

BOARD MINUTES

July 19, 2021

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:03 pm on July 19, 2021, at the Cynthia Neal Center, 8047 W. 91ST Place, Hickory Hills, Illinois.

The following commissioners were present: Kosnick, Peterson, Zalas. Morgan arrived at 7:04pm.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kosnick moved, seconded by Commissioner Zalas, to approve minutes of June 21, 2021.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioner Kosnick and Commissioner Morgan received a certificate from the Cook County Election for their 4-year terms. Commissioners received an updated staff phone list.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Barnard was interviewed for the board seat and this is in the Director's report.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Murphy presented the maintenance report, and it was placed on file. The chlorine blatter failed on the splash pad so it was put to manual. The lightning detection control box stopped working so a replacement box was given to us by Thor Guard for the remainder of the season. Thor Guard sent a quote for \$23,000. Director Fullerton reached out to several directors and one of the park districts said they purchased a lightning detection system from Weather Bug for \$14,000. Most park districts don't have a lightning detection and use their phones to set up weather alerts. She gave Mr. Murphy several other companies from which to get prices from. Commissioner Kosnick said it is a lot of money but if something goes wrong, the suit that is settled will be more than \$23,000. Director Fullerton said they can't sue for an Act of God but she will check with PDRMA. Commissioner Zalas said if you are not required to have it, then you are fine, but if you have the system and it doesn't work, then you have a problem. Commissioner Kosnick asked about the cost of the blow ups, and is it the same price since you didn't use it for one year and 4 months. Mr. Murphy said the inflatables have an annual inspection so there is no break in the price because it wasn't done in January versus June. In order for the park district to use them, we need a sticker on them.

RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Sanchez presented the recreation report, and it was placed on file. Summer programs have been exceeding enrollment and both camps were filled in all three sessions. People are on the wait list for tennis and volleyball. Violin was offered in the summer since we didn't have that program for a year and will be starting up again in the fall. The July 4th House Decorating Contest winner was Denise Saniki and she will receive a \$20 gift card from our sponsor, Prime Time Restaurant. Four Winds returned on July 9th with a full bus and 38 participants attending. There has been a rise in interest for birthday parties and it can include the bounce house. To rent a bounce house the fee is \$250 to \$400 (2 hours to 8 hours). Our two-hour rental fee with the room and bounce house is \$200-\$260. The State of Illinois changed the election date from March 15 to June 28, 2022. The summer election affects our programs since we have over 112 campers at that building. All the rooms are taken

at KP. The election is all day. We can have our campers go on a trip that day to an inside place, so we don't have to worry about the weather. The pick up and drop off will be busy if there is an election. It is inconvenient to accommodate the polling place request. Director Fullerton said she sent an email about the conflict and that we wouldn't be able to accommodate them and got nothing back. They should be able to use the schools since they are empty. Mr. Sanchez said the fitness center hours in the fall to spring will be closing at 9pm Monday to Friday and the weekend hours will be Saturday to 4pm and Sunday to 3pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ms. Muth presented the administrative report, and it was placed on file. Based on the preschool registration, we will have one teacher working a full day. The evaluations for preschool and dance were both favorable. Not many surveys were turned in. The parents would like to see more projects versus worksheets in preschool. Summer dance has low attendance in some classes, but others have high enrollment, so we are having all classes. Registration has begun for current dance students who took classes last fall to spring session and the summer session. The splash pad has been going well with one small incident. This is the first job of the splash pad staff. The auditors were here June 28-30 and it went well. They are easy to work with from my side of things and much easier than the last audit. If you need mega passes, let Ms. Muth know about it and in the director's report is what you will need to give us. The CN Secretary gave notice that he is leaving after working here since November. Director Fullerton said we have a lot of requests for the children to come in with street clothes on at the splash pad. They want to cool off while at the park. We are thinking of allowing it. It will still be for parents with children. An adult can't just come in and get wet without a child or just come in the pad to lay out in the sun. A long time ago, water parks and pools would not let you come in with dark clothing or street clothes because dye in the clothes would turn blonde hair green. Jim Murphy called Vortex and the rep said yes, you can wear street clothes at all Vortex splash pads. This includes denim and dark clothing. Last Thursday, we allowed two camp kids to wear a pink and dark blue shirt to cover up and nothing bled into the recovery tank at the pad. We would like to try street clothes the week of the Carnival. Commissioner Morgan asked if they could wear gym shoes to the pad. Ms. Muth said yes, they can wear gym shoes. Usually, they wear water shoes, but gym shoes are fine, unless they are muddy. Commissioners were fine with wearing street clothes to the splash pad. Also, next year we will not advertise street clothes but will allow it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve Claim Ordinance 792. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. Commissioner Kosnick asked about checks #32892 and #38300 and the difference of the prices for the buildings. Director Fullerton said these are the fees the cleaning companies charge us. We have been working with the cleaning company at Krueger Park for many years and they give us a better price for that building. Mr. Murphy said these companies come in even during bad weather and are excellent to work with. 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 June 30, 2021, which includes the US Treasury statement. Director Fullerton said there was no transfer of funds to the US Treasury so will revise the 6/30/21 report. Tax distributions are very late this year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Commissioner Vacancy:

Amy Barnard said she is interested in the commissioner position that is open. She said I grew up in Hickory Hills and live here now. I was very active in the park district with dance, softball, preschool, and it is like my second home because we come here every day with my kids. My son attended preschool last year and is returning in the fall, and we are in gymnastics, Nature Walk and Art for Kids. We love the programs. I taught at St. Patricia's for eight years and still work there as a substitute teacher. I worked at Standard Bank for six years so I have experience in banking. I am the daughter of Russ Lindeman who is the owner of Par Towing and was a retired Hickory Hills police officer for 26 years. I live across the street from him. I love the park district and you do an amazing job and express how beautiful it is and well run. It is nice to see the smiles of the camp children and they seem to be having a blast. I was the 8th grade program teacher, so I have experience in event planning, confirmations, graduations, open houses, and spring trips and was the student council moderator. Commissioner Morgan asked how you view the park district's role within the community. Mrs. Barnard said excellent. Every corner there is something going on with the park district. The activities are phenomenal. The role is above and beyond with free events and the splash pad that is offered and different activities for residents and that you also allow non-residents.

CN Renovation Project:

The landscaping and irrigation repair is complete on the CN project. Our maintenance staff put in sod and some spots on the hill will need to be reseeded. Also, the two squares of concrete on the east side of the building must be broken up and then reset to pitch correctly to get the water and ice buildup away from the building in the winter.

Fitness Center Air Conditioning Aaon Unit Repair:

As discussed previously, the air conditioning went out in the Fitness Center on June 2. The Aaon unit is an insurance claim. The unit was repaired on June 21 and the total cost of the repair is \$19,698.75. This includes repairs by Doornbos and Amber Mechanical and Mobile Air for the portable AC units. All invoices will be paid in full by July 15 and then we will receive a check from PDRMA minus our deductible of \$1,000. Mr. Murphy said Doornbos came back after it was installed because he had to put in a new schematic and re-wire the entire unit. Now they can figure everything out since they programmed the schematic. There is a one-year warranty for the surge protection. All other current units also have surge protection. The surge protection didn't fail until the unit broke. The old unit was 11 years old. This is the most common and most reliable surge protection on roof top units. We can replace other surge protections that are older than 10 years and we should look at getting them replaced. Commissioner Peterson asked if we have surge protection for the electrical box. Mr. Murphy said the entire building has surge protection at CN because it is newly renovated. KP is 11 years old, so it is only on the newer section.

Marty Ptacek Park and Empty Lot off 78th Ct.

An email was sent to the school district about Marty Ptacek Park asking that the school district contact the city and hold a public hearing to notify the community regarding putting in a park and playground in the empty lot at 78th Ct. The email is in the board packet. It also addressed the request for 10 parking spots at Krueger Park. We did not hear back from the school district, and the email was sent to the Superintendent and Director of Building and Grounds for School District 117, but they may be on break for the summer. The OSLAD grant

deadline was announced and is September 1. I doubt they would have any community outreach done by then. Commissioner Zalas asked if we said no on something. Director Fullerton said we said no to the 10 parking spots they requested at KP. For the park, we told them we have \$141,000 to renovate the park and playground. They have to have a public hearing and reach out to the community and reach out to the City to see what can be built on that land. Once they do those things, we can look at a grant. Commissioner Kosnick said we have to make sure the residential homes want a park next door to them.

Skate Park:

There have been a lot of complaints about the skate park from the residents that live across the street. They are congregating in big groups and making comments to the residents while they are sitting on their front porch or going to their car, and they are nasty comments. One of the houses got egged and another complained about fireworks being thrown at their houses. She told the neighbors to call the police. Brian Nelligan, our community liaison with the police, has been wonderful and he sent extra patrol to the skate park parking lot. The skate park is getting very bad. A solution may be to shorten the season of the skate park. We open April 1 and close October 31. Maybe we could change it to opening May 1 since April is cold and closing September 30. The worst time at the skate park is right before the kids get out of school and then the summer is a little quieter because it is hot. There is no shade out there because we don't want them to camp out there and they have tried to put hammocks and tents out there. If it starts getting bad and doesn't improve, it is time to make a big deal about it and put it in the newspaper that we may consider closing it. A lot of the skaters are not from here. We never see young kids over there except right when we opened, and they congregate in groups. When I was down there the other day, there was nasty language and they called me nasty names when I was close to the fence cleaning up garbage. If you approach them to discuss it, then they trash the skate park. Commissioner Peterson asked if you would close early this year. Director Fullerton said next year. Mr. Murphy asked what we would do about the tennis courts. Director Fullerton said we would leave them open. Mr. Murphy said you can't close the skate park and leave the tennis courts open because they will go in there. Then you must close the soccer down. Director Fullerton said that soccer and basketball would close with the skate park since it all has a gate around it but not the tennis courts. Mr. Murphy said it comes in spurts and you get good groups so I will talk to the neighbors. There has been garbage and spray paint at the beginning, but it got better. Director Fullerton said she has been here 16 years and it has not improved at the skate park. The police were in the parking lot this year after it got bad and that is when it got better. Now that they are not there, will it get worse? When you hear the stories of the neighbors, you will understand what they are going through. It was decided to not do anything at this time and if residents complain, to tell them to come to a board meeting.

CN Secretary:

Ryan Jana, the CN Secretary, gave notice today that he is leaving for another job. He said the reason is pay and he is looking for growth. He also said that this job has a lot of accounting which is not his strong side. He said the office atmosphere and the staff are great to work with. The job was posted on Indeed today and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association right before the meeting. Ms. Muth has 7 vacation days scheduled and is his boss. Director Fullerton said she will run the office and work at the front desk while Ms. Muth is on vacation and the recreation staff should be able to help for a few hours on some days. If there is an emergency, for example, at the park or splash pad, there will be a sign put on the door that the building is closed for that period. Commissioners agreed that was fine.

Commissioner Kosnick said regarding employees, and you talk about the monetary aspect quite a bit, would it be an asset to hire additional people in maintenance where it cuts everyone's jobs, where one guy cuts grass for four hours and do it for two hours and rotate them. Mr. Murphy said we are not getting applications. We had two apply this summer and 20 years ago we had a waiting list to get in. They make minimum wage to start, and they are not applying here for summer work. Director Fullerton said there are a lot of open jobs everywhere right now. Commissioner Kosnick said then with word of mouth they could tell them they sit around for two hours. Director Fullerton said our maintenance staff does not sit around for two hours. The residents would notice it and call us to complain. Only 5 minutes to take a drink of water and a short break.

Coronavirus and Unemployment:

Director Fullerton discussed two unemployment cases.

Vandalism/Incidents:

In the board packet was the report from Brian Nelligan, our police liaison. We only knew about some of these incidents so this regular update has been very helpful.

We had an incident where someone wedged a frisbee in the family changing bathroom and the cleaning crew found it. The splash pad attendant did not check the washroom so we will talk to her about it.

Financial Audit:

The auditors were in my office for 3 days in June for the second round of the audit. They will be at the September 20th meeting at 7pm since they are new auditors. Sikich, the previous auditor, was here due to a misstatement detected because the park district staff was doing the adjusting journal entries and not a CPA. This year and in the future, Beverly Meekins, who is the accountant/CPA we hire each month to do the bank rec, will enter the adjusting journal entries. The reason to mention this again, is because typically Beverly receives \$400 a month for the monthly bank rec, so this time of the year the invoice is higher due to the audit work. Would the board consider meeting before the regular board meeting, around 5:15pm, to go over the budget and audit first so you can ask questions at 7pm when the auditor is here? It was decided to have the budget/audit discussion at 5:30pm on September 20th and the regular meeting will be begin at 7pm.

Miscellaneous:

The June fitness center and walking track report was included in the board packet. PDRMA sent us a check for \$2,071.01 due to a recalculation of the 2020 workers' compensation member contribution. This was due to reduced staffing and associated payroll for many PDRMA members. We did not receive the Scotts Field Grant. The email we received was included in the board packet. Former Commissioner Jerantowski sent a letter and Director Fullerton read it.

Director Fullerton distributed job postings from other park districts for similar jobs for the Maintenance Manager and Executive Director since there will be retirements for these positions in the next few years. She wanted to educate the board on how much other districts have for a starting pay and pay range.

She asked if the commissioners get any job postings from IAPD and IPRA. They all said no. Commissioner Zalas said he can do his own research and look up resources, so no need to give him these.

Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to convene to closed session at 8:28p.m. to discuss agenda item listed as: CLOSED SESSION: 2(C)(3) DISCUSSION OF THE SELECTION OF A PERSON TO FILL A PUBLIC OFFICE AS DEFINED IN THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, INCLUDING A VACANCY IN A PUBLIC OFFICE, OR THE DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE OR REMOVAL OF THE OCCUPANT OF A PUBLIC OFFICE. Ayes: Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved.

The commissioners came out of closed session at 8:54pm and resumed the regular meeting. Commissioner Morgan stated that the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment for the open commissioner seat. Commissioners have some questions to ask regarding the election rules and would like Attorney Freeman to attend the August 16th board meeting. Commissioner Kosnick would also like to discuss the Fitness Center membership for commissioners that have served for 20 years since the attorney said he changed his mind. Director Fullerton said she would contact Attorney Freeman.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

President