

**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 9, 2024**

**President Opyd called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Lacey, Posey, Weber, Opyd

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold  
Director of Finance & HR Jamie Hollock  
Director of Recreation Kevin Miller  
GM of Parks Maintenance Larry Buckley  
HR & Administration Coordinator Madonna Giampietro

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Derke Price  
Wight & Company – Patty King, Bob Ijams, Craig Polte  
Marian Honel-Wilson, Kris LaRocco, Rose Naseef, Brian Reid, Brad Carter

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

Commissioner Vear was presented with an award in recognition of 10 years of service as a commissioner.

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

*Public Comments*

None

**Consent Agenda**

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 11, 2024; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated November 30, 2024; and Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for December dated December 9, 2024. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Posey, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### Staff Reports

#### Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold

- Director Bechtold presented her report and informed the Board that we received a NFR letter from IEAP for the removal of the underground gas tanks dated December 9, 2024.

#### Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock

- Director Hollock presented her report and informed the Board there were three updated financial reports for November.

#### Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller presented his report.

#### Parks & Maintenance Larry Buckley

- General Manager Buckley gave a brief update on the department operations.

### Attorney Report

Attorney Price reported we are working through the Paid Leave Ordinance which begins on January 1, 2025.

### Treasurer Report

None

### Action Items

*Discussion and/or Approval of Final Design, Engineering and Construction Management Professional Services Proposal, Wight & Company*

Director Bechtold summarized the proposal and the tentative, aggressive schedule due to spenddown requirements for the bond. She explained the benefits of construction management versus using a general contractor. Wight & Company introduced themselves to the Board and outlined the services they would offer through the proposal, as well as addressed Board questions. Director Bechtold recommended moving forward with the proposal presented with a cost of just over \$2.3 million.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the Final Design, Engineering and Construction Management Professional Services Proposal as presented, seconded by Commissioner Lacey, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

*Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O24-03 An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois for the 2024 Tax Levy Year*

Director Hollock reviewed the Ordinance for the Board and stated that this ordinance contains the breakdown of funds in the total amount of \$2,877,670.

Commissioner Posey motioned to approve Ordinance O24-03 An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois for the 2024 Tax Levy Year in the amount of \$2,877,670. Commissioner Weber seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

*Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O24-04 An Ordinance Directing the Cook County Clerk to Reduce the Park District of La Grange's Real Estate Tax Levy 2024*

Director Hollock 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 O24-04 An Ordinance Directing the Cook County Clerk to Reduce the Park District of La Grange's Real Estate Tax Levy 2024. Commissioner Weber seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

*Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O24-05 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2024 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 Hollock 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 1<sup>st</sup> payment.

Commissioner Weber motioned for Approval of Ordinance O24-04 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2024 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,

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Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

*Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O24-06 An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2024 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*  
Director Hollock stated that this is the same as Ordinance O24-05 for the second series of bonds.

Commissioner Weber motioned to Approve Ordinance O24-06 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, seconded by Commissioner Lacey, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey,

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

*Discussion and/or Approval of Resolution R24-06 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 and the review of Executive Session minutes is completed bi-annually. We recommend releasing January 9, 2023, February 13, 2023, March 13, 2023, and April 17, 2023, per the memo.

Director Bechtold asked for motion to approve Resolution R24-06 Authorizing the Release and Continued Retention, Respectively, of Certain Executive Session Minutes and Authorizing the Destruction of Verbatim Recordings. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey and seconded by Commissioner Weber which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

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ABSENT: None

### *Discussion and/or Approval of Waiola Park Renovation Bid*

Director Bechtold explained that Wight & Company put together the bid, and we had a bid opening on November 22, 2024. We received eight bids, with amounts ranging from \$795,330 to \$1,054,582.09. Wight & Company vetted the bids and has worked with Landworks Limited. Staff recommends approving the bid from Landworks Limited in the amount of \$795,330. Director Bechtold also explained that Landworks Limited made an error in their math regarding the playground surfacing, which omitted approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000. They have agreed to move forward with the bid as submitted, which is why their bid is significantly lower than the others.

Director Bechtold asked for a motion to approve the Waiola Bid for Landworks Limited in the amount of \$795,330. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear and seconded by Commissioner Weber which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### *Discussion and/or Approval of Waiola Park Site Features through Co-Op Contracts*

Director Bechtold explained that, in an effort to keep the Waiola Park project on track and secure 2024 pricing, we are requesting approval for the co-op agreement with Burke through Sourcewell for the outdoor fitness equipment in the amount of \$19,411.46. Director Bechtold also informed the Board that the co-op agreement approved last month for the shelter through Parkreation would be processed through Good Buy instead of Sourcewell. No action is required; this is just an update.

Director Bechtold asked for a motion to approve the co-op agreement with Burke through Sourcewell for the outdoor fitness equipment in the amount of \$19,411.46.

Commissioner Posey so moved the motion and Commissioner Weber seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### *Discussion and/or Approval of Policy Section 234 Updates*

Director Bechtold reviewed the updates to Policy Section 234, which are required due to the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance, effective January 1,

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2025. The updates mandate that the District offer one hour of paid leave per 40 hours worked. Director Bechtold explained that, along with these updates, there are concerns regarding staffing, as the Cook County ordinance does not require prior notification for time off. While we have set parameters in our policy, they will be difficult to enforce due to the language in the ordinance. Director Bechtold also addressed Board questions.

Commissioner Posey motioned to approve Policy Section 234 regarding Paid Leave. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### Board Business

#### Old Business

##### *Discussion and/or Approval of 2025 Board Meeting Schedule*

Director Bechtold presented the revised 2025 Board meeting schedule.

Commissioner Weber motioned to approve the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

##### *Discussion and/or Approval of Lease Termination Agreement, LeaderShop*

Director Bechtold presented the Lease Termination Agreement to terminate the lease on December 20, 2024, due to LeaderShop suspending their services. The agreement also transfers two 16-passenger vans to the Park District. Director Bechtold explained that while we are unsure if we will need the vans, we could always sell them to make up for the lost rent due to the lease termination.

Commissioner Weber motioned to approve the Lease Termination Agreement for the LeaderShop. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

**New Business**

*Discussion and/or Approval of 2024 Capital Budget Adjustments*

Director Bechtold presented the updates to the capital budget, including a Construction Management Agreement with Wight & Co. for the HVAC units at the Recreation Center, Gilbert, and the Community Center for \$17,000, as well as \$18,000 for office furniture through Reiki Furniture to create a new space for staff to collaborate and work. Staff recommends approving that both of these items be funded from the capital contingency fund in the amount of \$35,000.

Commissioner Weber moved to approve the updates to the capital budget in the amount of \$35,000 from contingency. Commissioner Posey seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

*Discussion and/or Approval of Vending License Agreement*

Director Bechtold presented the updates to the Vending License Agreement with A&M Vending and answered Board questions.

Commissioner Weber moved to approve the Vending License Agreement with A&M Vending. Commissioner Posey seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

*Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O24-07, an Ordinance to Regulate Parking at Facilities & Parks Under the Jurisdiction of the Park District of La Grange*

Director Bechtold presented Ordinance O24-07, an ordinance to regulate parking at facilities and parks under the jurisdiction of the Park District of La Grange and explained the challenges we have been facing with overnight parking, semis and trucks, as well as cars utilizing the electric chargers overnight. We have been in communication with law enforcement, and this ordinance is the first step. The goal is to present an IGA at our January board meeting for the police to enforce the ordinance. We will also be working with the recommended towing company from the police and will be posting signs in our parking lots to have unauthorized vehicles towed. Director Bechtold answered Board questions.

Commissioner Vear motioned to approve Ordinance O24-07, an Ordinance to Regulate Parking at Facilities & Parks Under the Jurisdiction of the Park

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District of La Grange. Commissioner Weber seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Administration Committee*

No report at this time.

#### *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)**

Brian Reid, 4165 Edgewood, La Grange, is on the Board for AYSO and would like to provide feedback on the referendum projects. He hopes that all the soccer fields will not be closed at the same time.

### **Board Comments**

Commissioner Posey congratulated Commissioner Vear on his 10 years of service and part of his work is being reflected in the success we are seeing right now. It matters and it makes a difference.

Commissioner Vear stated it does make you feel good at the end of the day to see what the Park District has done.

Commissioner Weber congratulated Bob and has enjoyed getting to know him and work with him. He welcomed Larry and Madonna.

Commission Lacey congratulated Bob and stated that it has been a pleasure working with Bob. She also thanked the staff.

President Opyd thanked Mr. Reid for his comment on the calendar, noting that it is something we have discussed and that he also wants to know the schedule. He then reflected on the accomplishments of 2024. First, the parking lot was completed, which has been a significant positive change. He welcomed the new Board members and staff. It has been an inclusive process with a cohesive team. Lastly, he thanked everyone for their hard work on the referendum.

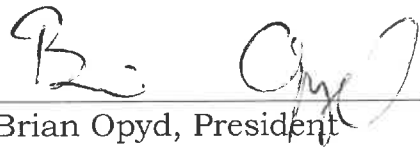



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President Opyd announced that there would be no executive session tonight and asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Vear moved for adjournment at 7:15P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

  
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Brian Opyd, President

  
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Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary  
*Approved January 13, 2025*