

BOARD MINUTES

December 18, 2023

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:07pm on December 18, 2023, at the Cynthia Neal Center, 8047 W. 91ST Place, Hickory Hills, Illinois.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Zalas, to approve the minutes of November 20, 2023. Ayes: Czarny, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing to report.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Ingalls presented the maintenance report, and it was placed on file. The Toro wing mower will be going to Reinders in Mundelein. We don't have the equipment to do the computer repairs that it needs. Public works will be plowing our lots at night when we get snow and we do it during the day. Commissioner Kosnick asked if you use the overhead crane in the Maintenance Facility and the man lift. Mr. Ingalls said we use the crane daily. We have a man lift at KP and that is not used every day. It is used mainly when we have to change lights in the gym or get a ball down. Commissioner Peterson asked if you must use a harness for the lift. Mr. Ingalls said no because it is a one-man basket. You need to wear a harness with the boom lift.

RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Sanchez presented the recreation report, and it was placed on file. On March 19, 2024, is the senior luncheon and the election polling place. Several parking spots will be blocked off and we may have to put a maximum on the luncheons. Mr. Sanchez said he will look at the parking lot in December since we have 70 registered and see how many open parking spots there are. We should be fine with parking and have both at the same time. Commissioner Kosnick said the school is still parking in our KP lot. Mr. Sanchez said not as many park at KP since the school has expanded their parking lot but he will inform them of the senior luncheons and events. Commissioner Czarny asked if the employee that had a seizure could wear a cap. Director Fullerton said she will check on it.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ms. Muth presented the administrative report, and it was placed on file. We have had the new RecTrac software for a few weeks. We have had some questions, but Vermont is answering them within 24 to 48 hours.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Zalas moved, seconded by Commissioner Czarny, to approve Claim Ordinance 821.

Ayes: Czarny, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. Commissioner Kosnick made note of the Investment Report of November 30, 2023, which includes the US Treasury statement. The two CDs expire this

week. There was \$640,000 in US Treasuries cashed in. The \$40,000 is because we were short on funds with no taxes or registration coming in at that time. Then \$200,000 was for the refunded bond payment and \$400,000 was for the 2022 bond. Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Czarny, to approve the Operating Statements for November 30, 2023. Ayes: Czarny, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bond 2020 Abatement Ordinance:

Commissioner Zalas moved, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve ORDINANCE 2023-359- AN ORDINANCE ABATING THE TAX HERETOFORE LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2023 TO PAY DEBT SERVICE ON \$2,560,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PARK BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2020B, OF THE HICKORY HILLS PARK DISTRICT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Ayes: Czarny, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion Approved. This must be approved annually.

Osborne Park OSLAD Grant Construction Project:

Upland Design is working on getting all the contracts signed by both parties and will get the certificate of insurance and bond so we can proceed with the Osborne Park project. There was a FOIA request that came in from a union, but most questions couldn't be answered yet such as start date, end date and contracts. Director Fullerton sent what she had which was the bid documents which can also be found online.

Phone, TV, Internet Provider Quotes:

During the November Board meeting, Tammy showed in her report a comparison of AT&T vs Comcast and said the cost difference would be \$4,896 more per year to go with Comcast. After the Thanksgiving holiday, Tammy said she realized that the phones were not included. We had several conference calls and emails with Comcast and in the end, they couldn't hook us up and connect us prior to the 12/14/23 deadline for our AT&T contract so we had to sign with AT&T for another year. This was for the phone lines, internet and cable/TV. We have been working on this for months but the contract signing just started happening after the last board meeting. Once we found out we were missing phones, we had to talk to Comcast about Coax only which was spreadsheet #1 and spreadsheet #2 was for fiber with 100 megabits and spreadsheet #3 was for fiber with 200 megabits. Fiber is more expensive with both providers compared to Coax. Comcast was \$97 less per month than AT&T for Coax. If we wouldn't have signed a contract with AT&T, AT&T would have charged \$18,000 a month for the out of contract rate. The contract was signed with AT&T on 12/12/23 before the contract deadline of 12/14/23. We'll look at Comcast again next year. Commissioner Morgan asked if Comcast charged us anything. Director Fullerton said they were going to but then we were on some Zoom calls, and they kept saying they will get back to us because there may be construction cost. In the end, Comcast said there was no charge. Then we told them we signed with AT&T because they couldn't connect us prior to the contract ending so we didn't have a choice. We don't have a contract with AT&T for internet and Uverse/cable TV so we can switch those anytime we want. Ms. Muth would like to take a break since this was a lot of work and revisit internet and cable TV with Comcast in the summer. Commissioner Kosnick said he knows people that have had problems with Comcast. Director Fullerton said we have a lot of problems with AT&T trying to get over \$30,000 of overcharges off our invoices for 11 months which was a huge amount of work.

Bereavement Leave:

Commissioner Zalas moved, seconded by Commissioner Kosnick, to include the following under Bereavement leave, “(biological/adopted/foster/step/legal ward/loco parentis) in the Immediate Family member section. Ayes: Czarny, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved. The policy will read as Immediate family (biological/adopted/foster/step/legal ward/loco parentis) is defined as the employee’s spouse, child, parent and sibling, as well as the employee’s spouse’s child and parent. Commissioner Zalas asked who drew this up. Director Fullerton said it was originally from the PDRMA website and our attorneys proofed it, but it was a few years ago. Commissioner Zalas asked where they got it from. Who sets the rules? Is it the State that says what people should get? Director Fullerton said usually PDRMA will get it from the State, but she will ask PDRMA. Many of our policies were over 20 years old until a few years ago when we went through a PDRMA review, and our attorney reviewed all of our policies. Commissioner Zalas said the other one says Child Bereavement Act. Is that the State Act? Director Fullerton said it is usually State not County. We follow the State. Commissioner Zalas asked when you cite something, I would like to know where it is from. Director Fullerton said she will have our attorney tell us the Act. When there is a new law, it typically comes from our corporate attorney and the PDRMA attorney. It includes the language to use and then it goes to the Board for approval.

Sick Day Policy:

The sick policy is as follows and the recommendation is to add the word hospitalized. “A physician’s certificate confirming your illness or injury, your fitness to return to work, and your ability or inability to perform the essential functions of your position may be requested after absences of more than three working days in succession or **hospitalized** or in the event of frequent use of sick leave. Failure to comply with this policy or abuse of this policy may result in disciplinary measures, up to and including discharge.” Director Fullerton said it is not a State Act and came from PDRMA as a recommendation. Commissioner Zalas said he wants to know where it comes from. Director Fullerton said that was explained in the director’s report so what more do you need? Commissioner Zalas said you didn’t need this before. Director Fullerton said it was stated in the director’s report that it was recommended by PDRMA and is not the executive director making it up. Commissioner Zalas said you can put in a side note and it doesn’t say Hickory Hills Park District. Commissioner Peterson said it says IMRF and is that a union? Is it PDRMA? Director Fullerton said PDRMA is not our pension. Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) is our pension. Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and include the word “hospitalized.” Ayes: Czarny, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Nays: Kosnick. Motion approved.

SWSRA Member District Rate Increase:

The recommendation is to approve the Articles of Agreement and approve the Resolutions to increase the SWSRA rate from 2% to 2.25%. Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Czarny to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2023-8 RESOLUTION OF THE HICKORY HILLS PARK DISTRICT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS APPROVING THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTH WEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION which increases the rate to 2.25%. Ayes: Czarny, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved.

Annual Safety Award:

Director Fullerton went over the PDRMA Review, safety workshops, and actions items we had to complete in 2023. Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the safety award as presented with an additional \$100 for this calendar year due to the 2023 PDRMA Kickoff Review Year. Ayes: Czarny, Kosnick, Morgan, Peterson, Zalas. Motion approved.

Mid-Year Budget Review:

The board packet includes a comparison of October 31, 2023, with the last two years' budget ending on October 31, 2021, and October 31, 2022. The highlights were discussed at the board meeting.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the weeklong trips were money makers. Director Fullerton said it was less than \$1,000. On the weeklong trip, your revenue would be higher but so are the expenses. Commissioner Kosnick said the buses are out of wack. Director Fullerton said the bus cost is very high this year and we used to have 50 people going to Four Winds and now have 20. Senior revenue is down for trips and all programs ever since the pandemic. Commissioner Kosnick said we used to have 52 people as the norm and we had a big bus that is easier to get on, turns better, is lower to the ground and has a bathroom. The last trip was a party bus and he heard complaints before we got out of the parking lot. Director Fullerton said the bus size depends on how many people are going. Commissioner Kosnick said last month I looked at the card games and luncheons and how much the net was versus the cost of the person going on the trip which is \$40. Other places are \$25. They are screaming about the \$40 because others are \$30. Let's say it is \$1,200, you get 35 people, it doesn't require a big bus for the space but it is required for comfort and a better ride because it has more than one axle which is big factor and the bathroom. If we get 35 people and you deduct \$10 for each one down to \$30 and you still make money on the operation and you will get more people back. None of the cliques from Palos come anymore. Director Fullerton said all of our programs are like that. We used to get 125 for the senior luncheon. It is down to 60-70 and 20 of them passed away. Commissioner Kosnick said we are not here to make money and use taxpayers' money for seniors so why not knock the price down \$10 and get people back. Our trips never used to get canceled. Director Fullerton said they were coming here rather than anywhere else because we were the least expense. The \$20 trip can be on a shuttle bus with strangers. Commissioner Kosnick said he went on the \$20 trip, and it was fine. We just raised it from \$40 to \$41 for Four Winds. Director Fullerton said all programs and trips went up \$1 except senior luncheons. The concern could be that you are subsidizing gambling. If you go to \$30 and you are losing on trips how it will look to pay for residents to go gambling. We could drop it once to \$30 and see if the attendance increases. Commissioner Kosnick said you have to do it more than once so the people that go are aware of it. Director Fullerton said it is up to the commissioners to subsidize the Four Winds casino trips and if there is a loss then the park district will use program money from other areas to pay for those trips. Commissioner Kosnick said we are not here to make a lot of money. Director Fullerton said for some of the senior luncheons we are paying \$11 to \$12 to feed them and we are charging them \$9 so we are subsidizing senior luncheons. Next month, we will discuss if we are dropping the price of Four Winds and any other trips.

Miscellaneous:

The October fitness center and walking track report was included in the board packet. We received \$5,000 from Old National Bank for the annual sponsorship.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28p.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

President