

MINUTES  
REGULAR PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING  
COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT of La GRANGE PARK  
1501 BARNSDALE ROAD, La GRANGE PARK, ILLINOIS  
October 10, 2022 - 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Stastny called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Also present were Commissioners Corte, Ogden, and Ronovsky. Absent was Commissioner Zuck. Additionally present were Executive Director, Jessica Cannaday; Financial Consultant Phil Mesi; Superintendent of Recreation Zak Kerby, Parks Maintenance Zachary Hughes and Don Salvino and Laura Raimondi as recorder.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Park District Mission: The Community Park District of La Grange Park supports a healthy and inclusive community by positively impacting physical, social, emotional, and environmental well-being.

4. Open Forum

Little League parents and associates were present for open forum to discuss Little League's contribution to the maintenance of La Grange Park ballfields.

Lou Ritten, Lagrange resident, previous Little League President, and past Community Park District Board Member stated he was opposed to Little League having to pay anything to the park district to utilize the fields. Mr. Ritten stated that Little League provides a great deal of field maintenance through parent volunteers.

Nicholas Michaels, La Grange Park resident and current Little League President was present to state he was very much against having to pay a flat fee per child when Little League provides field maintenance. He says if he has to better manage parents who volunteer to work better collectively with the Park District, he is willing to do that; but if Little League is forced to pay a flat fee that will be the end of La Grange Park Little League.

Tim Flynn, La Grange Park Resident, father of a Little League participant praised the Little League for how it is run differently than neighboring towns. He said he thinks the volunteering efforts of Little League parents to maintain ballfields is a fair trade for use of the fields. He said La Grange Park should continue to not charge a fee and utilize Little League's volunteers because they are willing to do the dirty work.

Christine Foushi, La Grange Park Resident and Secretary of Little League Board has three children who have in the past and currently partaken in Little League was present to state she was against having to pay a fee for each child. Said it is unfair to ask one entity to pay the salary of a Park District employee, especially a nonprofit that has been a part of the community for so long. She stated parents

have spent a countless amount of their own hours and dollars on keeping Little League running. She says it is unfair to blame Little League alone for the wear and tear on the fields.

Mitch Karam, La Grange Park resident and Little League father and volunteer was present to speak on field maintenance performed by Little League. He said they had hired boys to drag the field and there were no park district employees maintaining the fields prior to this year.

Dave Hyland, La Grange Park resident with three sons in Little League said he believes Little League is built on a spirit of collaboration and said Little League's volunteers are ready and willing to do the work necessary to maintain the fields. He stated he wants to work together for a better solution.

Brent Sordyl, former Little League board member and La Grange Park resident and father of 5 children who've been through Little League program said he is proud of how La Grange Park compares to other suburbs and said La Grange charges double and Western Springs charges astronomical prices. He said he thinks the way La Grange Park has done things through volunteering has been a better method for the community. He said our community has the willingness and manpower to maintain the fields themselves.

Monique Abbate, La Grange Park resident and mother of two sets of twins in Little League expressed that a fee per child would be a lot to ask of families who have multiple children in Little League. She stated she thinks Little League is an essential part of the community and Little League's proposal is more than fair to keep a respectful relationship between Little League and The Community Park District.

President Stastny thanked everyone for coming in and speaking and said we will be talking more about this matter further along in New Business.

5. Approval of the October 10, 2022 Agenda

Commissioner Ronovsky made a motion to approve the October 10, 2022 Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ogden. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Absent: Commissioner Zuck.

6. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

a. September 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Ogden made a motion to approve the September 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Corte. Ayes: Commissioners Stastny, Ogden and Corte. Abstained: Commissioner Ronovsky. Absent: Commissioner Zuck.

7. Communications/Proclamations/Presentations

Kalin Burns, an eagle scout and Ready Teddy Graduate from 2011 was present to present his project which is building a community garden area for the Preschool.

8. Staff Recognition

Zak Kerby, Superintendent of Recreation received his CPRP certification.

9. Staff Reports

a. Executive Report

Executive Director Cannaday presented her report. Questions were asked and answered.

b. Marketing and Operations Report

There were no questions on Marketing and Operations Manager Siedel's report.

c. Recreation Report

There were no questions on Interim Superintendent of Recreation Kerby's report.

d. Parks Report

There were no questions on Building and Grounds Manager Hughes' report.

e. Financial Consultant

Financial Consultant Phil Mesi stated that despite the delay in tax receipts the district was performing well financially. So well, in fact that existing fund balances disqualified the district from Cook County's Bridge Loan application process.

10. Approve Monthly Disbursements

Commissioner Ogden motioned to approve Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$122,737.66, seconded by Commissioner Corte. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Absent: Commissioner Zuck.

11. Committee Reports

a. Sustainability

i. Arbor Advocates Update

b. Long Range Planning

i. Comprehensive Master Plan Update

12. Unfinished Business

13. New Business

a. Brush Storage Area Improvements

Executive Director Cannaday stated that she is working with the Village on a lease agreement for the park district property the Village utilizes for its brush and mulch operations.

b. Tax Levy Estimate

Executive Director Cannaday stated that Cook County announced it will be releasing 2020 levy information, which will allow the district to develop an accurate 2021 Levy Ordinance. She hopes to have it on the agenda next month.

c. Ballfield Maintenance

Commissioner Ronovsky thanked everyone for coming out and speaking. Stated that our mission is to provide the children with the safest fields. She stated that there was never any formal agreement between Little League and the Community Park District, and that it is time to get one in place that addresses safety and liability on our ballfields.

d. Soaring to New Heights Conference

Executive Director Cannaday confirmed that she will be attending State Conference and that no commissioners will be attending this year.

14. Adjourn to Executive Session

At 8:05pm, Commissioner Ronovsky made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session in Accordance with the Open Meetings Act under Section 2(c)(16) for the consideration of self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ogden and passed unanimously by roll call vote. Absent: Commissioner Zuck.

Reconvene Open Session

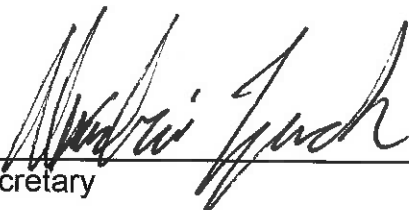
At 8:26pm, Commissioner Ogden made a motion to reconvene Open Session, seconded by Peggy Ronovsky. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Absent: Commissioner Zuck.

15. Potential Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

16. Next Regular Meeting: Monday, November 14, 2022, 6:30pm

17. Adjournment

At 8:28, Commissioner Ronovsky made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ogden. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

  
Secretary

Approved November 14, 2022