

BOARD MINUTES

May 17, 2021

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:01 pm on May 17, 2021, at the Cynthia Neal Center, 8047 W. 91ST Place, Hickory Hills, Illinois.

The following commissioners were present: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas.

Also present were Jennifer Fullerton, Executive Director, Jim Murphy, Maintenance Manager, Angel Sanchez, Recreation Manager and Tammy Muth, Business Manager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kosnick moved, seconded by Commissioner Zalas, to approve minutes of April 12, 2021.

Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS/APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Kosnick and Commissioner Morgan raised their right hand and read and took the Oath of Office.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Zalas, to appoint Commissioner Peterson as president. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. Commissioner Kosnick moved, seconded by Commissioner Peterson to appoint Commissioner Zalas as vice president, acting secretary and acting treasurer. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to appoint Commissioner Kosnick as secretary/treasurer. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Zalas to appoint the following: official newspaper as The Reporter; Robbins Schwartz, attorney; Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, auditor; Ethics Commission members as Jo Carol Sullivan, Jeff Michaels, and Deborah Grad. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. Commissioner Zalas moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve board meeting dates as presented. All are on the third Monday of the month. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. Commissioner Kosnick moved, seconded by Commissioner Zalas, to adjourn from the organizational meeting at 7:08pm. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved.

Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan TO DECLARE COMMISSIONER'S SEAT TO BE VACANT. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas.

DISCUSSION REGARDING VACANCY OF BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS. No discussion at this time.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No public was present either in person, electronically or by phone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing to report.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Murphy presented the maintenance report, and it was placed on file. The light fixture at Petkiewicz Park has been ordered. The fixture was very old. All of the district's outdoor drinking fountains have been turned on

for the season. Director Fullerton said the indoor drinking fountains have also been turned on. We purchased an attachment that hooks up to the pressure washer and worked very well for cleaning the black surface on the tennis courts. The splash pad is ready to open. Flow switches were replaced, Arch 1 was hired to put in a new cable in the pad for the sensor and it was \$650. A diaphragm was ordered for some of the features since they were leaking. Two maintenance employees passed the Pesticide exam, and one did not. That employee that didn't pass will study over the winter and Mr. Murphy will do some training with him. There has been a lot of garbage in the parks which they don't put in the garbage cans, so it has been taking hours to clean it up. Commissioner Peterson asked what the pesticide exam allows you to do. Mr. Murphy said it allows you to spray and fertilize the turf. Every district must have an applicator which is Mr. Murphy, and the other two full-time employees can spray. Also, Mr. Murphy takes the general standards test. You must pick a category which is turf grass, so he takes the additional test, and the other two employees work under his category. To buy the product, you don't need the license. The license is to apply it legally. We typically spray in the fall and it takes two weeks to spray all the parks. Last year we didn't spray due to COVID and the cost of it.

RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Sanchez presented the recreation report, and it was placed on file. We will be able to have the carnival this year and it will be August 26-29. The new contract is for August of 2021 and 2022. We will follow any restrictions for COVID during that time. Zachary Johnson is the new Recreation Assistant and he started May 3. He worked at Westmont Yard Indoor Sports Complex for six years and has worked with a lot of youth.

There were two situations in the fitness center: one for someone who had a medical reason to not wear the mask and one for a member who was watching something on his phone that looked questionable to another member. In the first situation, the member provided a doctor note to say he could remove his mask while working out in the fitness center but will walk in wearing it. We checked with IDPH and PDRMA and it is an acceptable doctor's note to remove the mask while working out. Commissioner Kosnick asked if he got the shot. Mr. Sanchez said he doesn't know and can't ask. Director Fullerton said if someone tells us they have been vaccinated that is helpful for going over 50 people for the luncheons, but we can't ask, at least at this moment. HIPPA is the reason we can't ask. The second incident was a member who said he was looking at a workout video and another member said he was looking at something on his phone that looked inappropriate. The member was taken back by the comment since he didn't do anything wrong by looking at a workout video. We will have to review and create a new social media policy for fitness center members. Commissioner Kosnick said what is the difference in saying there is no phone use at all. Director Fullerton said what if they are working out to a video or listening to music. We hate for one situation to ruin it for all members. Commissioner Kosnick said there are women that look at a program and comment on how it is going to another person while working out. They talk on their phone at the walking track too. He has seen many fitness center members using their phone and I don't see a problem. Director Fullerton said the member said he most likely will not come back. It was discussed with both sides and all members can continue working out at our facilities. We have lost many fitness center members since it was opened in 2011. Mr. Sanchez said we received an email asking us to change the wording that says Husband/Wife to Married/Spouse on the fitness page. Also, we will keep the language that says, "couple with formalized commitment agreement in the same household."

We received an email from a non-resident requesting to name the skate park after her brother who recently passed away. He went to our skate park often. We told them we could not consider it since they are not residents. In the fitness center, there was a crack on the windowsill tile. It is repaired and you can't tell it was

repaired. They may have set the weights on it and broke it. Director Fullerton said we will put a sign up that says not to sit on the windowsill or set weights on it.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ms. Muth presented the administrative report, and it was placed on file. The preschool end of year party will be Thursday and Friday and they will go to the splash pad. The Preschool Farewell is May 27 & 28, and each child will take a bucket home filled with juice and snacks. We will allow only two people per child to attend the Farewell. Dance pictures were this past Saturday. It was the same amount of time and went very well. The Dance Recital was yesterday at Burbank Park District Fusion Center. Each show was one hour to 1.75 hours and there was some time between numbers for costume changes. We ended late because the last show had older girls and higher intensity dances so there was more time between numbers again. We are interviewing staff for the splash pad. We had to fill out an affidavit for the check fraud from the US Postal Inspector. The ringleader is behind bars. The positive check pay has helped. There was a check that had a completely different check number and not our signatures and not our check stock, so we denied it. There is no charge for Positive Pay from the bank, but it may be \$40 a month in the near future. In the claim ordinance, there are a lot of checks that are voided because a check wouldn't send to the printer, so we were off on all of the other check numbers. The preliminary in-person audit started May 10 and we have a bunch of stuff to work on for the new auditor. The audit will be the last week of June.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve Claim Ordinance 790. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. The Invoice/Memo report was included in the board packet for a further explanation of the check register. Commissioner Peterson made note of the Investment Report of April 30, 2021, which includes the US Treasury statement. Director Fullerton said \$100,000 was invested in US Treasuries since taxes are coming in. Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Zalas, to approve the Tentative Operating Statements for April 30, 2021. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. It is tentative until the audit is finished.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Fullerton announced her vacation/surgery for next week. We received tax objections over the weekend for 2010 to 2014 so she is working with Robbins Schwartz on them. The attorney said the cost will be a few thousand dollars and they are representing many other park districts and several local government agencies. They have our liability fund included in the tax objections and we have never had enough money in that fund. We transferred from the recreation and corporate funds every year until those funds were eliminated and now are part of the corporate and recreation funds. We can't have as much as two times the expenses in any funds plus the uncollected taxes. The court date is this Thursday. The attorney will tell the objector that the calculation is wrong. She did tell the attorney what bad timing this is with COVID and not getting any tax relief. Commissioner Morgan asked how far are they allowed to go back. Director Fullerton thought it was 10 years but is not sure. Commissioner Kosnick asked who are the tax objectors? Director Fullerton said she only knows of them as attorneys and they get a percentage of that cut.

30th Anniversary Award:

Congratulations to Patrick Kosnick for serving as a park commissioner for 30 years.

Kasey Meadow Park OSLAD Grant Project:

The final payment of \$160,187.50 was received on Friday, April 16, from IDNR. All assets are documented in AssetWorks for the auditor. This project is complete. We received a negative comment on Facebook about the skate park, mainly about the layout of the skate park. Spohn Ranch designed the park and has many years of experience. There were focus groups and it was in our brochure and it was in the newspaper so he could have given his input. Also, the skate park flow will be different due to allowing bikes and scooters as well as skateboards. The secretary sent him a Facebook message to call the director, but he never called. Commissioner Peterson said there are a lot of people that use the skate park.

Cynthia Neal (CN) Center Renovation Landscaping Approval:

All minor punch list items are now complete. The only items left are landscaping, repair sprinkler line, and to take out the concrete by the far east outer door to prevent heaving.

Concrete Replacement at CN Center and Maintenance Facility:

Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve LK Construction & Development for \$4,100. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. This is for the concrete slab on the east side of the building where we could not open the door during the wintertime. The second area is at the Maintenance Facility, single door, off the parking lot. It is a similar issue with the door that you can't open it in the wintertime.

Coronavirus and Grants:

We are still waiting on the FEMA grant. State guidelines are changing from week to week for capacity limits, so we are following them as they are updated. No one complained that we stopped taking temperature checks. We may be able to allow patrons to come in without face masks tomorrow if they have been vaccinated and we will not be asking for the vaccination card. It will be on the honor system.

Mower Purchase:

Commissioner Kosnick moved, seconded by Commissioner Zalas, for the Groundskeeper 4000 lawn mower for \$52,399.07 from Reinders with flow divider kit. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. There is a trade for the 2008 Toro 4000D and we are getting \$3,000 for it. The mower was bid through CMS (Center Management Services) which is a state bid process. Mr. Murphy said it would last 10 years. We could not get such a good price without going through the state bid process.

Email Request for Dog Park:

An email request came in from a resident requesting a Dog Park. There are still complaints about dog bites in the community and parks even though we don't allow pets in the parks. It is the biggest complaint by staff that we must stop people with dogs in the parks and they yell and call staff names, but we know we have to enforce it. We refer them to Prairie View Park since that is the only park that you can walk your dog because it is owned by the City. Commissioners discussed it and will keep the parks as no pets allowed.

Marty Ptacek Park:

We are planning on renovating Marty Ptacek Park in 2022 which would include replacing the playground, swings, seats, mulch, and some concrete work. The first step in planning the renovation is to make sure the school district will be keeping this playground for at least 18 years. The current lease is until 2028 so we are

asking for an extension for 20 more years to 2042. We would have liked to try for an OSLAD Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant however they require a new addition to the playground (not just a playground and swing) and this will not be possible since the City owns some land to the east of the playground and the land is very limited around the playground. Upland Design sent a quote for the playground with an estimate of \$142,000 based on 2021 costs, so we are estimating the playground to be at \$152,000 in 2022. Before moving forward with the renovation, we will be asking School District 117 to renew the lease agreement to 2042 and we will be asking to stage construction in the parking lot at Conrady School in the summer of 2022. An email was sent to Jeannie Stachowiak at School District 117 and she responded back that there will be a committee meeting to discuss it this summer.

Vandalism:

On April 19, there was minor graffiti at the skate park. On April 20, someone pulled the bark off a tree at Prairie View Park. We had to put black tar on the tree to prevent it from dying. On April 27, someone snapped a tree in half at Memorial Park. There are two more trees left of the six trees that were planted in 2018 when the park was renovated. We are not going to purchase any trees in that area for a few years. Commissioner Morgan asked if the trees are insured. Director Fullerton said no because our deductible is \$1,000. On April 27, someone wrote on the new garbage can by the tennis courts. This garbage can is not in view of the cameras. On Saturday, May 1, someone wrote on a skate park ramp.

Follow Up on Vandalism cases:

On December 25, 2019, a non-resident from Bridgeview was joyriding through the Kasey Meadow Park fields and caused significant damage to the fields costing the park district \$3,718.48. Court was on April 21, 2021 and has been continued to June 1. This is through the Bridgeview Courthouse.

On April 13, a 13-year-old from Justice, threw a stick at the window at the Krueger Park Rec Center. It happened during Bingo, so Angel Sanchez saw the incident and it really scared the patrons. I went to City Hall for court on May 4 but he didn't show up for court. The City will send a letter to the parent seeking the \$500 court fine but the park district will receive nothing. The cost of the damage is \$508 so that will be placed on their household to pay before registering for anything and the child is banned from the park district.

Miscellaneous:

The April fitness center and walking track report was included in the board packet.

Commissioner Kosnick asked about the carnival and what came of the City. Director Fullerton said nothing came of it and there isn't a Street Fair this summer. There was a discussion with Debbie Ferrero about the City changing the Street Fair to the same weekend as the Carnival in August. Director Fullerton said there would be a conflict with food vendors in the current two year contract so she would have to call All Around Amusements. Debbie said to hold off since they may not have the Street Fair at all this year or next year and she would call back if they were interested in moving the Street Fair to the same weekend as the Carnival in August. Commissioner Kosnick said parking would be an issue to have the Street Fair and the Carnival.

Commissioner Election and Vacancy:

Commissioner Jerantowski told me she is not interested in continuing in May to be on the Park Board and called the other four board members to let them know.

Closed Session Review:

There are no closed session minutes to release at this time.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46p.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

President