

**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**

**JANUARY 14, 2013**

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh, Lacey, Ashby

ABSENT: Commissioner Kelpsas

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 Ginger Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Rob Bush, Dave Wilkinson, Jim Boo, Lanita Cox, Peter Hammond, Jeff Braun from Cody, Braun & Assoc., William Reilly, John Brom, Jim Walls, Dave Ritterhoff and Dave Olson from W.B. Olson Inc.

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

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

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

Lenita Cox, 104 Washington La Grange, asked the Board if a room at the Rec Center could be used for a workforce center where there would be training, internet help, and free classes. She also asked if there could be socials at the Community Center for young adults. She volunteered to manage it. Director Bissias stated he would look in to this.

Pete Hammond from Little League, 130 N. Ashland La Grange, gave the Board a hand out with overview of growth and numbers for Little League for the coming year. He stated Little League would like to be part of the lay out and use of the fields at Gordon Park.

Jim Walls, President of Little League, 217 S. Ashland La Grange, stated his biggest concern is field space for 800 kids. He also stated he wanted open

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communication between the Park District and Little League.

Bill Riley Regional Commissioner of AYSO, 240 S. Ashland La Grange, reiterated his support of the Gordon Park project and stated his financial help for lighting the fields.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 10, 2012; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of December 10, 2012; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Report dated December 31, 2012; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for January dated January 14, 2013. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

### **Staff Reports**

#### *Director's Report*

Director Bissias thanked W.B. Olson for handling the bid process. There was a good turn out of bidders and the project came under budget.

#### *Staff Comments*

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn stated the holidays were extremely busy at the Rec Center. Open gym was full to capacity on Sundays and staff had to turn people away. A numbering system might have to be put in place.

Director Bissias stated the rentals are up \$12,000 from last year.

### **Attorney Report**

None

### **Treasurer Report**

None

### **Action Item**

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

Dave Ritterhoff of W.B. Olson reviewed the general estimate and gave the bid recap for Gordon Park Phase 1. The total cost of the project was \$1,685,933

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and was \$137,546 under budget. With the all the alternates, the total project was \$2,244,107 and \$160,531 under budget.

Jeffrey Braun of Cody, Braun & Associates stated MWRD is revising the old permit and it should be ready in a few weeks. He is still waiting on the special use permit from the Village.

After Board discussion, Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve the base bids for Gordon Park Phase 1 excluding alternates for a total not to exceed \$1,685,933. President Penicook seconded the motion. The motion did not pass. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Walsh  
NAYES: Commissioners Ashby, Lacey  
ABSENT: Commissioner Kelpsas

President Penicook emphasized to the Board that if this Gordon Park Phase 1 project does not pass, we would lose the grant and the ability to apply for any grant in the future. Director Bissias worked for the extension of December 31, 2013 based on Board approval of the project. She asked the Board to reconsider their vote.

Commissioner Lacey wanted to research this for another month.

Commissioner Lacey motioned to reconsider the Gordon Park Phase 1 Project vote until next month. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Commissioner Walsh motioned to table this vote until next month. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

**Board Business**

***New Business***

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

Director Bissias asked the Board to review the Lyons Township Soccer Club field request in their Board packet. The soccer representative was not present at the meeting.

**Committee Reports**

*Administration Committee*

None

*Public Relations Committee*

None

*Finance Committee & Capital Projects Committee*

Commissioner Ashby stated there would be a budget meeting next month.

*Recreation Committee*

None

**Public Comments**

Dave Wilkinson, 600 S. Waiola, suggested the Board communicate the Gordon Park project to the public through the two local newspapers. He stated the newspapers should cover these meetings.

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason La Grange, stated his website is [voteboo.org](http://voteboo.org).

**Board Comments**

Commissioner Ashby thanked staff for researching fitness passes. He would love to make it work. In regards to the Gordon Park vote, he stated he does not like the project and would look hard at it this month and make suggestions.

Commissioner Walsh stated he is looking forward to the final vote for Gordon Park at the next meeting. He was glad the Gordon Park “odyssey” was coming to an end.

President Penicook stated she was disappointed with the Board for not doing their homework prior to this meeting. The agenda stated discussion and approval and now the vote was delayed again. She stated the Gordon Park information has been on the website and in newspapers for the public. She added newspapers are aware of our meetings. They check in with our staff after

every meeting but budgets are cut and they do not publish all our information. President Penicook stated she has been here the past 8 years and has tried to accommodate a lot of wish lists with limited resources and a lot of road blocks. The Board needs to look at what's good for the better good and look at priorities. She added we are doing our best. She stated the Board is elected to make decisions. President Penicook was also frustrated with no Board reports from the four committees. She would appreciate some effort.

Jim Walls from Little League apologized for Little League silence. He would like to be involved in this month's discussion. Commissioner Walsh asked him to contact Director Bissias.

**Executive Session**

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

AYES: Commissioner Penicook, Lacey, Walsh, Ashby

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Kelpsas

The Regular Board meeting resumed at 9:44 P.M.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Walsh moved for adjournment at 9:44 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lacey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

  
Mary Ellen Penicook, President

  
Constantine Bissias, Secretary  
Approved 02/11/2013