

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 24, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Highland Park was held in the Board Room at the West Ridge Center, 636 Ridge Road, Highland Park, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Kaplan.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, President Kaplan

**Absent:** Commissioner Flores Weisskopf

**Staff Present:** Executive Director McElroy; Deputy Director of Operations Donahue; IT Manager Johnson; Director Romes; Assistant Director Smith; Assistant Director Carr; Director Voss; Director Gogola; Director Curtis, Manager Laue, Manager Pratscher; Manager Pierce; Manager Saunders

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** – None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from June 14, 2018 Workshop Meeting; Minutes from June 26, 2108 Annual Board Meeting; Minutes from June 26, 2018 Regular Board Meeting; Minutes from July 10, 2018 Workshop Meeting; Approval of Updated minutes from May 16, 2018 Special Meeting; May 22, 2018 Regular Board Meeting; May 29, 2018 Special Meeting; Approval of 2018 West Ridge Center Furnaces Replacement Project BID; Approval of 2018 Heller Nature Center – Ropes Course ADA Improvements Projects BID; Approval of 3.15 Purchasing Policy; Approval of 3.15A Purchasing – Purchase Card Policy; Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$2,386,255.41.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein; seconded by Vice President Ruttenberg to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

**Aye:** Commissioner Bernstein, Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Grossberg, President Kaplan

**Nay:** None

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Absent: Commissioner Flores Weisskopf

Abstain: None

**Motion Carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Director Curtis stated that at the six-month mark, operational revenue without the property tax dollars is under budget by about \$66,000, that is the year to date budget. The difference will become smaller as the District moves into July and August. The final extension for property taxes for the district was \$12,715,000. The District had budgeted \$12,946,00.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Parks Foundation Update**

Commissioner Grossberg stated that this year’s Champions Banquet raised \$20,000 for the Foundation. He thanked Chris Maliszweski for his efforts in making the Banquet a success. The Foundation helped at Sunset Park on July 4 at the beverage tent and raised \$2,200. On August 6 at Ravinia Festival, the Foundation will be offering Yoga on one of the back lawns prior to the concert. The Foundation is about to submit to five different smaller grants which will help build the Foundation portfolio. Finally, the Foundation would like to partner with the Park District on some community-based activities.

**B. Mid-Season Status Report**

• **Recreation Center of Highland Park**

Assistant Director Carr presented an analysis of membership at the Recreation Center of Highland Park through June 30, 2018. He stated that memberships for seniors and couples are growing. Assistant Director Carr explained that the focus on programming for the Fall is on seniors and teens. The Teen Fit program for ages 11-15 could help develop student membership. Commissioner Grossberg asked if the programs at the Recreation Center of Highland Park were direct competition for businesses such as “Orange Theory”. Assistant Director Carr stated that the Recreation Center’s programs are a more affordable alternative to those competitors. Commissioner Bernstein and Commissioner Flores Weisskopf shared that classes for off-ice training for young athletes and training for teens who may not be athletes would be a valuable addition to the Recreation Center’s programs. Vice President Ruttenberg added that cross-marketing at Deer Creek Racquet Club and other facilities would be beneficial as well.

• **Hidden Creek AquaPark**

Manager Pratscher presented a mid-season overview for the Aqua Park. He explained that due to the heat, the AquaPark saw record numbers financially

Memorial Day weekend. The pool at the Recreation Center of Highland Park is offering a new after camp swim program, Swim N' Gym. This program has added \$17,000 in revenue. The Camp Learn to Swim program for internal and external camps, is set to exceed 2500 lessons which is above pace from last year. Group exercise at Hidden Creek AquaPark has 22 participants per class, that is double the number from last year.

Commissioner Bernstein inquired about the lounge chair rotation at Hidden Creek AquaPark and if umbrellas were still in high demand. Manager Pratscher added that some patrons have asked about purchasing different types of chairs than what is currently at the AquaPark. Commissioner Bernstein commented that since the pool has been painted it looks great.

- **Rosewood Beach**

Manager Pratscher gave a staffing update and reported that parking and daily admission is up from last year. Manager Pratscher stated that the food vendor, North Shore Catering will be evaluated at the close of the season. Vice President Rutenberg asked if the indoor pool is still open during the summer. Commissioner Grossberg asked about fees for non-residents at Rosewood and how they are paid.

- **Park Avenue**

Manager Laue reported that boating season began Memorial Day and will run through Labor Day. This season is unique in that due to the barge motorized boat launchings have the right of way over non-motorized launchings and boat retrievals have right of way over boat launchings. The sand levels have been an issue and Parks crews have recontoured the beach. Boat launch usage is consistent with last year, eight per day. There has been an increase in season parking decal sales. Manager Laue shared that storage is maxed out and there is a rising demand for kayak and stand-up paddle boards.

President Kaplan asked for a review of the usage statistics and Commissioner Bernstein wanted to know if Park Avenue Beach was operating at capacity. Manager Laue reported that weekends are busier than weekdays and Commissioner Flores Weisskopf stated that resident's needs should be met first. There was discussion about why daily fees are not permitted.

- **Learning Center**

Director Romes stated that 2018 is the first year that the Park District of Highland Park has managed the Learning Center. Manager Saunders described the improvements to the mini-golf and driving range programs which include: a water fall at mini-golf, lighting at mini-golf (LED's), landscaping, mulch and fencing replaced, sound system (speakers added), replacement mats, new bag stands and the use of the 13<sup>th</sup> hole from the country club as part of the teaching area.

Manager Saunders reported on some promotional events and discussed some improvements for next year. He shared that golf camp is at capacity and Girls Play Golf was offered for the first time and had six participants.

Director Romes shared that the inclement weather this season has hurt the district's numbers. President Kaplan asked how tweens were being market to. Director Romes discussed marketing to the Park District camps and having birthday parties.

Commissioner Bernstein expressed that he was pleased to see how good the numbers are with no golf at the country club. Commissioner Grossberg had a question about "Try Golf". Director Romes shared that the district is looking into joining with the PGA on some program opportunities.

### **C. Director's Report**

Executive Director McElroy spoke about the First on the Turf event, the Grand Opening of Sunset Valley Golf Club which is a fundraiser to benefit the Parks Foundation and Youth Golf. She expressed her thanks to Director Romes, Superintendent Ochs and Kathy Donahue for their efforts in the renovations at Sunset Valley Golf Club. She also thanked Director Gogola for her help in coordinating media efforts. Executive Director McElroy shared the Park District has partnered with the Highland Park Police Department for "National Night Out" on August 7. The Recreation Center of Highland Park will be closed from August 13 through August 17 for annual enhancement. Commissioner Grossberg discussed his involvement with the District 112 Long Range Planning Committee

### **D. Board Comments - None**

## **OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD**

Mrs. Bernstein expressed concern over a surf boarder at Park Avenue Beach surfing in high waves.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein, to adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of Section 2(c)(1) – the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline of the District including legal counsel for the District; Section 2(c)5 – the purchase or lease of real estate including discussion on whether a certain parcel of property should be acquired; Section 2(c)6 – the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District; Section 2(c)8 – security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property; Section 2(c)11 – litigation against or on behalf of

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the District or where the District finds that an action is probable or imminent; Section 2(c)21 – the discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Act, whether for the purposes of approval of said minutes or for conducting the semi-annual review of the minutes as set forth in Section 2.06 of the Act; Section 2(c)29 – for discussions between internal or external auditors and the Board.  
Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, President Kaplan  
Nay: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

Meeting was adjourned into closed session at 7:40 p.m.

### **ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

President Kaplan reported that the Board met in Closed Session under Section 2(c)5 – the purchase or lease of real estate including discussion on whether a certain parcel of property should be acquired; Section 2(c)6 – the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District; Section 2(c)11 – litigation against or on behalf of the District or where the District finds that an action is probable or imminent; Section 2(c)21 – the discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Act, whether for the purposes of approval of said minutes or for conducting the semi-annual review of the minutes as set forth in Section 2.06 of the Act.

The Closed Session minutes from January 2018 to June 2018 were reviewed. There was a motion by Commissioner Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to not release any of the minutes at this time. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein and approved by unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary