

**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**

**OCTOBER 14, 2019**

**President Vear called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.**

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn, Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller, Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung, Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Bechtold, Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, Bob Sherman, Andrew Kim from PMA Securities

President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Director Bissias removed Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated September 30, 2019 from the agenda as Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej is on vacation and will produce the report next month.

**Public Hearing Meeting**

*Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois to Sell Not To Exceed \$345,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds 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 Incident Thereto. (BINA Hearing)*

At 7:01 P.M. President Vear opened the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Park District to sell not to exceed \$345,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds. Andrew Kim, a PMA Securities Financial Advisor for the Park District of La Grange, explained the bond issue to the Board and the public in attendance. There were no letters, communications or comments from the public attending. At 7:16 P.M Commissioner Opyd motioned to close the BINA Hearing. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**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 September 9, 2019 and Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for October dated October 14, 2019. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**Staff Reports**

**Director Dean Bissias**

- Director Bissias stated he will be meeting with Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn and Mike Zaura from Mania Energy. They will be looking into a potential capital project of solar energy for the recreation center.
- Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn suggested reallocating the unused ComEd grant money for changing the lighting in the parks to LED. It would be the same company that changed the recreation center lighting in 2008. There was Board consensus to use the grant money for LED lights in the parks.
- Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Bechtold heard that park grant applications will be available on December 2, 2019; however, they will be due the second week of January. Director Bissias has a call in to the grant administrator to get an explanation of the details.
- Director Bissias postponed an ordinance to transfer money this month from the reserve fund until the final invoices are received from the capital projects.

**Staff Comments**

**Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn**

- Many capital projects have been completed in the parks and the buildings; the roof is complete at the Rec Center; the Community Center roof will be complete by Wednesday; all painting projects are complete.
- There are many rentals every weekend.
- He interviewed and hired new front desk staff.
- Facility Rental Coordinator Katie Walsh will be leaving at the end of the month and he must hire a replacement.

There was Board discussion regarding dog park complaints. The Board suggested keeping a tally to track the complaints to present to the public in January.

**Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller**

- The Youth Developmental League started and will continue until the middle of December. The new session begins in January.
- Travel basketball begins November 11, 2019.
- The girls’ travel basketball is not running this year due to low participation. He will try again next year.
- Staff is working on special events: Zombie Candy Hunt, the Halloween Party and other Halloween events.
- The winter/spring brochure goes to print tomorrow.
- We will be partnering and cross marketing with the La Grange Library. There will be a walking book club here at the recreation center and he is also looking into a home brewers’ craft beer class with the library.

**Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Bechtold**

- The fitness center has 2450 members.
- The Zumbathon raised over \$400 with 34 participants.
- Amita will be providing a nurse every Wednesday from 7:00AM to 9:00AM and 1:00PM to 3:00PM for blood pressure checks.
- The new fitness equipment has arrived and was in use immediately. The seniors are thankful for the new equipment.

**Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung**

- Staff was hired for St. Francis School and Cossitt School. There are now only three positions open.
- Tomorrow, October 15, 2019, District 102 has camp here at the recreation center for the day off of school. St. Francis School is in session.
- It was decided that when school closes for emergency closings, BASE will also close. Parents will get an email and letter as to the new policy. The schools will also include BASE in their communications.
- Director Bissias stated if the recreation center closes, he would inform the Board. The decision to close the recreation center will depend on the specifics of the situation.

**Attorney Report**

None

**Treasurer Report**

None

**Action Items**

*Discussion and Possible Approval of Updated Board Section 842 Acceptable Use of Internet, Email, Computers, Phones, Cellular Phones, and Other Park District Provided Communication Devices*

Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung explained that her staff at BASE and

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at other Park District programs are working with children who must be protected from breach of privacy. Her staff must sign a contract that states no cell phones or smart watches may be used at work. This new policy will protect the Park District and help her enforce the use of the internet with her staff. Commissioner Opyd motioned to amend Board Policy Section 842 Item B #7 as follows:

*Employees are expected to refrain from using the internet for purely personal, non-business related purposes. Limited access to such sites is permitted during non-work hours. This access privilege may be limited or revoked for excessive use or for disciplinary reasons.*

*Employees who work with program participants may not engage in any internet use while on duty without prior written approval from the employee's department head or Director, and unless a specific business purpose requires such use.*

*Absent such approval, such employees may not access the Internet using the Park District's computer systems, at any time or for any reason. Surfing the Net, playing video games, and/or visiting social networking sites while on duty, whether using Park District or personal technology devices is not a legitimate business purpose or activity.*

Commissioner Collins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

**Board Business**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Authorization of Delegates/ Alternates for the 2020 Annual IAPD Meeting*

After Board discussion, President Vear nominated Director Bissias as delegate for the 2020 annual IAPD Meeting. Commissioner Opyd nominated Commissioner O'Brien as alternate. Commissioner Collins motioned to appoint Director Bissias as delegate and Commissioner O'Brien as alternate to the 2020 annual IAPD Meeting. Commissioner Opyd seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

*Discussion of Board Meeting Dates for 2020 (Draft Proposal)*

Director Bissias asked the Board to review the draft for the 2020 board meeting dates. There will be a vote on the dates at the December meeting.

**Committee Reports**

*Administration Committee*

None

*Parks and Open Lands*

Commissioner Jacobs reviewed the minutes of her committee meeting of September 22, 2019. She gave an overview of the backgrounds of the four

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members. The two objectives they agreed upon are: 1. Examine and make recommendations about current parks for aesthetics, accessibility, sustainable practices and safety; 2. Evaluate and make recommendations on the current and potential use of green space in terms of appropriate size for the community, connectedness, and integration with the broader region. They hope to meet every other month.

*Finance & Capital Project Committee*

None

*User Group Committee*

Commissioner O'Brien stated that Little League did a land survey of Sedgwick Park. Director Bissias and Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn have copies of the survey.

*Marketing/ Social Media Committee*

Commissioner Opyd attended an event, Tips to Create an Effective Digital Strategy, put on by the La Grange Business Association. Marketing & Events Supervisor Teresa Chapman also attended the event.

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

None

**Board Comments**

Commissioner Opyd commented that the new pavement looks great at Gilbert Park and Sedgwick Park. He agrees with Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung that privacy is important and thanked her for bringing this change to the Board. He asked the Board to think about the Park District brand and what it should stand for as this is something that should be talked about in the future. He thanked staff for all they do and to keep up the good work.

Commissioner Jacobs was excited to hear about the Park District's vision for LED lights and solar panels at our facilities. She knows the community will be excited as well.

Commissioner Collins appreciated Andrew Kim's explanation of the bonds. It gave the Board a better understanding of the Park District's financials.

Commissioner O'Brien has heard great feedback for the new and improved Sedgwick Park parking lot.

President Vear was glad to hear staff attended many educational sessions at the NRPA Conference in Baltimore.

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Opyd moved for adjournment at 8:28 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

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Robert Vear, President

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Constantine Bissias, Secretary  
*Approved 11/18/2019*