

**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**

APRIL 10, 2017

President Penicook called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Dean Bissias, Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn, Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej, Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung, Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller, Recording Secretary Ginger Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, residents Brian Opyd, Bob Sherman, Giedrius Sulnius, Karel Jacobs, Jim Boo

*Commissioner Ashby attended the meeting telephonically.

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

Commissioner Walsh motioned to allow Commissioner Ashby to attend the meeting telephonically. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Voice Vote. Commissioner Ashby is out of town on business.

Director Bissias asked the Board to table Item 8.2 Discussion and/or Possible Vote on a New Park District Phone System Agreement until next month.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Brian Opyd, 109 8th Avenue, La Grange, thanked the Park District for the fun Easter egg hunt at Sedgwick Park. It was a great event. He asked about the future of the ice rink at Gilbert Park. He noted it was originally staffed by volunteers as stated in the March 20th budget meeting. Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn explained the person who has overseen the rink for the past 15 years is stepping down and he is looking for someone from his volunteer pool to step up. If he is unsuccessful, the Park District will try to fill the position. Chris stated Park & Maintenance Foreman Claudia Galla is the contact for ice rink volunteers. Brian also informed the Board that he liked the new website, however, the second paragraph under the board packet states

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meetings are at 7:30 P.M. This should be changed to 7:00 P.M.

President Penicook thanked the public for their comments and questions.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Lacey motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 6, 2017; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of March 20, 2017; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Report dated March 31, 2017; Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for April dated April 10, 2017. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Update on the Construction of the PDLG Fitness Center

Director Bissias stated the construction of the fitness center is 50% complete. The project is ahead of schedule and is on or under budget.

2017-2018 Capital Budget

Director Bissias stated at the MBO meeting and the Board agreed that if funds are available, the items would be funded. He added that 95% of the MBO's are for the fitness center.

Update of other Park District Matters

Director Bissias stated he applied for an extension for the fitness center grant. He does not think an extension will be needed, but he wants to be sure there is enough time to prepare the paperwork and that all the construction is complete.

Director Bissias also wanted to inform the public that construction would begin next Monday April 17, 2017 at the La Grange Road/Ogden Avenue intersection. It will be one lane all summer.

President Penicook asked for an update on the application for more money from the grant. Director Bissias stated it is still under discussion and he has not heard anything yet.

Staff Comments

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated she is gearing up for the year-end audit.

Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller stated that last Friday night about

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120 kids attended the tween flashlight egg hunt at Sedgwick Park. There was a good turnout for the Easter egg hunt on Saturday as well. He informed the Board that Assistant Supt. of Recreation Diana Faught is back from maternity leave. She was missed by everyone.

Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung stated there are 32 summer camp registrations so far with only 13 more openings. Last year at this time there were only 14 registrations. She added that the BASE registration numbers for next school year look good as well.

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn stated he has been busy with indoor and outdoor rentals. The weather has not cooperated to get the fields ready. Little League decided not to add the third field backstop at Sedgwick Park. There was no agreement within the league as to how to use it.

Attorney Report

Attorney Jim Rock provided an update on the court case. The Appellate court affirmed the approval for the Park District to sell the land at Gordon Park and now the Objectors have filed for the Supreme Court to hear it. The Supreme Court accepted the late filing and we will not know until May if the court will even hear it.

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of 2017-2018 MBO's

After a short discussion, Commissioner Vear motioned to approve the 2017-2018 MBO's. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on the New Fitness Center Business Plan

The Board requested clarification of the senior age, the student fees, initiation fees and the specialty classes included with the membership. The Board agreed the pro forma needed more work. Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve the proposed fees and membership definitions in the pro forma. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Penicook, Vear, Walsh, Ashby, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

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Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance 17-02 the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Park District of La Grange Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Commissioner Vear motioned to approve Ordinance 17-02 the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Park District of La Grange Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Ordinance 17-03 the Disposal of Park District Property under Park District Code (Code)70 ILCS 1205/ 1. Office Equipment (desks and file cabinets)

Director Bissias stated new office equipment will be procured for the smaller offices downstairs. IPRA will buy our existing office equipment that is currently upstairs. The move may happen in August. Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve Ordinance 17-03 the Disposal of Park District Property under Park District Code (Code)70 ILCS 1205/ 1 Office Equipment (desks and file cabinets). Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Transfer of Funds from General, Recreation, and Special Recreation Funds to Capital Fund for the Purpose of Capital Expenditures

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej explained that each year we transfer excess funds to the capital fund to pay for capital projects. These transfers are necessary to complete the fitness center construction project and the excess will provide \$325,000 for capital projects in fiscal year 2017-2018. Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve the transfer of funds from general, recreation and special recreation funds to the capital fund for the purpose of capital expenditures. Commissioner Vear seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on 2017-2018 Capital Budget

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej stated staff was conservative with expenditures included in the Capital Budget. There was \$92,148 in funds

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remaining. Director Bissias stated the items that were not funded will be brought back to the Board when we have money to fund them from the sale of the Gordon Park property. Commissioner Lacey motioned to approve the 2017-2018 Capital Budget. Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Board Business

Old Business

None

New Business

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on a License Agreement with the La Grange Rotary Club for the Community Secret Santa Program

Director Bissias updated the Board stating the Community Nurse Association originally ran the Secret Santa Program. However, due to new state laws they cannot continue to do so. They gave the program to the La Grange Rotary Club and the Rotary in turn asked us to partner with them. Director Bissias stated we have room in our back storage for Rotary to install shelving and fencing. Volunteers would only need to come here 2 to 3 times a year. Our attorneys are working on the license agreement. The longest time frame is a 3-year license. This is not a lease. Commissioner Walsh stated this is a fantastic partnership allowing the Rotary to step up and take over the program with the Park District getting involved at no cost for persons in need. He stated it is a fantastic opportunity to pursue since we have the room here to accommodate it. Commissioner Walsh motioned to approve the license agreement with the La Grange Rotary Club for the Community Secret Santa Program with additional terms of a 3-year license and an option to renew after 3 years with Board approval. Additional language will make certain egregious conduct by volunteers a material breach of the agreement. Depending on the conduct, the Park District may terminate the agreement or require the license to cure the breach within 30 days. Commissioner Lacey seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

None

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Public Relations Committee

None

Finance & Capital Project Committee

None

User Group Committee

None

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Bob Sherman, 735 S. Brainard Avenue, La Grange, stated the Park District needs to clarify the purpose of the fitness center. Will it be a service for the village or will it be a revenue stream? He reminded the Board to stay true to their philosophy. He liked the business model.

Jim Boo, 1327 Mason Drive, La Grange, stated he is a citizen concerned about how the fitness center will affect his taxes. He requested an informational sheet with an estimate of finances for the taxpayers. He is surprised at how far this project has progressed and is not organized. He stated the lawsuit at Gordon Park has been going on for 12 years and there were plenty of legal fees paid. He declared the attorneys should be fired and end this lawsuit. He hoped the residents would get a check from the sale.

Giedrius Sulnius, 812 Mason Drive, La Grange, asked if the Board compared fees at the fitness businesses around town. He suggested the fees should be lower for people to stop in. He stated he may be wrong but the pro forma sounds fantastic, however, he feels it will not make money. He does not think that many people go to gyms after February.

Board Comments

Commissioner Lacey was fascinated with the comments from the public tonight. She would like more written information about the potential dog park. She stated staff should inform the Board about upcoming events so they can get involved. There was a Mother/Son Dance she would have liked to volunteer for.

Commissioner Vear asked if our Park District brochures are at the library. Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller stated they are at the Village of La Grange, City of Countryside and the library. President Penicook and Commissioner Lacey agreed staff should check with the Welcome Wagon to distribute brochures to newcomers.

Commissioner Walsh explained to the public that with respect to setting the fees for the fitness center, the Park District has a balancing act with a constant theme of a property tax check from citizens twice a year plus getting what the Park District wants. Having the attitude of not supporting Little League or

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basketball if not participating in it or benefiting from it creates the need for ala carte pricing for taxpayers, classes, organized sports, leagues, and the fitness center. We try to keep our services balanced and prices low to benefit customers rather than for profit. He stated we cannot please everyone but we try to do our best. It is useful for the public to remind us of the appropriate thing to do. He stated staff researched other park districts and a half dozen for-profit fitness centers to compare prices. He felt our prices are less than others. We are delivering as much as possible for a low cost.

Resident Jim Boo stated he appreciated Commissioner Walsh's service. Resident Bob Sherman stated he appreciated Commissioner Walsh's explanation.

Commissioner Ashby thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate by phone this evening. He liked the new website as he could download all his board documents and read them online.

President Penicook congratulated Karel Jacobs for her election to the Park District Board. She apologized for not being able to attend next month's meeting. Commissioner Walsh must be here to run the meeting if Commissioner Ashby is unable to attend. She congratulated Commissioners Ashby and Vear on their reelection and their willingness to serve another term. She stated over the past 12 years there have been a few laughs with Commissioner Walsh. He has swayed a lot of discussion and drove decisions. President Penicook stated she could honestly say Commissioner Walsh has been a major contributor in making the Park District the best!

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Lacey moved for adjournment at 8:44 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walsh and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Mary Ellen Penicook, President

Constantine Bissias, Secretary
Approved 05/08/2017