

**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, 2019

President Vear called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Penicook, Jacobs

ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jim Rock, Hank Beckman from *The Doings*, Tim O'Brien, Brian Opyd, Sharon Martin, Linda Lobello, Michelle Papa, Michael Buttron, Dan Collins, Bob Sherman, Andrea Barnwell

President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Director Bissias stated he received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Ashby effective December 31, 2018. There is now a vacancy on the Board. President Penicook motioned to approve the agenda as amended adding Item 12.7 Selection to Fill a Public Office 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(3) to the Executive Agenda.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments/Participation (Board Manual Section #152)

Brian Opyd, 109 Elm Avenue, La Grange, stated that he reviewed the new dog ordinance and felt it was well written. He suggested adding no dogs on handball courts or basketball courts to the language. He supports the ordinance.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Penicook motioned to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 10, 2018; Item 3.2 Approval of the Executive Session Board Meeting of December 10, 2018; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Reports dated December 31, 2018; Item 3.3 Approval of the

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 14, 2019

Consolidated Vouchers for January dated January 14, 2019; Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports

Director Dean Bissias

Due to the holidays, Director Bissias had nothing else to add other than what was in his board report. He will be gone the rest of this week. Next week he will be away at the IPRA/IAPD conference.

- Commissioner Penicook asked staff how much in additional capital expenditures will be spent on capital projects that will be completed by our fiscal year end of April 30, 2019. Director Bissias will advise her later. There are projects in process.
- Commissioner Penicook asked if there was a new plan for the butterfly garden at Gordon Park. Director Bissias stated the village needs to solve the water run off problem from the parking lot before anything can be planted.
- President Vear suggested that the electronic board packets have an index instead of scrolling for ease of use.

Staff Comments

Superintendent of Facilities Chris Finn

- It is our busy season now with rentals, basketball, and programming.
- Open pickleball has begun. We have two lined courts. There have been about seven participants each day so far.

Superintendent of Finance Leynette Kuniej

- She is working with PDLG customer service to set up installment billing in the new software for summer camps and preschool. Summer camp and preschool registration begins February 1, 2019.

Superintendent of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Staff is going through the hiring process for camps. Commissioner Penicook suggested getting recommendations from past counselors.
- Winter programming is up and running.
- Youth Developmental League has 38 teams this year and over 400 players.
- He is looking in to renting more gym space at the local schools for the basketball program.
- He changed the format for the basketball program in 2014 when there were only 32 participants. The parent coaches are doing a great job and

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 14, 2019

- participation has increased.
- He is working on the budget.

Superintendent of BASE Leanna Hartung

- Leanna is working on the budget.
- She received a letter from DCFS confirming that the BASE program is 'in compliance'. This must be done every few years.

Superintendent of La Grange Fitness Jenny Clark

- This is the busy season for the fitness center.
- There are 541 more members than last year.
- There are about 120 Silver Sneakers memberships. It is an insurance based membership.
- Jenny is working on the contracts to set up two other insurance based memberships.
- The Board thanked Jenny for the graphics and age breakdown in her board report.
- The breakdown for Neighborhood Network (NN) memberships is 47% Brookfield, 35% La Grange Park, 14% Western Springs, 4% La Grange Highlands, and .001% McCook.
- Commissioner Jacobs noted that the largest age demographics for the fitness center are 40 and 50-year olds.
- Mini surveys have been given out for feedback from members.
- Because of all the problems with our spin bikes, Direct Fitness replaced all of them and added upgrades to them.
- Monthly memberships have a retention rate of 80% which is higher than yearly memberships.

Attorney Report

None

Treasurer Report

None

Action Items

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Ordinance 19-01 an Ordinance Amending the Park District of La Grange Code of Ordinances Governing Animals on Park District Property

Commissioner Jacobs researched other park district animal ordinances and informed the Board of their policies. After Board discussion, it was decided to add Brian Opyd's suggestion to the ordinance as well as three items from the Berwyn Park District's policy. Attorney Rock summarized that Item 10.6 will include other court surfaces, playgrounds, the splash pad and botanical area. Item 10.8 will include that no person shall leave a domesticated dog, cat or any other domesticated animal unattended and/or attached by a leash, rope or

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 14, 2019

other item to any object within the park system. No person shall bring a dog, cat, or any other domesticated animal with a known history of, or who exhibit, dangerous behaviors into the District property. Owners or persons shall not bring more than three (3) dogs, cats, or other domesticated animals into District property at any one time or visit. Section 3 would state this ordinance would be in force and effect on May 1, 2019 with exclusions for special events. Commissioner Penicook motioned to approve Ordinance 19-01 amending the Park District of La Grange code of ordinances governing animals on Park District property with the changes delineated by Attorney Jim Rock. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Vear, Penicook, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

Commissioner Jacobs suggested that the Executive Director write a letter to residents stating the changes to the ordinance and requesting that everyone abide by the rules.

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Updating the Park District of La Grange Service Animal Policy

Attorney Rock explained this policy is in accordance with the Department of Justice. Service animals are allowed in the building as they are trained to assist persons with disabilities. Comfort animals are not allowed in the building. Commissioner Penicook motioned to update the Park District of La Grange Service Animal Policy. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Vear, Penicook, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

Discussion and/or Possible Vote on Updating the Park District of La Grange Grievance Procedure Under the ADA Act

Attorney Rock stated this procedure is also in accordance with the Department of Justice and will be posted on the Park District of La Grange website. Commissioner Penicook motioned to accept the update for the Park District of La Grange grievance procedure under the ADA Act. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion which passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Vear, Penicook, Jacobs
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

Board Business

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

Commissioner Penicook stated she has been busy this month reviewing three policies and ordinances.

Public Relations Committee

None

Finance & Capital Project Committee

Commissioner Penicook stated she would volunteer as the temporary finance person due to Commissioner Ashby's resignation.

User Group Committee

None

Marketing Committee

Commissioner Jacobs stated they have not been available to meet for a marketing meeting due to conflicting schedules over the holidays. She added that if there will be an off-leash dog park in the future, there would be a need for a dog user group that could be added to the User Group Committee.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Bob Sherman, 735 S. Brainard, La Grange, suggested there should be a mailing to inform residents of the new dog ordinance with a map showing where the dogs are allowed in each park.

Michelle Papa, 617 8th Avenue, La Grange, stated she was very happy that the ordinance passed. She asked the Board about the possibility of an off-leash park in the future. President Vear explained an off-leash park is only under discussion at this point. We are limited with available land. He is a proponent for other communities or forest preserves with more land than us to explore the idea. Our neighboring communities of La Grange Park, Western Springs, and Countryside have the same issue as us in being landlocked.

Andrea Barnwell, 609 9th Avenue, La Grange, asked the Board if they researched smaller dog parks like city parks. Director Bissias stated that no one wants it in their backyard. President Vear stated the Park District has investigated vacant land, however, the land owners are not conducive to the idea because it is not profitable.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 14, 2019

Andrea also asked about the possibility of a public pool. She requested a survey for a pool as the demographics of our area have changed over the past 17 years. Director Bissias stated the last referendum for a pool lost 3 to 1. At that time, it would have cost 3.2 million dollars for a pool and a small building.

Board Comments

Commissioner Jacobs thanked the public for attending and thanked staff. She is glad the ordinance passed as "pets bring their owners to parks."

Commissioner Penicook stated this new ordinance presents a huge risk to the Park District and there are others that are against it. She stated she will be enforcing the rules.

President Vear stated he is not a dog owner. He knows there are risks, however, it is up to the public and the Park District to police each other. If it creates problems for staff, they need to convey the issues. He agrees that a letter should be sent out immediately and it should include a map. He is anxious to see what happens.


Executive Session

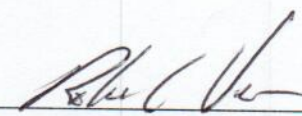
At 8:18 P.M. Commissioner Penicook motioned the Board convene to Executive Session pursuant to Item 12.7 Selection of Filling a Vacancy of a Public Office, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(3). Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

At 8:39 P.M. the Board resumed the regular meeting.

Adjournment

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


Constantine Bissias, Secretary
Approved 02/11/2019


Robert Vear, President