

**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 13, 2017

Vice President Vear called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Lacey, Ashby, Jacobs, Penicook*

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn, Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej, Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller, Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung, Fitness Center Supervisor Jenny Clark, Recording Secretary Linda Muth

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, Bob Sherman, Jim Boo, Brian Opyd, Beth Augustine

* President Penicook attended remotely by phone

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

Commissioner Lacey motioned to allow Commissioner Penicook to attend the meeting telephonically. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments/Participation (Board Manual Section #152)

Bob Sherman, 735 S. Brainard, LaGrange, asked if there was a long range plan for traffic and parking due to the increased use of the building with the fitness center. He also asked why the track hours of operation were different for fitness members when it is staffed. Director Bissias stated we have been working on additional parking for over a year, but because this involves the potential purchase of real estate, we cannot be more specific at this time. Director Bissias also addressed the track hours. He stated that the track is monitored by video, however, for safety reasons, we still need to know who is using it. The front desk is not staffed that early, only the fitness center. He will add it to our evaluation and discuss it in the near future.

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Jim Boo, 1327 Mason Drive, La Grange, commented that everyone in his Denning Park neighborhood received 2 Park District program books in the mail. One was delivered one day and another the next day. He was concerned about the added expense. Director Bissias thanked Mr. Boo and stated he would pass this information on to Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller and they would look in to it.

Mr. Boo also voiced concerns regarding the installation of a dog park in Denning Park, his neighborhood park. He asked that the neighborhood be informed of the plans as they are not in support of the dog park and have concerns about the chain link fences. Commissioner Ashby stated we have been investigating areas for the dog park and the result is that Denning Park fits the criteria. Director Bissias stated that a policy change would be required to allow dogs in a park if this proceeds. Director Bissias and Vice President Vear both stated there would be a meeting for resident feedback before any action is considered.

Mr. Boo would also like the basketball courts at Denning Park reconfigured so the hoops are at the ends instead of in the middle. The courts are not being used with the current layout. Commissioner Ashby stated that a lot of thought went into the placement of these hoops due to the problems at the Sedgwick Park basketball courts with crowds and late night players disturbing neighbors.

Beth Augustine, 350 S. Madison, La Grange, stated she is a dog owner and takes her dogs to Katherine Legge Park in Hinsdale. The hours are limited there, 5am-9am and 5pm-10pm. She wondered if Gordon Park could be used for a dog park if we limited the hours. She also added she did not receive a brochure.

Brian Opyd, 109 8th Avenue, La Grange, thanked staff for a great Halloween event. He questioned the bond issue and asked for the Park District's long term plan. He is not happy paying for previous debt. Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej explained the issuance of the annual rollover bonds were to abate a tax levy for the outstanding alternate revenue bonds that were used to rehab this building. Commissioner Ashby stated the taxpayers authorized the \$6.9 million bond issue through a referendum to buy this building. There is an amortization schedule until 2038. He welcomed residents to be part of the finance committee.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Ashby motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 9, 2017; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Report dated October 31, 2017; Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for November dated November 13, 2017. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Vear, Ashby, Lacey, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Update on the Construction of the La Grange Fitness Center

Director Bissias stated the fitness center is busy and doing great. He visits many times a day to check on it and see what times it is most busy.

Update of other Park District Matters

Meadowbrook Manor Playground

Director Bissias stated the playground was delivered and is in storage. Sidewalks are being poured for a pathway this week. Once they are complete, the playground can be installed. Hopefully this will be completed by the end of the year, however, it would not be useable until spring when the wood chips would be put down. Commissioner Jacobs stated this has been in the works for a long time. The residents will be happy they will not have to cross over 47th Street to Sedgwick Park to access a park.

Commissioner Ashby questioned the cleaning and striping of the parking lot in Claudia Galla's board report and Director Bissias clarified that it was the indoor maintenance parking here at the Rec Center.

Staff Comments

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn stated there are 14 to 16 parties per weekend on average. He has been working with Meadowbrook Manor and Secret Santa. The fields were closed 1 to 2 weeks early due to the weather and the wear and tear on the fields.

Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller stated the Halloween Party went very well and thanked the BASE staff and the parks department for their help. Staff is busy preparing for holiday events. Everyone is welcome to help decorate the holiday tree at Brookfield Zoo this Saturday. He is also working on the RecTrac migration.

Vice President Vear asked if staff likes RecTrac. Superintendent of Recreation Miller stated there is some frustration, however, it is getting better as we learn it. Superintendent of Facilities Finn stated that once it is learned in one area, it also applies to other areas and it all comes together.

Vice President Vear acknowledged the newsletter Superintendent of Recreation Miller has started.

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated she and Administrative Supervisor Linda Muth went to another district to see how they set up their before and after school program in the new RecTrac software.

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Commissioner Ashby congratulated staff on the Halloween Party and asked if 600 attendees is typical. Superintendent of Recreation Miller stated it is a little less than usual. Director Bissias suggested changing the party as it has been operating under the same format for many years. Commissioner Ashby mentioned revisiting sponsorship for certain amenities of the building now that we have increased numbers of people in the building.

Superintendent of Recreation Miller stated even though we now have a fitness center, the regular fitness classes have increased attendance from last year. He noted that when he took over, fitness was oversaturated with offerings. Now, we offer fewer classes based on fitness trends, but there is increased participation. Commissioner Ashby noted that it was frustrating for patrons to sign up for a class and have it cancelled.

Commissioner Jacobs suggested surveying class participants.

Fitness Center Supervisor Jenny Clark stated the grand opening was a rainy day but 161 people still signed up with the waived initiation fee. There are currently 953 members with increases in visits and group fitness. There is a new app to listen to the TV audio with your smart phone. We are offering a December marketing promotion for "a gift of health". This includes 1 month and 3 month memberships with no initiation fee but the cost is higher than the ongoing memberships. Commissioner Ashby asked about tracking conversions and losses. Fitness Center Supervisor Clark stated that she is tracking losses. People that left are not using it, have injuries, or have decided the location is not convenient. She stated she is working on the new brochure and a marketing plan for 2018-2019, possibly adding Silver Sneakers. She explained it is an insurance based program. We get paid for the number of times that these members visit the fitness center.

Commissioner Ashby was concerned about the smaller fitness classrooms in the fitness center where space could be an issue. Jenny is evaluating the space on an ongoing basis. Recreation Supervisor Miller added if more space is needed we have Room 110/111.

Attorney Report

None

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on a Lease Agreement Extension/Amendment with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA)

Director Bissias explained an amendment is needed to cover additional office space since the Rec Department moved downstairs and IPRA wants to take over the entire space. It will be the same square footage rate and the rent will

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increase. Commissioner Ashby motioned to vote on a lease agreement extension/amendment with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Vear, Ashby, Lacey, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on SEASPAR Tax Levy for 2017

Director Bissias stated our cost for the SEASPAR Tax Levy for 2017 is lower this year than last year. Commissioner Jacobs motioned to approve the SEASPAR Tax Levy for 2017. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Ashby, Lacey, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Commissioner Ashby explained to the audience that SEASPAR provides special recreation services to 12 communities. It is a cost effective way to offer these services with special equipment and transportation. Director Bissias added there are about 1800 participants.

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Acceptance of Official Bid for the Issuance of Approximately \$327,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated we went out to bid on the annual rollover bonds and the low bidder was Republic Bank with a 1.3% interest rate. Commissioner Ashby motioned to accept the low bidder, Republic Bank, for the issuance of approximately \$327,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Ashby, Lacey, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Ordinance 17-07 an ordinance providing for the issue of \$327,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2017, Commissioner Lacey motioned to approve Ordinance 17-07 providing for the issuance of \$327,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2017 for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the Park District, to provide the revenue source for the payment of outstanding obligations of the Park District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said

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bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to Republic Bank of Chicago. Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Ashby, Lacey, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Board Business

Old Business

None

New Business

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Authorization of Delegates/ Alternates for the 2017 Annual IAPD Meeting

Director Bissias stated the IAPD meeting is Saturday January 20, 2018. The past few years Director Bissias has acted as the delegate. Commissioner Ashby motioned to nominate Director Bissias as delegate to the annual IAPD meeting with the remainder of the board as alternates. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Discussion on Staff Presenting the Proposed Levy and Assessment of Taxes of the Park District of La Grange for the 2017 Tax Levy Year at the December Board Meeting

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej explained how the tax levy was calculated. The tax cap is 2.1% for the 2017 tax levy. We can propose a higher levy in order to account for new growth in the community. The increase to tax payers will still be capped at 2.1%, but the growth from new construction projects will be added as well. We will have a large number of new residents as a result of the Opus and 47 Ashland condos. So it is critical to increase our dollar levy to make sure we capture those taxes when it goes on the tax roll. We want to have the dollars to provide services at the Rec Center for the new residents. She suggested having a truth in taxation hearing prior to the next meeting for residents. Commissioner Ashby stated that nothing has changed in the past 12 years and now that there is new growth it must be included. We cannot add it later.

Commissioner Lacey motioned to approve Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej's preparation of the proposed levy and assessment of taxes of the Park District of La Grange for the 2017 Tax Levy year at the December board meeting. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Vear, Ashby, Lacey, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Committee Reports

Administration Committee (Commissioner Penicook)

None

Public Relations Committee (Commissioner Lacey)

None

Finance & Capital Project Committee (Commissioner Ashby)

None

User Group Committee (Commissioner Vear)

Commissioner Vear stated there is more demand for our fields than availability. Fields need to rest or have a limited use. Director Bissias would like the Board informed of the current field conditions and what to expect in the spring. He stated we are using Countryside fields as much as ours. We are landlocked and there is an increase in soccer use and less football use. Commissioner Jacobs asked about field usage at Spring Avenue School. She stated it is difficult to find free space for unscheduled play for residents. She wondered if there could be availability on the website. Superintendent of Facilities Finn stated groups use Spring Avenue fields but the school programs it.

Marketing Committee (Commissioner Jacobs)

Commissioner Jacobs stated on November 7, 2017 she met with Fitness Center Supervisor Jenny Clark, Marketing & Events Supervisor Teresa Chapman, Executive Director Dean Bissias, and Brian Davis. They talked about marketing strategies for the Rec Center and the Fitness Center. Brian Davis was a marketing pro for Edwards Hospital and had helpful ideas.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason Drive, La Grange, noted that the dog park and the playground installation is listed as 75% complete. Director Bissias explained that the 75% for the dog park is for the planning phase only.

Board Comments

Commissioner Ashby thanked staff for their reports. They are helpful, professional and appreciated.

Commissioner Lacey stated she was happy to hear we were working with Silver Sneakers. She visited the YMCA and Cardinal Fitness and noticed their attendance went down since we opened our fitness center. She asked about what the village is doing about the machines and mess in the Gordon Park parking lot. Director Bissias stated the village is using it for staging. The park still floods and the village is responsible to remediate.

Commissioner Lacey thanked the Park District for providing the Community Center for use for the Lacey-Hill Thanksgiving dinner. Over 250 homeless and seniors were fed homemade food. This is the 19th year.

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Commissioner Jacobs thanked the residents for their input. She reminded them that survey time is coming. She gave kudos to the fitness center for going strong.

President Penicook stated this is the first time she has participated remotely. She thought it was very inadequate because voices were going in and out. She felt it is important enough to do something different with better equipment. She thanked Commissioner Lacey for a great job and her dedication all these years for the Thanksgiving dinner. It is a great example of how La Grange works together. She appreciates the audience for attending and their involvement and comments. She added that it helps the Board be transparent and to look at how we do things. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Vear thanked the Park District for helping out the Y Men's Club and Indian Guides with the Gordon Park location for Christmas tree sales. He is also encouraged by the number of registrations at the fitness center.

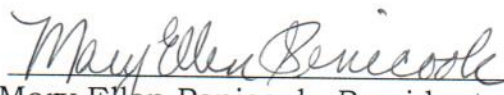
Executive Session

At 8:30 P.M. Commissioner Lacey motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 12.3 Setting the Price of Real Property, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(6). Commissioner Ashby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Ashby, Lacey, Vear, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Adjournment

Commissioner Lacey moved for adjournment at 8:40 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ashby and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Mary Ellen Penicook, President



Constantine Bissias, Secretary
Approved 12/18/2017