

**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 8, 2018**

**President Vear called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Ashby, Lacey\*,  
Jacobs\*\*

ABSENT: Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of  
Finance Leynette Kuniej, Superintendent of Facilities  
Chris Finn, Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller,  
Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Clark,  
Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, Brian Opyd, Jim Boo, Tim O'Brien

\* Commissioner Lacey participated telephonically because of illness.

\*\*Commissioner Jacobs arrived at 7:07 P.M.

President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting.

At 7:05 P.M. Commissioner Penicook motioned to accept Commissioner Lacey's attendance via telephone due to illness. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

**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 \$338,000 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 7:06 P.M. President Vear opened the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Park District to sell not to exceed \$338,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds. There were no letters, communications or comments from the public attending. At 7:07 P.M Commissioner Penicook motioned to close the BINA Hearing. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed

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unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Ashby, Lacey, Jacobs

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

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

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason Drive, La Grange, would like to know how much Brad Belcaster was compensated as stated on the closing statement for the Gordon Park land sale. Commissioner Penicook and Director Bissias both stated Brad was not paid anything at closing; rather, he was compensated on an hourly basis at the time services were rendered. Dean stated that a copy of the closing statement would be put in next month's board packet for review.

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Penicook motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 10, 2018; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Board Meetings of September 10, 2018 and September 17, 2018; Item 3.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of September 17, 2018; Item 3.4 Approval of the Financial Reports dated September 30, 2018; Item 3.5 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for October dated October 8, 2018. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Ashby, Lacey, Jacobs

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**Staff Reports**

*Director's Report*

Director Bissias stated he recently attended the NRPA conference and he is catching up on work from being out of the office. He is getting the dog survey ready to send to other park districts. He hopes to have the results at the November board meeting.

*Staff Comments*

**Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Clark**

- The fitness center is doing well except for the childcare.
- Ancillary childcare services lost \$18,000 in the first year.
- Staff recommendation is to end childcare due to low usage and high costs.
- A demographic analysis was taken. Of approximately 2000 members:

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- There are approximately 300 members who are 20 years old or younger.
- There are approximately 1200 members who are 45 years old or older.
- There are approximately 500 members between the age of 20 and 45.
- Our demographics do not support full use of a dedicated childcare room.
- Staff preferred room utilization for more programming rather than having an empty room for childcare.

A discussion ensued regarding the costs and benefits of continuing to run the childcare at a loss. Commissioner Ashby reminded staff that there was considerable discussion about offering childcare for participants when we were working on the proformas for the fitness center. Commissioner Jacobs asked whether a survey could be taken before making a decision. Commissioner Lacey indicated that if people weren't using it, they probably had made other arrangements. Commissioner Penicook asked if staff could work with those few members who rely on childcare, to find other program options within the building.

No vote was taken, but staff will take Board comments and concerns into account when making the decision whether to eliminate the dedicated childcare option.

Director Bissias congratulated Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller on his marriage.

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

- The Youth Developmental Basketball League is starting up with 32 teams.
- The La Grange Bulls Boys Travel Basketball teams begin playing next month. Tryouts were in September.
- The Rec Department is wrapping up Fall 1 sessions and getting ready for Fall 2 sessions.
- Staff is proofing the winter/spring brochure. It will have a new design featuring our parks.
- The Halloween party is Friday, October 26, 2018. Staff is changing the format. It will be geared for children 9 years old and younger. There will not be a haunted room.
- Staff is getting ready for winter special events.

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

- BASE camp for Columbus Day is not running on Monday due to low enrollment. The camp for Tuesday is almost full (45) and running.
- The Cossitt School BASE numbers have increased steadily from year to year. This year there has been an average of 50-60 children compared to 40 children last year.

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- The IDHS required training is 90% complete. It is not 100% due to new employees finishing the training.
- All BASE staff training was October 11, 2018.
- She is hiring more staff due to 2 resignations and 2 terminations.

### **Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn**

- The gym space is busy again. Basketball is starting up.
- There was a Special Olympics Volleyball tournament in September.
- There was a SEASPAR tournament October 7, 2018.
- A basketball tournament will take place October 20, 2018.
- A SEASPAR bocce ball tournament will be held in December.

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

- Other than what is in her board report, she has been troubleshooting various issues with the Rec Trac 3.1 upgrade with Administrative Supervisor Linda Muth, Facility Rental Coordinator Katie Walsh, and Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Clark.

### **Attorney Report**

None

### **Treasurer Report**

None

### **Action Items**

None

## **Board Business**

### **Old Business**

#### **Tabled from September Board Meeting**

#### *Board Discussion of Park Tour by Board and Staff to Review Possible Future Capital Expenditures*

As an overview of the park tour, Commissioner Penicook stated the Board observed many items in each park that needed to be improved. The Park District now has the funds to do things that are necessary. Director Bissias stated that painting of the pavilion will be done by an Eagle Scout for his project.

#### *Board Discussion on Capital Replacement Plan*

President Vear asked each board member to send him their five top capital projects they want done in the next few years from the park tour.

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*Board Discussion Regarding Dogs in Parks*

Director Bissias stated he will be sending out the dog park survey to over 65 park districts in the area. He and Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn attended dog park sessions at the National Parks & Recreation Association (NPRA) convention. They learned a lot of interesting information about other park district dog parks. Director Bissias stated Cook County requirements for our dog park are very stringent. He will give the Board a copy of the requirements with the survey results.

**New Business**

*Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Board Meeting Dates for 2019*

Director Bissias asked the Board to look at the proposed board meeting dates for 2019 and check their personal calendars. The dates need to be approved by the December meeting.

**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, 107 8th Avenue, La Grange, gave kudos to staff of the Park District of La Grange for being proactive and money conscious in regards to childcare losing money and the decision to discontinue it.

He asked staff how the Rec Trac upgrade is going. Staff replied there are some glitches. In general, there are pros and cons, however; all in all it is working well.

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason Drive, La Grange, wanted the Board to know that his neighborhood is against a dog park at Denning Park or any fenced in area at Denning Park. President Vear wanted him to know there are many dog fans that have attended our meetings. He thanked him for his comment and appreciated knowing the neighborhood's opinions.

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**Board Comments**

President Vear hoped Commissioner Lacey would feel better soon.

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Penicook moved for adjournment at 8:16 P.M. The motion was Seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

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Robert Vear, President

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Constantine Bissias, Secretary  
*Approved 11/12/2018*