

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

**OCTOBER 10, 2022**

**President Opyd called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.**

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

**ABSENT:** None

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney Derke Price  
Becky Lorentzen, Harold Gibson, Monterrius Choates

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda.

Director Bechtold welcomed Cassandra Todd as the District's new finance director; she will be replacing Leynette. She has a bachelor's degree from Roosevelt University and a Master of Business and Administration from Concordia University, where she worked as a financial analyst. Prior to that she worked in the Chicago Public Schools controller's office. She brings over 18 years of experience with strong data analysis skills. Today is her first day and we are excited to have her.

Jenny also congratulated Blake on the new addition to his family.

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

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

None

**Consent Agenda**

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Commissioner Vear moved to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 12, 2022; Item 3.2 Approval of the

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Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of September 12, 2022; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Reports dated September 30, 2022; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for October dated October 10, 2022. 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

### **Staff Reports**

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

- Director Bechtold stated that drafts of the budget timeline and 2023 board meeting dates follow her written report. The budget timeline will be affected by holding two of the board meetings at the community center since we need a certain number of days to publish it for the public. The draft includes the April 14<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> meetings to be held at the community center, both on the third Monday of the month, which works out great for the 30 days required between those meetings. We plan to begin working on the budget in November but can alter the timeline if necessary, and we can revisit the dates at the next board meeting.
- Jenny reported that we have a tentative meeting with La Grange Little League on the 24<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. They completed some work at Sedgwick at 49<sup>th</sup> and East Avenue, and we have received calls from residents that the spoils are still there. Little League stated they would remove the debris in a few days when we contacted them, but they have not. The Village advised that several codes have been violated and residents are now calling their office to complain, and if we do not remove it the Village will do it and bill us. The quotes received for the District to remove the debris range from \$2,500 to \$3,500. We will reach out to Little League tonight to let them know we will bill them for the removal if they do not complete it by Wednesday. Bill Franko is the volunteer Little League maintenance manager that coordinated this work with Simmons, the contractor.

Commissioner Vear asked how the bids [for the parking lot] are coming and Jenny stated that we do not go out to bid until the 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Superintendent Kuniej reported that she worked with Cassandra today teaching her the systems. They will work together on upcoming major projects including the tax levy, budget, and health insurance. She looks forward to working with her.

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

- Superintendent Miller reported that the Trunk or Treat event is Saturday at 10:30am at Sedgwick Park and invited the commissioners to attend. Parking will be available in the neighborhood west of the park and in the south lot.

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- Kevin stated that our second annual tree walk is at Gilbert Park on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and sign-up is available on our website.

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

- Director Ertmanis reported that a contractor is replacing the lights with LEDs at Gordon this week. The lights at the Sedgwick Babe Ruth field will be replaced later.
- Blake clarified that the master parks inventory he completed does not include items installed by other organizations, such as ball field lights and the concession stand installed by Little League or Babe Ruth at Sedgwick.

Commissioner Chvatal asked about the run-down structure at Sedgwick. Jenny stated that it is Babe Ruth's press box and storage. Commissioner Chvatal was referring to their concession stand. Blake added that we have talked with them, and the concession stand will be removed if they cannot find someone to run it. President Opyd thanked Blake for the helpful inventory and stated he has heard from several residents that were impressed with the field work.

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

- Director Bechtold stated that Leanna is off today, and she will field any questions on her report.
- Jenny reported that the superintendent of District 102 is retiring so she has asked Leanna to work on a new IGA before he leaves. He knows our program and we want to be proactive to secure our spot. The current agreement expires in December 2023 and is subject to an automatic rollover.

President Opyd asked if there were any takers for the AM spots that Leanna opened at Cossitt and if PM care was limited by lack of staff. Jenny answered that afternoons are unavailable due to being filled to capacity, and she thinks a few AM openings were taken. Commissioner Vear asked who is responsible for the cameras at Forest and Jenny stated that the school district is.

### **Attorney Report**

Attorney Price reported that the Decennial Committee is coming and involves tracking the intergovernmental relationships we have. It is aimed at townships, but we got swept in the net. Residents will be on the committee, so it is an opportunity to recruit people interested in the District's mission. We have until the middle of next year to begin so we do not want to start the clock, but we should start thinking about who the Board would like to recruit.

The Board asked for clarification of the committee's purpose and whether a board member must serve on the committee. Attorney Price stated that a board member would be required as well as residents. The purpose is to discover whether the District is efficient and needed. It is aimed at townships that many

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in Springfield believe is a form of government in search of a mission. The review will look for efficiencies in government including intergovernmental agreements. He added that municipalities are exempt. Director Bechtold stated that we will have to publish a report every ten years, and IAPD is developing a template we can use.

### **Treasurer Report**

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

### **Action Items**

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Ordinance 22-03 providing for the issue of not to exceed \$376,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2022, 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 Park District, to Provide the Revenue Source for the Payment of Certain Outstanding Bonds of the Park District, and for the Payment of the Expenses Incident thereto, Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax to Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Bonds to the Purchaser thereof.*

President Opyd asked if the commissioners had any questions on this item, which they did not. He requested a motion to approve Ordinance 22-03 providing for the issue of not to exceed \$376,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2022, 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 Park District, to Provide the Revenue Source for the Payment of Certain Outstanding Bonds of the Park District, and for the Payment of the Expenses Incident thereto, Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax to Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Bonds to the Purchaser thereof.

The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Chvatal, and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

### *Discussion and/or Possible Vote on the White Sox License Agreement for Recreation Center Baseball Facilities*

Supt. of Recreation Kevin Miller stated that he has been in contact with Michael Downey and Michael Huff, who oversees the Sox academy, regarding what each organization wants. The license year has been changed based on their current use of the facility to a 7-month prime period. Non-prime will now be a 5-month period during which we will receive 25% of proceeds from lessons they hold inside the academy and resident rental fees for court use. Previously non-prime use provided them use of the facility on Monday plus one additional

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day, but they have been using four days consistently, so we locked that in, and we know when the District can program the space. If they request a fifth day, we get 35%. We also added a new clause allowing us to build out a storage space at our expense which will allow us to program properly, especially for fitness. Renewal notice has been changed from three months to six months, and both parties may now terminate with six months' notice.

Commissioner Opyd asked for a motion to approve the White Sox License Agreement for Recreation Baseball Facilities. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Lacey, seconded by Commissioner Vear, and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on the D105 Release and Settlement Agreement*  
President Opyd referred the commissioners to Jenny's memo and the copy of the agreement they received. He noted that the disparagement clause was adjusted to reflect only topics related to the IGA with D105. The Board had no questions regarding the agreement.

Commissioner Chvatal motioned to approve the District 105 Release and Settlement Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Revised Capital Budget*  
Director Bechtold stated that we needed to account for the monies in the settlement agreement. The original April budget included unallocated funds of just over \$100,000 and we also had some savings from the replacement of the gas tanks. We redistributed funds to D105, a new ball field grooming machine, a new pump for the splash pad, the purchase of two copy machines for a cost savings over leasing, and costs to meet new PDRMA cyber security requirements. The changes total \$137,367 leaving just over \$9,000 in capital projects, \$15,000 in capital unforeseen and \$20,000 in operation unforeseen.

There was brief Board discussion and Blake clarified that the ball field grooming machine would be used to drag fields, and our newest piece is from 2004 with a life span of about 10 years. Leynette added that all the changes are in red in the capital budget plan, and we will make a small amount of money on the rollover bonds which go out to bid on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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Commissioner Vear motioned for Approval of the Revised Capital Budget. 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

### **Board Business**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote of Appointing Director of Finance and Human Resources to Treasurer*

Director Bechtold stated that Leynette is the current treasurer, and with her pending retirement we need to appoint someone. She talked to bond and legal counsel and Leynette will need to sign as treasurer in November when the bonds wrap up, so she requested the Board appoint Cassandra Todd with an effective date of December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Posey motioned that the Board appoint Director of Finance and Human Resources Cassandra Todd as Treasurer effective December 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chvatal and passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Posey, Chvatal, Lacey, Vear, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: 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 reported that they have a meeting scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss a potential project. She will provide more details at the next board meeting. She asked who the point person is to talk to about other areas related to recreation and cultural programming. Jenny stated that it would go through her since a staff liaison has not yet been appointed.

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

Harold Gibson, 103 E. Cossitt, La Grange, stated that he works with the La Grange Community Diversity group and has received several calls that the

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lights are still not functioning at Rotary Park. He requested that the District contact ComEd again.

Blake stated that in his experience phone calls from residents incite action quicker and encouraged the public to call ComEd. Jenny added that we will continue to work on it from our end.

**Board Comments**

Commissioner Posey welcomed Cassandra; she is glad to have her on board.

Commissioner Chvatal welcomed Cassandra and congratulated Blake on the addition to his family.

Commissioners Lacey and Vear echoed the previous comments.

President Opyd stated it is good timing for Cassandra to start with the budget coming and welcomed her to the District, and he offered congratulations to Blake.

President Opyd stated that there would be no executive session this evening.

**Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Lacey moved for adjournment at 6:42 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Brian Opyd, President



Jenny Bechtold, Board Secretary  
*Approved November 14, 2022*