

BOARD MINUTES

October 16, 2017

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called at 7:01 p.m. on October 16, 2017 at the Cynthia Neal Center, 8047 W. 91ST Place, Hickory Hills, Illinois.

The following commissioners were present: Jerantowski, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson. Absent: Guisto

Also present were: Jennifer Fullerton, Executive Director, Dan Maier, Recreation Director, and Jim Murphy, Maintenance Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jerantowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve minutes September 11, 2017. Ayes: Jerantowski, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson. Motion approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioners received a PDRMA September Health in Action newsletter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing to report.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

The carnival area was seeded and straw blankets were put over the worst areas. We will water this area during the month of October with the water wheel. The two ball fields at Kasey Meadow need to have the lips on the infields cut out, sodded, and regraded. This has not been done for a long time. Martin Park's fields were done last year so Rich Bonnema Landscaping will be doing the ball fields after soccer ends in early November for a cost of Southwest Field – 95 foot radius \$4,270 plus North Field – 60 foot radius \$925 plus One load of ball mix \$1,000. Wunderlich Doors replaced two tension springs on the south overhead door to the maintenance garage for a cost of \$608.64. Running boards were purchased for the 2017 dump truck from Hawk Ford for \$499.91. The crane in the maintenance facility will receive its annual inspection during the month of October by Uesco Crane. The schedule for shutting down drinking fountains, the skate park, volleyball courts and water fall was presented.

RECREATION REPORT

The Fall Festival was a very hot day with a good crowd. Next year we will eliminate the maze and replace it with rides. It is a lot of work for several days and you have to put up rope and stacks. The food truck Calabria didn't do well but will come back next year. They gave us \$200. Director Fullerton said the net last year was -\$1,055 and this year was a -\$2,600 so it was a large loss. When Pumpkin Fest was the first week of October we always lost \$4,000 on average. Mr. Maier said last year was one of our top years in the last 10 years. The South Suburban Soccer had Chicago Fire tickets included in the price for that program. This year we didn't sell many tickets and the kids didn't pick them up and the weather was beautiful. We are not having a pizza party at Krueger Park for soccer like we usually do however this year we are going to have it at Haunted Trails or PGN and they will give them free pizza and soda. The awards will also be there and some other parks do it this way. There is no additional rental fee. There are three weeks left for the 16' Men's Softball leagues. We saved a lot on fitness wipes at conference. The Sensational Soup & Chili had a net of over \$100 and Xando gave us gift cards to raffle off. Xando will also cater one of our luncheons with soup and Panini's. NRPA was very beneficial with a lot of discounts and new vendors and products. We are looking at purchasing a large 4' tall Connect 4 for \$390 and the vendor may allow us to purchase the demo for half price for After School, the Teen Mixer or a program. We are also looking at the Big Bikes, like big wheels, which usually cost \$2,400 to come

out to our VIP Party and he said it is \$995 each. They work well on our new gym floor. There may be streaks on the new gym floor but you can get them up with a tennis ball. We may charter a T-Ball league in the spring. Quotes are coming in for a scoreboard and maintenance will have to install it on the walking track. Bingo Night was a big success and everyone except for one received a prize. The Horseshoe Casino trip didn't have a lot of people but the net was \$111. The Four Winds trip has a new policy which states that one week prior to the trip we can't add more than three people to the list and this is new people because the chaperone will lose their benefit. Some participants show up the day of the trip with a sub but Mr. Maier said it has only happened once in the last five trips. This is only for new people, not for people that didn't show up because we still have to pay for them. Mr. Maier said it will be put on the receipt that if you have a sub, you'll have to tell us 10 days in advance. Mr. Maier said we are still waiting for an itinerary for the Atlantic City trip however it is almost filled. We are taking one bus. We had a Music Mixer last Friday and we only had 14 participants because the school had a movie that same night. Director Fullerton didn't want to postpone it since it was published. Mr. Maier said Conrady and Glen Oaks still allowed us to distribute flyers. We won't have a DJ for the next Mixer and will just purchase music for it. Mike Petty has been booked for the Children's Christmas Party and the cost went from \$100 to \$150. Tomorrow is the senior luncheon which is filled.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Jerantowski moved, second by Commissioner Morgan to approve Claim Ordinance 747. Ayes: Jerantowski, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson. Motion approved. The Invoice/Memo report was included in the board packet for a further explanation of the check register. Commissioner Kosnick made note of the Investment Report September 30, 2017. Director Fullerton said the investment statement for September was included with the CD report. Commissioner Jerantowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan to approve the Operating Statement for September 30, 2017. Ayes: Jerantowski, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson. Motion approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stormwater for Roberts Road Drainage:

There was a discussion at the last Board meeting about eminent domain regarding the lots that were purchased at the bottom of the hill at Kasey Meadow Park. Lot 8 was eminent domain but not 6 and 7. Attorney David Freeman sent the following "65 ILCS 5/11-61-2 which provides that a municipality has the authority to condemn park district property under limited circumstances ("when the taking will not materially impair or interfere with the use already existing and will not be detrimental to the public."). I was only able to find one case under this statute. In Village of Woodridge v. School District 99, a 2010 case, the Second District Appellate Court (DuPage County) held that the Village could successfully condemn property owned by the school district. In that case, the Court found that the Village's intended use of the school district's property to develop it for an expanded public works facility was permissible." So, it doesn't sound like it matters if is eminent domain, it still may be taken by another government entity. MWRD called and asked if we gave you exclusive use of the strip mall parking lot at 95th & Roberts where Jewel is located and the owner of the property agreed, would that be considered. Director Fullerton told him that it is better if there is standing water at the bottom of the hill and we could put our carnival there but the Fall Festival would be an issue. We would need the strip mall parking lot for an entire week and would be costly because the event would have to have a gate around it and we would have to bring all of our equipment and supplies to that location which is usually stored next to the fest at our Maintenance Facility. Then what about parking for the strip mall patrons and carnivals bring a lot of visitors. Also, the concrete is not as nice as having it on grass. If they only took up a small portion of our land by the Maintenance Facility to hold water then we could still have concerts but then what happens to our sled hill. She told them it is the Board's decision so MWRD or the County would need a presentation by MWRD and the County. Hopefully, they only take a small portion and not the entire bottom of the hill. Commissioner Kosnick said it would impair the public because that is the entire park districts symbol with the sled hill and is used more than just a sled hill for concerts, carnival, Fall Festival and for safety reasons when you have standing water. It is the foundation of Hickory Hills Park District and that is why we overpaid

for it and gave up other things to afford it. Then there is no park district. We put thousands into purchasing it and why can't they take some other part. Director Fullerton said we don't have another visible location and there is no parking at other parks like at Martin Park. That is our only land for special events. We would have to tell the community they we can't have these events or the sled hill. They want land off of Roberts Road because of flooding on that road. We offered to give them a tennis court because we have other ones but that is too high. Commissioner Kosnick said north of the property is where the flooding is. Director Fullerton said also south where the funeral begins. We would allow the detention to go underground but they don't want to spend the money and they don't want to spend the money buying land. Mr. Murphy said they have another option of land next to the dry cleaner and they would have to condemn it and pay for it. They hope they can use our property for free because it is cheaper. Public Works would have to do the maintenance at the dry cleaner land with cutting. It would be better for them on the park property so the park district could cut it. Commissioner Kosnick said we need to hear from them. Director Fullerton said we would no longer be able to have events like Fall Festival because what if there is standing water and it is the day prior to the event and we have fence off the standing water. We can't have children drown in that water. Mr. Murphy said they are drawing up the plans for Palos and now they need to wait three months to see if the land is available for purchase by the Dry Cleaners so they may hold off on Palos and not pave Roberts Road at all. Commissioner Kosnick said for the City to maintain that property is nothing compared to what will happen to us with not using the land at the bottom of the hill. The dialog needs to come directly to the park district from MWRD and the County. Director Fullerton said there is an option proposed by the City to make their detention larger, take part of our Maintenance Facility parking lot and but a new driveway all the way around the Maintenance Facility. That is a better option than having standing water at any time. Commissioners agreed that the Jewel parking lot is not a good option and too dangerous.

Field Rentals:

There were several phone calls from the neighbors of Kasey Meadow Park about five weeks ago complaining that a large group of adults were playing soccer at the park and it was every day so they couldn't play on the soccer field. Some of the families asked if they could play with them and they were told no it is Arabic Day, tomorrow is White Day and Friday is Black Day so you can't play on the field. We started field rentals 1.5 years ago because we had large groups playing soccer at Martin Park every day and the community said they couldn't play there. Also, there was confrontation when our park district programs would start and groups wouldn't leave so the police were called and this was 1.5 years ago. On P. 24 of the Fall brochure it says under Park Usage that you can't have groups of 7 or more because it is considered a league. We give them some leeway up to 10 people. So, you need a permit for more than 10. After the complaints came in, we didn't see these large groups right away. Then last Wednesday, we had a soccer permit that canceled at 2:30pm that day so when leaving for the day at 6pm Director Fullerton noticed a large group playing soccer. She approached them and they didn't have a permit and she asked them to leave. They wanted to finish their game and mentioned that last week or two weeks ago Ms. Muth let them stay and play but told them they needed a permit next time. Then they said it was a public park and they were not leaving and called me Racist and said I couldn't tell them what to do. I tried to explain that any group over 10 has to have a permit and that is the way it is for everyone. There were 30 to 40 people on the field so it was a very large group. They asked to stay on the field so Director Fullerton mentioned the comments that were said about which day it is today (Arabic, White, Black) and that the neighbors complained. They still were yelling and not leaving the field and said they wouldn't. So, the police were called and then it started to get very confrontational so I asked the officer if he had this and could I leave now. At that time four squad cars were there. The next day I had a workshop in the morning and asked staff to send all communication about this incident to me. A man from that group called seven times about this incident. As soon as I returned they called again. I had to explain everything all over again about field rentals and the rules apply to everyone. He said that we keep changing the rules from the advanced notice of 12 and 24 hours to 48 hours. I explained that was changed a week ago, prior to this event, to 48 hours and this had nothing to do with them. I also explained that large groups tear up the field and we have to repair it and this is also to allow times for the community to use the fields when there are no large groups. It was a nice conversation at the

beginning and then he started yelling again. He also called Ms. Muth earlier that day and tried to get her to say she was Racist. An attorney called representing them an hour later and asked about soccer rental information and so I explained it again. Then she called our secretary and asked her the same questions. On Friday they came in and booked the field for several dates. It is \$25 hour for residents to rent the soccer field. All we ask is that they get a permit just like everyone else. Commissioners agreed that these are the rules. Director Fullerton said we will be increasing the prices in 2018, for example, \$25 per hour, per field to \$30 and we did look at what other park districts charge when we first started field rentals. Director Fullerton distributed the internal document that had prices and had many other details. The staff said that in the past we haven't issued permits on Sundays so families could enjoy the park. Director Fullerton said we would like to offer permits for the fields on Sundays since most people don't work on Sundays. Commissioners agreed that would be fine but to limit it to no more than three hours. Director Fullerton said we might start with two hours for now. Eagle Soccer requested a key to our lights at Martin Park. Director Fullerton said he is a regular renter but we have to offer it to everyone and that may cause an issue if they lose the key then the locks have to be changed or someone tries to make a key. He asked because one of times the employee didn't show up to turn the lights on and he had to call KP and another time they were left on for an hour longer than the rental. The employee is paid to turn them on and turn them off and we ask that they come back shortly after the rental is over.

Rich Bonnema Landscaping Contract:

Commissioner Jerantowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve cutting, putting in sod and regrading the Kasey Meadow baseball fields for \$6,195 for Rich Bonnema Landscaping. Ayes: Jerantowski, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson.

Kasey Meadow Park Construction Project:

All the paperwork and documentation for the Kasey Meadow Park project has been approved by IDNR. Judy Bauer, Grant Administrator, with IDNR was on site on September 21 for a 30 minute inspection of the project. The check is in process and should arrive in 30 days. Once the check is received we will request the commissioners to approve a transfer of funds from the recreation fund to capital for at least \$200,000 for the amount that was over budget for this project.

Dance 2016/2017 Bottom Line Report:

The Dance Bottom Line Report shows net revenue for dance of \$56,009 and last year was \$55,832. The net revenue for the dance recital bottom line was lower than last year at \$5,534 and last year was \$6,003. We spent \$300 more on printing because there was a full page added to each recital program to highlight the graduating seniors. Also, we hired Hector Flores-Bonilla for a dance clinic which was held in September 2017. The expenses were \$1,401 and the income was \$500. We only charged \$10 which didn't cover the expenses because we use the profit from costumes to cover the difference in cost and we also order other things with that profit. Last year, we sold 1,444 tickets for three shows and this year we sold 1,417 for three shows. The dance program had 870 participants this year and 909 the previous year. The net for dance classes was \$49,206 and last year was \$49,268. The Competition, Lyrical and Pom classes had increases. Tap, Ballet, Jazz and Hip Hop all saw decreases. Fundraisers (in Misc. Dance) had a net of \$2,152 and last year was \$3,305. Dance costumes had a net of \$4,519 and last year was \$3,258. Costumes had a larger net because last year we transferred \$3,000 to pay for supplies and seminars and this year we allocated \$1,401 for the dance clinic expenses.

Zip Code Report:

In the board packet was the zip code reports for each program season and dance, preschool, after school and the fitness center. The top six towns for 2016 programs are Hickory Hills, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Justice, Bridgeview and Oak Lawn.

NRPA Report:

The NRPA conference session report was included in your packet. The tradeshow was excellent and in the report are some of the discounts that were received. We purchased an Imagination Playground which was \$3,200 and the first time she received a quote it was \$6,000 and 50% off two canopy tents with our logo on it and she met with and has received quotes from two skate park vendors to renovate our skate park. There was a vendor who gave us names of financial software companies. One of them called Locis we haven't heard of and recently contracted them for a quote and a demo. We have also received quotes and demos from Harris and Tyler which are over \$30,000. We found another vendor to inspect our wood poles at MP.

PDRMA Medical Insurance Plan Selection:

In 2018, the increase will be 4.3% for PPO plans, 3.2% for HMO, .9% for dental, .8% for vision and no increase for EAP and Life Insurance. There was no increase last year.

Sequestration Reduction:

The Sequestration reduction for our Build America Bond is 6.9% for July 2017 and it was 6.8% for July 2016.

Market Benchmarking:

Many districts are hiring Management Association to take a look at salaries and benefits of park districts, preparing a Market Benchmarking & Compensation Structure Development Project and assisting with setting pay grades. It would be for the nine full time employees. It would be more of a structure to set raises rather than looking at a salary survey and taking a guess. They would look at the City of Hickory Hills and the surrounding area private businesses. Management Association would be \$2,250 and a membership fee for \$980 for \$3,230 and another firm called Organizational Research Forum Inc quoted \$6,300. Can we hire them? Do the commissioners look at salaries in the surrounding area of competitors, the community, The City of Hickory Hills or schools? Commissioner Kosnick said he thinks they are thorough and do it in closed session. We take into consideration how long employees have been there, what they do, their complaints since a lot of them are vocal about neighboring employments and want to make as much as other people do and they are in different classes as a rule. There is a lot of input and that is why it takes so long and we are right on. I don't see paying \$3,000 to interpret what we know.

Tax Levy:

Eric Anderson from Staub Anderson was very helpful again for capturing new property and proofing the changes made to eliminate some of the special funds including the following IMRF, FICA/Medicare, Audit, Insurance, Workers Comp. The resolution also includes the special recreation fund. We are asking for 3.27%. Last year was 18.68% because it included the special recreation and the bond fund which was higher because of the Byline Bank Bond. The ordinance and notice that will be placed in the newspaper is also included with the resolution. There will be a levy hearing in November so the Board meeting will begin at 6:45pm on November 13. Commissioner Morgan asked the difference of the resolution and ordinance. Director Fullerton said the ordinance is a further explanation of each fund and the bond fund is not included in the ordinance but is in the

resolution. The resolution has to be approved one month prior to the public hearing. Commissioner Jerantowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve Resolution 2017-2.

HICKORY HILLS PARK DISTRICT TRUTH IN TAXATION LAW RESOLUTION 2017-2 RESOLVED, by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Hickory Hills Park District, Cook County, Illinois (“Park District”) that, based upon the most recently ascertainable information, the following determinations are hereby made in accordance with the “Truth in Taxation Law”: **1.** The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2016 were \$1,018,509. **2.** The proposed corporate and special purpose taxes to be levied for 2017 are \$1,081,662. This represents a 6.2% increase over the previous year. **3.** The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2016 were \$390,256. **4.** The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2017 are \$373,172.50. This represents a 4.38% decrease over the previous year. **5.** The total property taxes extended or abated for 2016 were \$1,408,765. **6.** The estimate total property taxes to be levied for 2017 are \$1,454,834.50. This represents a 3.27% increase over the previous year. Any notice which includes any information not specified and required by this Article shall be an invalid notice. **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a public hearing on the proposed levy of the Park District for the 2017 tax year to be held on November 13, 2017 at 6:45pm at the Cynthia Neal Administration Center, 8047 W. 91st Place, Hickory Hills, IL; and that the Secretary cause notice of said hearing to be published, all in accordance with the requirements of the Truth in Taxation Law. Passed this 16th day of October, 2017. Ayes: Jerantowski, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson. Motion approved.

Miscellaneous:

The August fitness center and walking track report is included in the board packet. The resident that was granted the financial assistance declined because she put her in another school.

Commissioner Jerantowski moved, second by Commissioner Morgan moved to adjourn to the next regular board meeting. Ayes: Jerantowski, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34p.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

President