

**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**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

**President Penicook called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh, Ashby, Lacey, Kelpsas

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej, Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn, Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher, Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Rob Bush, Dave Wilkinson, Jim Boo, Nancy Mihalik, Anna Catelli, Amy Struve, Angel Springer, Leanna Harley, Jelena Cejka, Jim Carlson

President Penicook welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for changes to the agenda.

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

*B.A.S.E. Program Update*

President Penicook stated the B.A.S.E. staff and parents were invited to this Board meeting to have their questions answered regarding the origination of the Park District taking over BASE over 20 months ago; the transition of BASE to the Park District; the future of BASE. She gave an updated presentation that was given to the District 102 School Board last May. Attached is a copy of that presentation. President Penicook highlighted the benefits of the Park District taking over this program. She reassured everyone there would be no staff changes and no price increase for two years.

Jelena Cyka, 1003 Community Dr. La Grange Park, asked for a copy of this presentation. She also asked for better communication with the parents than the school district had. She stated the parents were unaware of this change of hands or the survey. Director Bissias stated there would be a parent meeting in the near future. The survey conveyed how the Park District could make this program better. He stated the survey was sent in our email blast and he was not aware what the school did. Ms. Cyka's other concern was fee increases as she lives in La Grange Park which is out of district for the Park District.

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2011

Amy Struve, 6601 Wenz Hodgkins, a supervisor at Cossitt School, questioned communication with the teachers, and asked about classes necessary for the teachers to take. Director Bissias explained there would be CPR, safety classes, conferences and seminars to attend. He would be emailing teachers daily.

Angel Springer, Supervisor at Forest Road School, stated she feels as though she works for the children and parents and not the school or Park District. She also questioned the experience of SEASPAR aides.

Nancy Mihalek, 43 S. Madison La Grange, stated she has worked 19 years as a supervisor at Ogden School. She has seen many changes in the program as well as no increase in price for 15 years. She praised her staff and offered her help.

Jim Carlson, teacher at Congress Park School, explained this program began as a babysitting service for children with behavior, emotional, and social problems. He praised Leanna for upping the integrity of the program.

President Penicook stated the next meeting is December 1 with the parents; the school board meeting is December 8; the next Park District meeting is December 12.

Director Bissias stated he would put the B.A.S.E. presentation on the Park District website.

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

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason La Grange, asked why the disbursements by vendor in excess of \$2500 were not listed in the November 2, 2011 Suburban Life, and who at the Park District determined that it should not be published. Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated the format has changed and those disbursements over \$2500 were not required to be published. She stated she can provide the information, however it is time consuming for staff. Director Bissias stated we can put the information online. Commissioner Ashby invited the public to attend the Finance Committee Meetings. In his six years on this committee, he never had an inquiry about this.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Walsh requested a change on page 3 to the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2011 by removing the word “unanimously”.

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve as amended Item 3.1 Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 10, 2011; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Board Session of October 10, 2011; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Report dated October 31, 2011; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for November dated November 14, 2011; Item 3.5 Approval of the Minutes of the Public Relations Committee of October 13, 2011,

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

October 27, 2011, November 3, 2011, and November 10, 2011. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh, Ashby, Lacey, Kelpsas  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

### **Staff Reports**

#### *Denning Park Grant Renovation Project*

Jeff Braun of Cody Braun & Associates updated the Denning Park Renovation Project. He stated the concrete sidewalks and curbs were poured today. The asphalt would be installed at the end of the week and the playground would be installed next week. A neighbor sent a letter to the Park District in regards to the drainage on his property. The engineer went to the property and saw no problem. Director Bissias will respond to the resident.

#### *Staff Comments*

Director Bissias stated there would be 2 ice rinks at Gilbert Park this year.

Superintendent of Recreation Laura Gallagher thanked staff for the success of the Halloween Party. It was the largest attendance ever. She stated the winter brochure would be delivered to residents this weekend. She stated the Park District received 92% out of 100% for the PDRMA review.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn stated he was working on capital projects. The Community Center basketball sealing would be completed in the spring. He is working with the electrical contractor for the lamps at Sedgwick Park and working on the banquet room remodel.

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated she was working with Linda Muth getting ready for B.A.S.E. and working her HR responsibilities.

Director Bissias informed everyone our computer system would be down to upgrade our software on December 5, 2011. He stated he updated Little League and AYSO regarding the Gordon Park Grant and hoped for an extension on the grant.

### **Attorney Report**

Attorney Bush stated the court asked for a status report last week.

### **Treasurer Report**

None

**Action Items**

*Approval of Change Order #2 for Additional Stone Needed for the Denning Park Lyons Township Grant Renovations*

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve the change order #2 for additional stone needed for the Denning Park Lyons Township Grant Renovations.

Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Lacey, Walsh, Ashby, Kelsas  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Approval of Bid for the Sale of General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2011*

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve the bid for the sale of General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2011. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Lacey, Ashby, Kelsas, Walsh  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Approval of Ordinance 11-05, Sale of General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2011*

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve Ordinance 11-05, sale of general obligation limited tax park Bonds, Series 2011. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Lacey, Ashby, Kelsas, Walsh  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Approval of Ordinance 11-06, Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Park District of La Grange for the 2011 Tax Levy Year*

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve Ordinance 11-06, levying and assessing taxes of the Park District of La Grange for the 2011 tax levy year.

Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Lacey, Ashby, Walsh, Kelsas  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

*Approval of Ordinance 11-07, Directing the Cook County Clerk to Reduce the Park District of La Grange's Real Estate Tax Levy for Tax Levy Year 2011*

Commissioner Kelpsas motioned to approve Ordinance 11-07, directing the Cook County Clerk to reduce the Park District of La Grange's real estate tax levy for tax levy year 2011. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Kelpsas, Walsh, Ashby, Lacey  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Approval of Ordinance 11-08, Abating the Taxes Levied for 2011 to Pay Debt Service on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2006*

Commissioner Kelpsas motioned to approve Ordinance 11-08 abating the taxes levied for 2011 to pay debt service on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2006. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Kelpsas, Walsh, Ashby, Lacey  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Approval of Resolution 11-03, Authorizing the Park District of La Grange to Join the Illinois Institutional Investors Trust*

Superintendent of Finance Kuniej explained that the Liquid Asset Fund has merged with Investors Trust to save cost and management fees. Commissioner Kelpsas motioned to approve Resolution 11-03, authorizing the Park District of La Grange to join the Illinois Institutional Investors Trust. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Ashby, Kelpsas, Lacey, Walsh  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

*Approval of SEASPAR Tax Levy for 2011*

Commissioner Kelpsas motioned to approve the SEASPAR tax levy for 2011. Commissioner Ashby amended the motion to approve the SEASPAR tax levy to .0155 of EAV or \$123,268.00 for 2011. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Ashby, Kelpsas, Walsh, Lacey  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

**Board Business**

***New Business***

*Authorization of Delegates/ Alternates for Annual IAPD Meeting*

Commissioner Ashby motioned to approve Director Bissias as delegate and Commissioner Lacey as alternate for the annual IAPD Meeting January 28, 2012 at 3:30 P.M. Commissioner Kelsas seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

**Old Business**

None

**Committee Reports**

*Administration Committee*

Commissioner Kelsas suggested adding Section 6 Committee Member Guidelines from the October 27, 2011 Minutes of the Public Relations Committee for public communication.

*Public Relations Committee*

Commissioner Kelsas highlighted the minutes of October 13, 2011, October 27, 2011, November 3, 2011 and November 10, 2011 from his Public Relations Committee. After Board discussion Commissioners Ashby and Walsh agreed staff should focus on their own work and volunteers focus on their committee work. Both appreciated the amount of work and time put into this committee definition. Director Bissias suggested only major items should be put on a media advisory and not day to day operations.

Dave Wilkinson from the Public Relations Committee stated he has lived in La Grange for 30 years and has seen the Park District in action and not. He felt the Park District must be proactive with positive press releases.

*Finance Committee & Capital Projects Committee*

None

*Recreation Committee*

Commissioner Lacey stated her committee will use the survey taken a few years ago to gauge customer interest.

**Public Comment**

None

**Board Member Comments**

Commissioner Kelsas stated his frustration with the school not sending the survey out for B.A.S.E. and the minimal communication between the parents, teachers and the school. Director Bissias stated he has been in front of the board three times and two presentations. He stated there will be a media release



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

December 1, 2011.

Commissioner Kelsas announced that Saturday November 19 Urban Streets were doing a hip hop concert at the Community Center.

Commissioner Lacey thanked the Park District of La Grange for sponsoring the Lacey/Hill Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless at the Community Center.

Commissioner Ashby thanked Commissioner Kelsas for his hard work on the Public Relations Committee. He thanked Director Bissias for the B.A.S.E. presentation. He stated he is a satisfied customer taking yoga at the Park District.

President Penicook thanked staff for a great Halloween party. She stated it was a great undertaking however it is a popular event and showcases the building and our programs.

**Executive Session**

At 9:30 P.M. Commissioner Lacey motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 12.2 Acquisition of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) and Item 12.4 Personnel, 5ILC 120/2 (c)(1). Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:


AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Lacey, Walsh, Ashby, Kelsas  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

The Regular Board Meeting resumed at 10:54 P.M.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Walsh moved for adjournment at 10:55 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ashby and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

  
Mary Ellen Penicook, President

  
Constantine Bissias, Secretary  
*Approved 12/12/2011*