

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

**JANUARY 10, 2022**

**President Vear called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioners Opyd, Posey, Lawrence, Vear

ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold  
Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej  
Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn  
Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller  
Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung  
Park Foreman Claudia Galla  
Recording Secretary Linda Muth

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Megan Mack  
Monika Papartis, Marian Honel-Wilson, Nancy Bramson  
Becky Lorentzen, Harold Gibson

\*Commissioner Lacey joined the meeting at 6:39 P.M.

President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda.

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

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

None

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Posey motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 13, 2021; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated December 31, 2021; Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for January dated January 10, 2022. Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion, which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Posey, Lawrence, Opyd, Vear

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

## **Staff Reports**

### **Executive Director Jenny Bechtold**

- Director Bechtold reported that the new Cook County vaccine order is in effect as of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was not announced until December 23<sup>rd</sup>, and she thanked staff for working diligently to come up with protocols for the public and staff, most of who were on vacation at the time. Staff must be vaccinated or tested weekly, and currently 61 of our 78 employees are vaccinated. IDOL announced that they are adopting the Federal OSHA standards which are being heard by the Supreme Court. We are following the current OSHA standards for one hundred employees, based on the Cook County order. As a result of park districts reaching out to the Department of Public Health, the protocols for patrons were modified so that for athletics and fitness it only applies to ages nineteen and up.
- Jenny stated that, unfortunately, we were not awarded the MWRD grant, and we will move forward with the larger detention pond with a timeline to start this summer. In a last-ditch effort to reduce the detention, she reached out to the village regarding their possible interest in underground storage in the new lot. They are conducting a study and have indicated it would be challenging to complete it within our timeline, and she does not want to delay our project any further.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that there is a Cook County program which offers storm water credits if you sell storage to other entities. She also discussed several aspects of the current site plan including the size of the stalls, pickleball area fencing, the walking path, minimum parking widths, and the radius for entry. She and Jenny plan to discuss these items later in the week.

- Jenny reported that we have submitted the application for rezoning and the meeting is tomorrow night. Attorney Mack has taken the lead on this and Phase I will be complete by the end of the week.
- She continues to work on a foundation for the district. We need three committed members to serve on a foundation board in order to apply for a 501c3 and will apply for a membership with the National Association of Parks Foundation once we have confirmed board members. She is reaching out to former applicants to our board and affiliate groups for potential members.
- We should receive a draft of the comprehensive master plan by January 14<sup>th</sup>, but it will not include the survey results. She will forward the draft when she receives it. We must return it with our comments by January 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have the first presentation at the next board meeting.
- Jenny has been speaking with President Vear regarding the director's review to be completed in February, and she will have the self-evaluation to the Board by Friday.

Commissioner Opyd recommended the Board have a discussion on the director review process at the next board meeting during executive session.

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President Vear asked if the village zoning meeting was open to the public. Jenny answered that it is a public hearing. Attorney Mack provided an overview of the presentation she and Jenny will make and stated that family members will be there to testify why they want to donate the property to the park district.

### **Staff Comments**

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

- Superintendent Miller reported that programming has slowed down for the holidays and staff has been busy with the new county mandates.

Commissioner Posey stated she is always amazed at the lengthy wait list for our basketball league and asked why we are not able to further open up the program. Kevin explained that there are limitations on court space due to other programs and rentals, and parents and coaches prefer not to practice on Fridays. He reached out to the school districts in 2019 for additional court space but then COVID happened, and it was pushed back.

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

- Superintendent Kuniej reported that she has been busy with year-end and personnel vaccine records.
- Leynette has reviewed the financials and the district is in a good position considering all the challenges of the past year. A couple of accounts will be over budget due to electrical and plumbing repairs, but basically everything is coming in on target with the budget.

President Vear asked if the 2.45 million in the capital projects fund is for the parking lot. Leynette stated that the money was from the land sale, and she moved it from the general fund to the capital projects fund since it is intended for the lot and other projects. Jenny added that the estimate for the lot is \$1.9 million but costs could be higher.

#### **La Grange Fitness Report**

- Director Bechtold reported that approximately 26 members were lost due to the Cook County order which applies to ages 19 and up.
- Jenny stated it was a good month with a bottom line of \$19,000. Revenue will not hit the budget figure of \$570,000 but will be close to \$500,000. Expenses were reduced wherever possible, and she is happy with the numbers considering COVID.

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

- Superintendent Hartung reported that she received one employee resignation today from a Barnsdale staff member.
- Leanna stated that the schools are taking precautions with the high COVID numbers and have returned to six feet of distancing. Her staff is cleaning and sanitizing more often.

**Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn**

- Superintendent Finn stated that he is working through the COVID restrictions that came out over the holidays. Rentals took a big hit since any gatherings with food or drink require ages five and up to be fully vaccinated. He is working closely with Madonna on this and moving staff around.
- Chris is working with user groups on their field use for spring.

President Vear asked if the large soccer field at Sedgwick was being rested. Chris indicated it would be rested for all of 2022 and provided details on the schedule for resting fields, which began around 6 years ago. It has been very beneficial for the parks and results in a nicer playing surface for the soccer groups.

**Park Foreman Claudia Galla**

- Foreman Galla reported that staff has been busy painting at the community center and will complete minor repairs there.
- Claudia stated she has been busy working with Chris on the budget.
- She hopes to finish the tree management plan at the end of the month and will then move on to the preservation and protection policy.
- She has been working with Jenny on the tree trimming and removals which will be done soon.

President Vear complimented the comprehensive tree plan. It will be provided to all the commissioners at the next meeting for approval, which is required per the grant. There was brief discussion of future outdoor initiatives, including an Arbor Day event.

**Attorney Report**

Attorney Mack had nothing to add to her previous update on 511 E. Cossitt.

**Treasurer Report**

None

**Action Items**

None

**Board Business**

**New Business**

*Discussion of Treasurer Position*

Director Bechtold stated that Rob Metzger accepted the position knowing this would be his last year, but his schedule is getting busy and he would like to step down. Traditionally this position is held by a board member or the finance director. An outside person must be willing to get involved and have finance experience. Attorney Mack stated that the Board could appoint someone or

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name our finance director as treasurer, which is not unusual. It is mainly a signatory and not an additional burden. Superintendent of Finance Kuniej indicated she would serve as interim treasurer until one is appointed if the Board would like.

Commissioner Lacey motioned that Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej serve as interim treasurer through April 30<sup>th</sup> unless we appoint an alternate prior to that date. Commissioner Opyd seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### **Old Business**

None

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Administration Committee*

Commissioner Lacey had no report at this time.

#### *Parks and Open Lands*

Commissioner Lawrence had no report at this time.

#### *Finance & Capital Project Committee*

President Vear had no report at this time.

#### *Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee*

Commissioner Posey stated that she has a list of people she would like to ask to join her committee. She will meet with Director Bechtold to discuss the process.

#### *Marketing/ Social Media Committee*

The minutes from their December meeting are in section 9 of the board packet. Commissioner Opyd stated he has a meeting with Andrea coming up to go through the use of Contact Studio for social media management.

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

None

### **Board Comments**

Commissioner Lawrence thanked everyone for being reactive and managing the public with COVID.

Commissioner Lacey thanked Rob Metzger for his work as treasurer all these years. She appreciates Brian's committee minutes. She encouraged attendance

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at the village hall tomorrow as we work for the zoning change for the land on Cossitt.

Commissioner Opyd thanked staff for responding quickly to the changing mandates. He is excited to see new programming and ideas coming out, including nature programs. He thanked Commissioner Lawrence for her input on the parking lot and encourages participation to make the project the best it can be. He is happy we may have parking for the basketball season this fall. He appreciates Jenny's outreach to the community for the foundation.

Commissioner Posey echoes everyone's comments. It has been a wacky couple of weeks, and it is good to know we have a team in place that is sensitive to the public's different opinions on the rules. She looks forward to a successful 2022 with everyone and innovative projects for the community.

President Vear thanked everyone at the park district for not being fearful of what is going on and continuing to offer programs and move forward.

### **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

None

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Lawrence moved for adjournment at 7:08 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Opyd and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Robert Vear, President



Jenny Bechtold, Board Secretary  
*Approved February 14, 2022*