Park and Gordon Park should be in line with soccer affiliate groups user fees. They asked staff to evaluate the Sedgwick user fee and request a more accurate number of hours used from Little League for all fields. The Board discussed the need to implement user fees at Sedgwick Park if the arrangement with field maintenance, and infrastructure responsibilities were to fall under the Park District.

### **New Business**

#### *Discussion and/or Approval of Committee Appointments*

Director Bechtold stated that with a new commissioner the Board may want to discuss if the commissioners will remain on the same committees. President Opyd reviewed the existing committees and stated that the Parks and Open Lands committee is open, but the Board can determine if that is a direction they want to keep. It was previously discussed that a committee for fundraising be considered to integrate fundraising within the Park District itself, and it would solicit public input on how those funds are solicited and spent.

Commissioner Vear stated that committees are created as-needed and asked Commissioner Chvatal where his strengths point. He answered that if moving the foundation to a committee is an option, he could run with that. Director Bechtold added that fundraising might have more traction as a committee for now. President Opyd asked the Board to think about the topic and it will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

#### *President to Announce a September 12, 2022 "BINA Hearing" A Public Hearing Regarding the Sale of 2022 General Obligation Bonds (PDLG Annual Roll Over Bonds, Board President to Sign BINA Order)*

President Opyd stated that public notice is hereby given that the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois will hold a public hearing on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. The hearing will be held in the De Sitter Room at the Administrative/Recreation Facility, 536 East Avenue, La Grange, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds of the District in the amount of not to exceed \$376,000 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 indicated thereto.

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### **Committee Reports**

#### *Administration Committee*

Commissioner Lacey had no report at this time. She will speak with Jenny in the coming weeks for assistance.

#### *Parks and Open Lands*

Vacant

#### *Finance & Capital Project Committee*

Commissioner Vear stated the audit covered the finance report. President Opyd asked if we want to reconsider the MBO process prior to staff working on it for a new cycle. President Vear answered that it was previously discussed, and we have not come back to it. He will discuss it with Director Bechtold.

#### *Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee*

Commissioner Posey reported that she met with Director Bechtold prior to the fest, and they talked about goals and objectives for a policy which she is drafting. It will get to Derke in time to be on the agenda next month.

#### *Marketing/ Social Media Committee*

President Opyd stated that he will meet with Christine and Jenny in the near future and would like to work with them on more ways to put out positive things we are doing in the news. Our social media presence has come a long way, but we may not be getting that same positive influence into old school print. *The Patch* seems to be one-sided, and it would be in our interest to promote ourselves beyond social media. Commissioner Posey agreed and suggested that we meet with *Greet La Grange* or *La Grange Living* to place an ad. They are looking for content beyond real estate and want to do more public engagement.

### **Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)**

None

### **Board Comments**

Commissioner Posey stated how impressed she was with the amount of work done to put on Endless Summerfest. The public has no idea how much staff sweats and she thanked everyone who came out and coordinated the event, which was so successful. She is grateful to be part of a community where people put in all those hours.

Commissioner Vear commented that Summerfest has become an institution. He welcomed Mike to the Board; it will be great to work with him.

Commissioner Lacey stated that she missed the fest this year for the first time and agreed it is a lot of work. She welcomed Mike, stated it was a great meeting, and thanked the great staff and attorney.

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President Opyd thanked Leynette for the audit and wished the BASE program good luck on the start of the school year. He was excited to hear Blake's insights and knowledge for our fields. He stated it is important for the Board to understand where we are and where we could be. He thanked Jenny for leading the ship and the positive changes.

Commissioner Chvatal thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and stated he looks forward to working with everyone.

### **Executive Session**

At 8:32 P.M. Commissioner Posey motioned for the Board to convene to executive session pursuant to Item 13.1 Potential Claims and/or Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) and Item 13.4 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 Posey, Lacey, Vear, Chvatal, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

At 8:52 P.M. Commissioner Vear motioned the Board arise from Executive Session and Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 8:52 P.M.

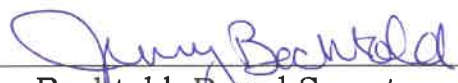
### **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

None

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Chvatal moved for adjournment at 8:53 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

  
Brian Opyd, President

  
Jenny Bechtold, Board Secretary  
*Approved September 12, 2022*