

**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**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

**President Penicook called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M.**

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of  
Finance Leynette Kuniej, Superintendent of Facilities  
Chris Finn, Superintendent of Recreation Laura  
Gallagher, Director of B.A.S.E. Leanna Hartung,  
Recording Secretary Linda Muth, Recreation  
Supervisor Kevin Miller

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Rob Bush, Dave Wilkinson, Jim Boo, Peter  
Hammond, Dave Ritterhoff and Dave Olson from W.B.  
Olson Inc., Harlan Hirt, Laura Lusson, Bill Reilly, Jim  
Walsh

Commissioner Lacey motioned to accept Commissioner Ashby's attendance  
remotely by telephone. Commissioner Kelsas  
seconded the motion which passed unanimously by  
Voice Vote.

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

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

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

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason La Grange, stated the redevelopment and scope of the  
Gordon Park project began in 2006 and was going to be funded by the  
developer. Now that the taxpayers are paying for it with bonds, he questioned  
if this was the best use of the monies. He asked about the maintenance shed  
removal as it is an eyesore. He stated La Grange Park may put a splash pad at  
Memorial Park and it would be close to ours. He does not agree with installing

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

a splash pad at Gordon Park.

Harlan Hirt, 421 S. Spring La Grange, stated he reviewed the plans of Gordon Park again and there were very few changes. It was not clearly stated if the maintenance buildings would be torn down. He also suggested changing the public participation policy.

Pete Hammon, 130 N. Ashland Ave. La Grange, asked that construction safety issues be addressed if the Gordon Park project is approved tonight. He stated he looked at the Countryside fields for Little League and found that a couple fields are useable and the others are too big.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 14, 2013; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of January 14, 2013; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Report dated January 31, 2013; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for January dated February 11, 2013. Commissioner Kelsas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### **Staff Reports**

#### *Director's Report*

#### *Gordon Park-Staff Recommendation to Board for Additional Improvements to Softball/Baseball Fields*

Director Bissias asked the Board for permission to get estimates for improving the drainage for the baseball fields at Gordon Park as Phase II might be years away. He stated staff would address the tennis courts. The maintenance sheds would be used for W.B.Olson offices during construction. They may consider taking the maintenance buildings down after development however the fire department is using them for training.

#### *Miscellaneous Items*

Director Bissias stated he would email dates for the Board to consider for an MBO meeting. He asked the Board to read the statistics at the end of his Board report. This information is on our website.

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

Director Bissias and the Board discussed having a special meeting to consider the results of the village meeting regarding the Gordon Park permit.

### ***Staff Reports***

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn stated gym rentals are down due to more time for open gym and recreation activities. There would be more rentals in the spring.

### **Attorney Report**

Attorney Rob Bush stated he finished the briefing for the Gordon Park Case and was still waiting for a decision from the Appellate Court.

### **Treasurer Report**

None

### **Action Item**

#### ***Discussion and/or Approval of Awarding of Bids for Gordon Park Phase 1***

After Board discussion, Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve the base bids for Gordon Park Phase 1 excluding alternates for a total not to exceed \$1,685,933. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

#### ***Alternate Bids:***

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve Alternate Bid #1 adding soft surface to the playground area at Gordon Park not to exceed \$194,963. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve Alternate Bid #2 adding sod in lieu of seeding the football/soccer field at Gordon Park not to exceed \$40,741. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

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

Commissioner Kelpsas motioned to approve Alternate Bid #3 adding 28 parking stalls at Hazel Avenue not to exceed \$58,235 only if we have future rights to the property. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Commissioner Kelpsas motioned to approve Alternate Bid #4 for off-site disposal of excess topsoil from Gordon Park not to exceed \$40,730. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Commissioner Kelpsas motioned to approve Alternate Bid #5 adding a shelter structure at Gordon Park not to exceed \$71,311. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Commissioner Kelpsas motioned to approve Alternate Bid #6 adding field lighting for the football/soccer field not to exceed \$152,194. President Penicook seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion did not pass. The Roll Call was as follows:

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

**Board Business**

***New Business***

*Discussion and/or Approval to Renew Agreement with the ROCLAB (Chicago White Sox)*

Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve the renewal of the agreement with ROCLAB (Chicago White Sox). Commissioner Kelsas seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Walsh, Ashby, Kelsas, Lacey, Penicook

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

*Discussion and/or Approval Authorizing Staff to Proceed with Additional Improvements to Gordon Park Softball/Baseball Fields*

Commissioner Kelsas motioned to approve authorization for staff to gather information for additional improvements to Gordon Park Softball/Baseball Fields. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Walsh, Ashby, Kelsas, Lacey, Penicook

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

*Discussion and/or Approval of Lyons Township Soccer Club Gordon Park Field Request*

None

**Committee Reports**

*Administration Committee*

Commissioner Walsh stated modifications were already made to the Public Comment section. Director Bissias stated there would be work on the policy manuals.

*Public Relations Committee*

None

*Finance Committee & Capital Projects Committee*

Commissioner Ashby stated there would be a meeting prior to the Capital Budget meeting and MBO meeting within the next 3 weeks.

*Recreation Committee*

None

**Public Comments**

David Wilkinson, 600 S. Waiola La Grange, asked the Board if there was a policy for storage of private property on park property. He was referring to soccer organizations who store their nets on park property. Commissioner Ashby added fitness instructors store their equipment here. Commissioner Kelsas suggested adding this to next month's agenda.

Pete Hammon, 130 N. Ashland La Grange, asked the Board about parking on the wood chips on the south side of Gordon Park. Director Bissias stated it is Village property however we can use it.

**Board Comments**

Commissioner Lacey stated she was glad the Board waited another month to discuss Gordon Park. She thought it turned out well.

Commissioner Kelsas agreed with Commissioner Lacey and stated Item 8.2 authorizing staff to proceed with additional improvements to Gordon Park softball/baseball fields was born out of waiting the additional month. He felt great knowing both sides of the park were being improved for the public.

Commissioner Ashby thanked everyone for their input. He stated big decisions were made for the Park District. He was optimistic to think everyone will see everything the same way but now it will be good going forward. He praised Ross Houston for the great mobile web site. He also was pleased with the new procedure for making up fitness classes.

President Penicook stated she was pleased that the Gordon Park project is finally moving forward. It took a lot of time and determination from the Board and staff. She explained how the Board researched and developed a plan which fell through because of the litigation and the downturn in the economy. The Staff then revised the plan figured out how to pay for it without raising taxes. She explained that the developers (ARP) were never going to pay for the Gordon Park improvements. This project would have been funded through the sale of a small piece of property which would be taxpayer money. She stated we may still be able to sell that small piece of property in the future. President Penicook stated Gordon Park is currently underutilized, and very difficult to traverse, especially with a stroller or wheelchair. Access to the property is difficult as well. She is in favor of parking on both sides of the park and adding pathways. She explained this plan is not everything we originally wanted but the Board tweaked it to serve our purpose and what the community would like. She hoped there would be funds to fix the other fields in the near future.

**Executive Session**

At 9:16 P.M. Commissioner Kelsas motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 12.2 Acquisition of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) and Item 12.3 Setting the Price of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(6). Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

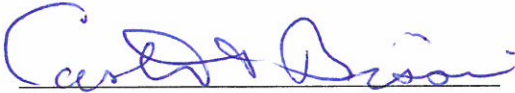
AYES: Commissioner Penicook, Lacey, Walsh, Ashby, Kelsas  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

The Regular Board meeting resumed at 10:15 P.M.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Kelsas moved for adjournment at 10:15 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walsh and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

  
Mary Ellen Penicook, President

  
Constantine Bissias, Secretary  
*Approved 04/15/2013*