

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

DECEMBER 11, 2023

President Opyd called the meeting to order at 6:21 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Posey, Opyd

ABSENT: Commissioners Lacey and Chvatal

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold
Director of Recreation Kevin Miller
Recording Secretary Linda Muth

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Erin Monforti
Wight & Company – Patty King, Mijung Ko
Marian Honel-Wilson, Molly Price, Vickie Renick

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda and there were none.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments

None

Pre-Referendum Conceptual Planning Presentation, Wight & Company

Director Bechtold stated that Patty King and Mijung Ko were at the meeting to review the items included in the presentation. The agenda will include going over some of the CMP goals, preliminary concepts that will be reviewed and edited as needed, amenities, budget, and discussion.

Jenny stated that the completed CMP was adopted in November 2022 which was preceded by many focus groups, public meetings, and surveys. The results indicated that residents want high quality ball and soccer fields, a dog park, pickleball courts, upgraded playgrounds, nature and adventure play, shelters, trails and walking paths with improved accessibility. Goals for facilities included preschool renovations at Gilbert, expansion of children's programming space, expanded senior programming, and providing equitable and accessible facilities. The Community Center park garnered the lowest satisfaction rate at 28%, outdoor service satisfaction including washrooms, benches, shade, and drinking fountains had a 40% satisfaction rate, and equitable distribution of

facilities 45%.

Outdoor facilities were rated as important to residents as follows: 63% for walking paths and trails, 47% for open green space, and 44% for play equipment. New outdoor facilities included 40% for adventure and nature play, 39% for an off leash dog park, 38% for green infrastructure, 35% for a challenge obstacle course, 34% for an ice rink, and 22% for inclusive accessible play. New indoor facilities included aquatics and a lap pool at 60%, a senior center at 34%, performing arts 26%, teen center 26%, and soccer 24%.

Jenny stated that we took this information from the community needs survey and tried to incorporate it into these plans. We began the process of moving forward with Board approval to work with Wight & Co. to develop these conceptual plans, and to work with Beyond Your Base for community engagement.

Patty King from Wight & Co. began her presentation. She stated that they were very strategic about the items desired by the community and items identified in the CMP that need to be addressed, and they also worked with staff. The concepts and designs she will present for eight parks are very preliminary and a lot of public input still needs to occur over the next several months, which is a normal part of the process. They also talked to the District's directors for their input on what needs attention in an equitable distribution throughout the Park District. A few of the parks also have buildings associated with them and an engineer was involved in the building recommendations. Patty presented a summary of the plans for each location with a PowerPoint presentation.

Community Center Park

There is a building at this location which has accessibility issues for entry. There are opportunities because of the open floor plan and the facility is rentable. Options include creating a plaza and pergola and a rolling door in the side of the building for access from inside to outside. The playground equipment is in decent shape. Recommendations include replacing the curbing, addressing drainage, replacing the two basketball courts with one full court, and adding bike racks, benches and landscaping.

Commissioner Vear asked about the footprint of the larger basketball court. Patty reported that it would be a standard high school size court which is a bit bigger than the current space, but the orientation has been changed and allows for more green space.

Patty explained that there are two lists for each building. The first is a recommended list based on necessity for accessibility and codes. The second list contains more items that could be added. Tonight's focus is on the first list for each building and the necessary items.

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Patty detailed the suggested building improvements which include a rolling door facing the playground, kitchen counters and sinks, accessibility related restroom upgrades, making all doors and entrances accessible, removing the folding wall, new flooring, and replacement of hardware at the storage door.

Denning Park

Patty stated that the biggest change at this location is to take down the existing building and install a new restroom facility, which is less expensive than renovating the existing one. Recommended changes include minor replacement of posts at the basketball court, drainage correction, disc golf around the outside of the soccer fields, and additional plantings for a native habitat with a story walk and board to give kids the opportunity to cross bioswales and see nature. The playground and shelter are in good condition.

Elm Park

Patty stated the current configuration of the playground is good but the equipment should be replaced. She recommended removal of the wooden bollards at the entry, adding a path, and removing the small sled hill for clear views into the park. The 3-shot basketball court would be replaced with a 30x60 court which is a bit smaller and similar to the one at Waiola Park. A full size court will fit but the smaller size is a fiscally responsible option.

Commissioner Posey asked why the sledding hill was being removed. She stated that it is nice to have a sledding hill and it is used a lot by elementary school kids and suggested it could be relocated. Patty answered that staff indicated that mischievous activities occur in that area, but the vegetation could be eliminated and the sledding hill could remain. President Opyd added that these plans are preliminary based on funding and the Board will collaborate and seek community feedback. Patty agreed that we absolutely need feedback and this is a thought collecting process which Beyond Your Base will be involved with.

Gilbert Park

Patty stated that currently there are four tennis courts with at least three overlays so complete removal and reinstallation of three tennis courts and one basketball court or other multipurpose court is recommended. Additional items include removing the small pergola, replacing the T-ball backstop, and removing the half basketball court. The playground needs complete renovation and a paved entry would be added on Gilbert Avenue with a pathway to the playground that has shade trees and would run through the park dividing the soccer and T-ball space. The preschool building would be renovated and there is potential to add nature based play outdoors with blocks and benches made from trees and stumps to encourage imaginative play. Suggestions also include reconfiguring the drop off area and parking improvements with removal of the access points to Gilbert Avenue.

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President Opyd asked if the curb cuts would be on village property. Patty stated they were but that we would coordinate with them and that if the drive is not used or alternate access is provided it is usually fine. Commissioner Vear stated that the center walkway with trees may bring negative feedback because many people like an open field for running around and playing frisbee. He asked if the parking lot could be configured with an entrance on one street and the exit on another. Patty stated that it could be considered and the village would need to weigh in on it.

Patty detailed the renovations recommended for the preschool building which include replacing the fascia brake metal on the roof, replacing ceiling tiles, repairing cracks in the epoxy flooring, installing emergency lights, painting the exterior trim, accessibility upgrades to the restrooms, and a new guard rail for the basement entry. The exit signs for the restrooms would be removed as they cannot be used as emergency exits.

Gordon Park

Patty suggested making connections across the ball fields to the parking on Hazel and the installation of a new dog park with small and large dog areas including shade, picnic tables, and a water source. The existing pollinator garden was part of the OSLAD grant and is not doing well so it would be relocated with a seating area, which improves the entrance to the park and splash pad. The mulch would be removed which gets kicked out into the skate park area. It is recommended to replace the shelter with a larger band shell structure with a lawn seating area and add seating at the splash pad.

Commissioner Posey asked if the walking path would remain. She also commented that the park is uniquely situated with many mixed aging buildings nearby and asked what consideration was given to this in the park design. She stated that senior services are high on the community priorities list and suggested incorporating something for that group that would be unique. She also noticed last summer that there are groups of guys that sit around and listen to music and it would be a great park to have a chess board or something interactive with tables. Patty answered that the path will remain with some connections made to the baseball area and Hazel Avenue and added that the additional suggestions could be added to the list.

President Opyd suggested that instead of moving the pollinator garden to the side of the park near the noisy train tracks it be moved to the other corner where it is more peaceful, and Patty responded that it could easily be moved. Commissioner Posey stated that as a parent of athletes that she drops off and picks up at the park she is concerned about the dog park being there and adding to the traffic and inquired if it would be fenced in. Patty stated that it would be fenced in and contained. Director Bechtold added that Cook County has stringent regulations regarding dog parks and it will be secured.

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Rotary Park

Patty explained that this park needs a complete overhaul. They would remove everything except for the large trees and install a new playground and add swings. The light pole in the middle would be replaced with a smaller scale pole. There is some infringement from a neighbor but in an effort to be a good neighbor it can remain or they would not be able to access their garage.

President Opyd questioned whether the hole in the ground would be removed. Patty said it would, and Director Bechtold added that it is from an old splash pad. She also stated that in keeping with national standards for a pocket park the shelter would be removed.

Sedgwick Park

Patty stated that the parking lot along East Avenue would be enlarged with the entrance eliminated so that access is on 49th Street. The lot would go from 60 to 104 spaces. Volleyball would be relocated to the north end of the parking lot with lights added, and the old basketball court moved next to the volleyball court. One baseball field and the batting cages would be removed and replaced with a soccer field. Two of the tennis courts would be removed and the fencing reconfigured to accommodate four pickleball courts with a separate entrance, benches, and fencing. Sports lighting would be added to the remaining baseball field.

Commissioner Posey asked if there was room for an additional smaller baseball field where the basketball court is being removed. Patty indicated that they could look at that and added they are trying to minimize stormwater management based on the disturbance. There will be a bigger discussion later about what we can add. Commissioner Vear asked if there was a parking issue at the park. Director Miller stated that summer parking is limited and an additional soccer field would bring more people to the park. Commissioner Vear inquired whether there were plans for the space between the building and soccer field and the shuffleboard court area. Patty answered there were no current plans since the playground is in very good condition and it makes sense to wait until it needs replacement to make changes there.

Patty addressed the Sedgwick building and recommended new registers, roof replacement, securing condenser rails on the roof, replacing the broken glass blocks, restroom upgrades and a backflow preventer. Additional new items include exit signs, door sweeps, and a fire rated door at the utility room.

President Opyd asked if glass block windows are recommended for security reasons or if they are a design holdover. Patty said they were a holdover although they are coming back in popularity, however, they could be replaced with windows. President Opyd said it would be nice for the kids to be able to look out windows and see the park. Patty stated they would check into this but that our wish list is bigger than our budget. Commissioner Vear asked if the

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building was worth keeping. Patty stated it was and while the recommended items should be done, the building is in good condition.

Spring Park

Patty stated that this is a small neighborhood park. Plans include removal of the shelter, consolidating the play area, new curbing, new equipment, upgrading the drinking fountain, and removing some shrubs. President Opyd asked if most of the existing trees would remain. Patty stated they would minimize what we take down, making sure the trees are in good shape and healthy.

Patty reviewed the amenity summary of recommendations and stated they tried to be equitable on distributing new elements. She also reviewed the staff's top 15 priorities to consider their input. The top three are pickleball at Sedgwick, Community Center renovation, and dog park at Gordon. It was clarified that the Sedgwick playground on the list should be Spring playground.

President Opyd stated that all of this assumes that we get Waiola and Stone renovations completed. Director Bechtold stated that funds for Stone could come from the leftover reserves in the budget. She added that staff's top 15 are also based on what we heard from the community, the CMP, and what is needed. All the plans are preliminary and contingent on funding.

Commissioner Posey stated that she recently realized her family had not utilized Rotary Park and that the condition of it is troubling. Visually it looks like it is not a priority and improvements there would be impactful, and she would like to see it as a higher priority. President Opyd agreed with the assessment of Rotary but stated the challenge is that within two blocks is the Community Center and we have to decide where to put the money. The two locations are close and walkable which creates an interesting dilemma to discuss. Director Bechtold added that the playground there was done in 2006 and recommendations are based on useful life. Commissioner Posey stated that she recognizes there are many moving parts and budgetary concerns and it is all up for discussion but Rotary stuck out to her and she wants it noted.

There was brief discussion on parking at the Community Center which is not anticipated to be a problem.

Commissioner Posey stated that with this new list and visual guide to aspire to it would be helpful for the Board to revisit the parks and balance priorities. President Opyd commented that he would like to get Wight's guidance on what things we should do now based on the trades that will be working at the parks and the order of operations. Patty stated that Wight will provide their expertise and advice throughout the process.

Patty stated that the price tag for the bottom line on everything that was shown

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today with some of the optional building improvements is just over 11 million dollars. She stated it was interesting watching Jenny and Kevin, each with different perspectives, as they began developing a priority list. Their conversations were thoughtful and considered the community and CMP and it was challenging, but in the end they were all excited with what came out of it. Now we will have to answer questions on what the community really wants and the dollars. Paul from Beyond Your Base will play a key role moving forward to evaluate what makes sense with the dollars we have and this laundry list is a helpful starting point. Patty detailed the cost estimates and stated that pricing and contingency is updated continuously to account for higher costs. She knows we started at 7 million and we can get back there with some hard choices.

President Opyd stated it was good to show all the options and costs because these are things the community wants and it shows that we did our homework. He thanked Patty and Mijung for coming and stated the Board has a lot to consider as a team.

Director Bechtold stated that Paul from Beyond Your Base will be the lead for community engagement. They are starting to send out task force invites to get 25 residents involved, with the first of three meetings to be held at the end of January. They are doing their best to find a representative sample of the community as members. She encouraged one or two board members to rotate and participate in the meetings. There will be presentations, information on social media, and a survey mailed to residents. The Board must adopt a resolution by our August meeting. Keep in mind that when discussing a referendum, we are providing education, not promoting it, which is what we are legally allowed to do. Jenny stated that it has been recommended to speak to PMA to see what an 11 million budget and a lower budget would look like and present it to the task force and asked the Board for consensus to do this.

After a brief discussion the Board agreed it would be helpful for PMA to update their analysis to include comparing how 7 million, 9 million, and 11 million would affect residents' tax bills. Jenny added that PMA will do this free of cost and if we only did 7 million we may be undercutting what the public wants.

There was a brief discussion on the impact of removing a baseball field. Director Miller explained how Little League and Babe Ruth would still be accommodated with minor changes and the addition of field lights. Director Bechtold stated that they also had concerns about accommodating a dog park, but we needed to look at the overall amenities we currently have which serve a lot of sports, and we are trying to diversify who we serve.

Director Bechtold explained that the agreement with PMA for the referendum was negotiated so that we only pay them if the referendum passes and the preliminary work is at no cost. The Board gave consensus for PMA to provide

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the updated numbers.

Consent Agenda

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 13, 2023; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated November 30, 2023; and Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for December dated December 11, 2023. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Vear, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jenny Bechtold

- Director Bechtold reported that she received a call from ComEd regarding the license agreement for work that was to be completed by December 15th. They had a miscommunication with a contractor and they now need until December 22nd. There was Board consensus to allow them to complete the work and ratify the amendment to the agreement at the next meeting.
- Jenny stated that since the last meeting the director of finance resigned, and we are searching for a new director of finance & HR. It has been posted for quite some time with an increased salary but finance is one of the most difficult positions to fill. Selden Fox is currently supporting us and we are evaluating our organizational chart to determine if we will continue with Selden Fox and bring in another lower position as a full-time employee. She spoke with two other districts in the same situation. She investigated recruiting through Gov HR or Robert Half but the expense would be between \$25,000-\$30,000. We will meet with HR Source to do an HR check-up and see what they can support on a contractual basis.
- She stated that we are waiting to hear back on an offer made for the director of parks position and we hope to have it filled with a start date after the new year.
- Jenny reported that she sent out letters to local elected officials regarding Stone Park asking if they had any member initiative funds. Senator Mike Porfirio came out and met with her and Kevin and they gave him a tour. He encouraged us to stay in touch because there may be funding available in May or June. This is an excellent opportunity which could provide funds in 2024-2025.
- She stated she is meeting with Babe Ruth next week and we are looking at a contract with a rental basis.
- She reported that she reached out to Countryside and was supposed to meet with their committee but has received no feedback or updates from

them. We would like to expedite this because we are approaching the timeline to book field space and we do not want to be in the same situation.

- She stated that there are no OSLAD grant updates yet but hopes to hear something soon.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller reported that Leanna and Melissa met with District 102 regarding additional camp space for this summer. The new superintendent was very open and agreed. They will submit an agreement to us for approval.
- Kevin stated that Katie Wagner has been hired as the new marketing specialist and we are happy to have her.
- He stated that there is a fitness center promotion this month to give the gift of fitness.
- He thanked everyone for coming out to the tree lighting event. He commended Brandon on a great job and added it was the biggest event in terms of the number of trees.
- Kevin stated that Metra will refund us the full amount of \$470 and ticket sales for the holiday train. The issue was moved up the chain to just below the CEO of Metra and BNSF and they are sincerely apologetic. We are trying to negotiate something for next year.
- Kevin reported that he and Zach Price met with Rob Metzger and Bob Poggensee regarding their pickleball proposal from last month's meeting. They discussed having three or four days with dedicated times based on skill level and obtaining quotes for equipment. One sticking point is a wind screen. We have someone looking at this and will meet with them again. We would like to create a volunteer group to run this moving forward and then we will make sure we have the dates and times available.
- He stated that he met with the president of the Celtics. He had been working with Zach but wanted it moved up the ladder. He has issues on the equity of how field space is granted and disagrees with AYSO having Tier 1 status. After doing some research and speaking with current and past staff, Kevin cannot find anything in writing stating the criteria required for Tier 1. The Celtics have some concerns with AYSO. Both offer in-house and travel, but AYSO has a much larger in-house scale. Since the October 1st deadline for the agreement was missed he told the Celtics that we will honor the agreement this year as in the past and bring it back again, though they were not happy with this. We will bring back the scheduling meeting that past staff used to conduct and look to make changes depending on how their seasons lay-out. We would look to make changes in spring or fall of 2025 which will provide them with plenty of notice on how the tier status will work and field space divvied up. The next step would be for him and Zach to meet separately with AYSO and LTSC and then schedule the all-inclusive meeting with the

affiliates.

Commissioner Vear asked if the tier affects the schedule in addition to the fee. He added that many years ago when we began charging fees he thought Tier 1 was based on it being a volunteer organization that provided nets and lined the fields. Kevin confirmed that the tier does affect the schedule. He stated that being a volunteer organization was one piece of the tiers. The biggest sticking point now is field space for travel play, which was not as big when the tiers were started. Jenny added that AYSO books field space for travel games and they charge participants a different fee than for in-house play, so it may not be fair for them to pay us a lower level fee.

President Opyd asked if Kevin knew what the investment might be for the Park District for the pickleball proposal. Kevin stated that if we do not have to do wind screens he estimates our cost at \$2,200, depending on the quality of the storage container. Kevin explained that we would provide the locked container of equipment and signage stating playing times. They would set up and remove the equipment and collect donations to replace damaged equipment. Larger items would require further discussion. President Opyd asked if we need an agreement with this organization which will be comprised of volunteers. Attorney Monforti recommended a written agreement detailing the expectations of the use of the property, security, and maintenance of the equipment.

Finance & Human Resources

- Director Bechtold reported that staff is working on the budget and will then work with Selden Fox for analysis.
- Jenny stated that the Paycom conversion is complete. We are working to finalize the general ledger mapping.
- She stated that we received property tax revenue for November of \$590,592.85 and we will continue to receive funds through January.
- Jenny reported that we had bond payments due on December 1st and 15th which we made but they required moving funds from Republic Bank to the IPDLAF treasury pool.

Parks & Maintenance

- Director Bechtold reported that she is working with Abbey and Cody/Braun on a final punch list for the parking lot.

President Opyd stated that he has heard positive feedback on the chargers which address sustainability issues in the community.

- Jenny stated that we hope to have a new parks director in place in January.
- She reported that we are working with an eagle scout who is scheduled to do a project at the community center in the spring by planting and rejuvenating about 5-6 feet out from the wall along the length of the

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north side of the building.

- She stated that the mosaic sign will be installed at the community center around December 22nd.

Attorney Report

Attorney Monforti recommended that we take a look at any new IGA's with school districts due to the passage of Faith's Law in the general assembly, though she doubts it will apply to us.

Treasurer Report

Director Bechtold stated that there were no updates.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O23-04 An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois for the 2023 Tax Levy Year

Director Bechtold stated that this ordinance contains the breakdown of funds in the total amount of \$2,615,806. This reflects the 6.34% increase from last year addressed in the public hearing. We reduced some of the smaller accounts that were overbudgeted and maximized the general corporate fund this year.

Commissioner Posey motioned for Approval of Ordinance O23-04 An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois for the 2023 Tax Levy Year. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O23-05 An Ordinance Directing the Cook County Clerk to Reduce the Park District of La Grange's Real Estate Tax Levy 2023

Director Bechtold stated that as always our levy will be looked at by the county and if we are not due certain amounts they will reduce it, and we are instructing them to take 100% of it from the general fund.

Commissioner Posey motioned for Approval of Ordinance O23-05 An Ordinance Directing the Cook County Clerk to Reduce the Park District of La Grange's Real Estate Tax Levy 2023. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

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Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O23-06 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2023 to pay principal of and interest on \$1,590,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois

Director Bechtold explained that this ordinance is to abate taxes on these bonds which we do not need to levy because we use the annual bond rollover to pay the December 1st payment.

Commissioner Posey motioned for Approval of Ordinance O23-06 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2023 to pay principal of and interest on \$1,590,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O23-07 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2021 to pay the principal of and interest on \$2,505,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020A, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois

President Opyd stated that this is the same as Item 7.3 for the second series of bonds. He asked for a motion to Approve Ordinance O23-07 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2021 to pay the principal of and interest on \$2,505,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020A, of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois.

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

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Resolution R23-08, A Resolution Co-Sponsoring the Sale of Holiday Trees

Director Bechtold explained that this item originated from the last board meeting when the tree sale held by the Wise Men group was discussed and legal counsel recommended a resolution. The group is no longer the YMCA, they are the Prairie Trail Federation. Commissioner Vear stated he is a member of the organization and would abstain from voting. Attorney Monforti stated that the vote could take place since there was a quorum for the meeting.

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Commissioner Posey moved for Approval of Resolution R23-08, A Resolution Co-Sponsoring the Sale of Holiday Trees with the Wise Men. President Opyd seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Resolution R23-09 Authorizing the Release and Continued Retention, Respectively, of Certain Executive Session Minutes and Authorizing the Destruction of Verbatim Recordings

Director Bechtold stated that we reviewed the minutes and it has been 18 months and one day since they passed. We recommend releasing February 14, 2022 which was the director's review and March 14th which included acquisition of real property at 511 E. Cossitt and some follow-up on the director's review. We recommend leaving April 11, 2022 closed which includes some personnel items.

Commissioner Vear made a motion to Approve Resolution R23-09 Authorizing the Release and Continued Retention, Respectively, of Certain Executive Session Minutes and Authorizing the Destruction of Verbatim Recordings. Commissioner Posey seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Resolution R23-10 Appointment of an Authorized IMRF Agent

President Opyd stated this resolution would appoint Director Bechtold for the position. Jenny added that with the vacancy of the director of finance this resolution is necessary to appoint her as the authorized agent.

Commissioner Vear motioned to Approve of Resolution R23-10 Appointing Director Bechtold as the Authorized IMRF Agent. Commissioner Posey seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Possible Vote of Appointing Selden Fox Interim Treasurer

Director Bechtold stated that due to the vacancy of the director of finance Selden Fox can temporarily step in as interim treasurer and then we can look

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further if we need to change direction. President Opyd asked if this was primarily for segregation of duties and Jenny confirmed it was.

Commissioner Posey motioned to Appoint Selden Fox Interim Treasurer. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Board Business

Old Business

None

New Business

Discussion and/or Approval of 2024 Board Meeting Schedule

Director Bechtold stated that the January meeting was pushed back to the 22nd due to the holidays and MLK day on the 15th but can be moved up if the Board prefers. The April 15th and July 15th meetings will be held at the community center on the third Monday of the month to accommodate a long-time renter that uses the center on the second Monday of the month.

Commissioner Vear motioned to Approve the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Posey seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Board Policy Section 632, Sponsorships

Discussion and/or Possible Approval of Updated Mission Statement, New Vision Statement and New Core Values

President Opyd stated that the last two items include a sponsorship policy and updated mission statement. He discussed this with Jenny and they agreed that it makes sense to wait for a larger quorum for discussion and the commissioners agreed. President Opyd stated that 8.2 and 8.3 would be tabled tonight.

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

No report at this time.

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Parks and Facilities Committee

No report at this time.

Recreation & Cultural Programming Committee/ Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

No report at this time.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Marian Honel-Wilson, 950 8th Avenue, La Grange, stated she thought the parks presentation was very exciting. She asked if the Board would consider upgrading the gravel walking path at Sedgwick which is often soggy and muddy. She enjoys walking the paved path at Gordon and inquired if something similar could be done at Sedgwick.

President Opyd responded that the Sedgwick path has been discussed several times and they are aware of the wet spots there. He has received feedback from runners that gravel is preferred because it is softer on the knees and from others that they prefer pavement. He stated that it is something we have talked about, and he thanked Marian for her input. Commissioner Vear added that he hopes we include that as well.

Board Comments

Commissioner Vear stated that he had a great time at the tree lighting event and commended the employee that started it. He plans to review the Wight presentation which blew him away and also made him think of where all the money will come from.

Commissioner Posey stated that the trees at Waiola are beautiful and it is nice to drive by and see them. She had to miss it this year but has heard from moms that it is an exciting event. She added that it is a charming event that is becoming a tradition in La Grange. She was impressed with the Wight presentation and expressed appreciation to Marian Honel-Wilson for staying through the entire meeting. These are complicated issues and the presentation gave context to why we need to levy each year. There are many moving parts and it is not easy to do. She thanked the public for coming to listen to the Board.

President Opyd stated that the tree lighting was amazing. His family had a good time though there was a wait for the hot chocolate. He thanked Marian for coming to share her opinions. It is important to hear from all residents and hear their opinions.

President Opyd announced that there would be no executive session tonight and asked for a motion to adjourn.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - DECEMBER 11, 2023

Adjournment

Commissioner Vear moved for adjournment at 8:11 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Brian Opyd, President



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary

Approved January 22, 2024