

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 25, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Commissioner Flores Weisskopf.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Grossberg

Absent: President Kaplan arrived at 6:06; Vice President Ruttenberg arrived at 6:45.

Staff Present: Interim Executive Director Donahue, Director Romes, Director Dunn, Assistant Director Smith, Director Voss, Assistant Director Carr, Interim Director Becker, Director Gogola, Senior Planner Schwartz, Manager Grill, Manager Henriques, Supervisor Fiori

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA - None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from May 28, 2019 Annual Meeting; Minutes from May 28, 2019 Regular Board Meeting; Minutes from June 11, 2019 Workshop Meeting; HVAC Replacement at Recreation Center of Highland Park; Approval of Recreation Center of Highland Park Fitness Equipment Replacement; Approval of Recreation Center of Highland Park Roof Repairs; Approval of Part-Time Personnel Policy Manual; Approval of Sports Field Master Plan; Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$1,843,748.54.

Motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Bernstein, President Kaplan

Nay: None

Absent: Vice President Ruttenberg
Abstain: None

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Rosewood Beach Boardwalk Railing Installation Project

Assistant Director Smith reported there have been no changes to the status of the project since the June Workshop Meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein to approve the Installation of the Rosewood Beach Boardwalk Railing; seconded by Commissioner Grossberg; subject to amending the Budget in the Fall to reflect this transaction.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Carried

B. Community Park Update

Manager Grill reported that negotiations are continuing with the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) on amendments to the Skokie River Woods Intergovernmental Agreement. Manager Grill stated that LCFPD expects to provide the Park District with their comments on July 5. In order to appear at the August LCFPD Meetings, outstanding issues will have to be resolved by all parties by July 26. Given the issues involved, Manager Grill explained that it is likely that construction on the Community Park cannot begin this fall as planned.

Commissioner Bernstein asked how the delay will impact completion of the project. Manager Grill said that construction could still be completed in 2020 with an opening sometime between late Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Manager Grill stated staff would take advantage of this change to have more flexibility in the construction process. Manager Grill also shared that this could mean the Park District can apply for OSLAD funding that would be available if construction is done next year.

President Kaplan asked if the Park District will be ready to present at the August LCFPD meeting. Manager Grill said that staff is still working toward meeting those deadlines. Commissioner Bernstein asked a follow-up question from the June Workshop

Meeting asking if the Park District will be making a presentation to the City regarding the project. Manager Grill stated that yes, a presentation to the City Council Committee of the Whole is scheduled to occur November 25th or December 9. This will coincide with the one-year report called for in the Purchase Agreement with the City.

Commissioner Bernstein asked about the process of getting construction costs when bid results are anticipated to be presented early in 2020. Manager Grill agreed that costs would be certain then, but added that Hey and Associates is providing an Engineers estimate of probable costs now. Commissioner Bernstein asked that a brief update of that report be made at the next workshop meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ADA Transition Plan Update

Senior Planner Schwartz reviewed that in 2010 the Park District completed an audit to identify access barriers following the Federal and State of Illinois Americans with Disability Act guidelines. Once the audit was completed, the District used the audit information to develop a transition plan which outlined a phased approach to completing the recommended corrective action.

Senior Planner Schwartz reported that since 2010, the Park District has completed many of the recommendations from the Transition Plan. These efforts are in addition to the affiliation with North Shore Special Recreation District which offers programs and services for PDHP residents with disabilities.

The Transition Plan is updated annually as part of the District's five-year capital planning. As we approach 2020, ten-years from the initial audit, staff will review the plan with the Park District Board of Commissioners.

Senior Planner Schwartz shared that at a minimum the Park District must achieve accessibility for one out of every three park elements (i.e. Playground). She further explained that areas of prioritization are: community parks, indoor facilities with programming, neighborhood parks with active recreation, employees only areas, passive areas parks and projects that would be disruptive or burdensome. Senior Planner Schwartz cited that ongoing maintenance and standards would apply to the following: waste receptacles, signage, playground surface, picnic benches, door weight and obstacles.

B. Moraine Park Path Update

Assistant Director Smith reported that the Moraine Dog Beach is closed for now. Assistant Director Smith explained that this past June sections of the stone path have shown failure and shifted. He further stated that there is no quick fix for this issue and that the Park District has met with several contractors, City engineers and the Army Corp of Engineers. Assistant Director Smith reminded the Board that the Army Corp of Engineers is currently conducting a feasibility

study for a possible restoration of this ravine. If the restoration project moves forward, the work will most likely take between a year and a half to two years.

Commissioner Bernstein asked if temporary railing could be installed away from where the problem exists. Assistant Director Smith said that the Park District has not explored that but have considered the installation of a temporary boardwalk. Commissioner Grossberg shared that he is a frequent visitor to the Dog Beach and he doesn't feel the path is wide enough for a temporary fix and that additionally the stones when wet become slippery and dangerous. Assistant Director Smith shared that more analysis must be done.

Commissioner Grossberg asked about the condition of the beach itself. Assistant Director Smith share that there has been quite a bit of recession of the sand. President Kaplan asked Assistant Director Smith to provide an update on this issue by Thursday or Friday of this week.

C. Parks Foundation Update

Director Gogola reported that the Parks Foundation held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 18. Topics discussed included implementation of a program to provide funding for qualifying Highwood residents to take swimming lessons at the Recreation Center beginning this fall. The program would be in partnership with the Nuestro Center and would be funded through the Foundation's recent YEA! Highland Park Grant.

The Foundation is also participating in several events this summer to expand their grassroots outreach to the community. The events include the Firecracker 5K, manning the beverage booth at Fourth Fest, and hosting Yoga at Ravinia. The Foundation is also working with the Park District on a capital campaign for the new Youth Golf Development and Short Game Center.

Commissioner Grossberg stated that there is need for new Foundation members. Commissioner Flores Weisskopf praised the Foundation for instituting the new scholarship program.

D. Director's Report

a. Fourth of July Activity Update

Manager Henriques reviewed the July 4th activities which kick-off Sunday, June 30 with the 5K Firecracker Race. Manager Henriques noted that there will be a Baseball Tournament for players ages 9-14 with 48 teams participating. The tournament runs July 4 through July 7.

Supervisor Fiori shared that July 4th events h will include an expanded route for the parade, Fourth Fest at Sunset Woods Park and fireworks at Hidden Creek AquaPark that evening with proceeds benefitting SMILE. Supervisor Fiori explained that the 4th festivities will be extra special this year due to the 150th Birthday of Highland Park.

E. Ordinance 19-05 – Contract Consideration and Approval of new Executive Director Brian Romes

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein to approve Ordinance 19-05 – Contract Approval of the new Executive Director Brian Romes, seconded by Commissioner Flores Weisskopf.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Bernstein, Vice President Ruttenberg, President Kaplan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

F. Resolution 19-03 – Appointment of Brian Romes as Secretary to the Park District of Highland Park

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg to approve Resolution 19-03 – Appointment of Brian Romes as Secretary to the Park District of Highland Park seconded by Commissioner Flores Weisskopf.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Bernstein, Vice President Ruttenberg, President Kaplan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

G. Board Comments

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf shared her positive experience at Nine and Dine and Sunset Valley Golf Club. Commissioner Bernstein stated that the numbers have been terrific at Sunset Valley Golf Club despite the rainy weather.

Executive Director Romes thanked the Park Board for their confidence in his selection. He also thanked Park District Staff and Board for their dedication and the support he has received from the community.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Interim Director Becker presented the vouchers for checks written May 23, 2019 through June 20, 2019 for an amount totaling \$1,843,748.54. There were no questions from the Board.

RATIFICATION OF UTILITY CONTRACT

Interim Director Becker explained that at the June workshop, staff presented natural gas contracts to replace the expiring ones. Interim Director Becker reviewed the updates in vendor pricing and terms.

Vendor Pricing: Staff's previous recommendation was to continue using *Centerpoint* for its three meters currently under contract (West Ridge Center, Centennial Ice Arena and Hidden Creek Aquatic Park). Since then, *Constellation New Energy* has matched the *Centerpoint* rate, in addition to offering the Park District a credit of \$1,280. As a result, staff is recommending changing vendors due to better pricing. Due to the timing of board meetings, the District must stay with *Centerpoint* one additional month before moving to *Constellation New Energy*.

Vendor Terms: Staff is currently looking into the concept of installing solar panels at Deer Creek Racquet Club and the Recreation Center of Highland Park. In doing so, the vendor that provides solar panels also requires utilities be purchased. Therefore, to avoid conflicts with the vendor, staff recommends that the meters attached to Deer Creek Racquet Club and the Recreation Center of Highland Park reduce terms from a three-year contract to a one-year contract. *IGS* will provide the same fixed rate that it is applying to the three-year contract.

Below is a listing of the Natural Gas Vendors, the length and type of contract, and the facilities (meters) they will serve as recommended by staff.

- **Constellation** (Three-year fixed rate)
 1. West Ridge Center
 2. Centennial Ice Arena
 3. Hidden Creek Aquatic Park

- **IGS** (One-year fixed rate)
 1. Recreation Center of Highland Park
 2. Deer Creek Racquet Club
- **IGS** (Three-year fixed rate)
 1. Parks Operations Golf Operations (POGO) (2 meters)
 2. Sunset Valley Golf Club (SVGC)
 3. Sunset Park Shelter (SP)
 4. Centennial Ice Arena (CIA)
 5. Larry Fink Park (LFP)
 6. Danny Cunniff Park Shelter (DC)

Staff recommends approval from the Park Board of Commissioners ratify the Executive Director execution of the following contracts for Natural Gas:

1. Three-year contract with Constellation New Energy for WRC, CIA and HCAP
2. One-year contract with IGS for DCRC and RCHP
3. Three-year contract with IGS for POGO, SVGC, SP, CIA, LFP and DC

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Luce, of the Legacy Club, reported that he was at Rosewood Beach this morning and everything looked fine.

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

Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned into closed session at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened into open session at 7:35 p.m.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY

President Kaplan reported that the Board met in Closed Session to approve payment to NSSRA in the amount of \$134,644 for the Park District’s portion of Partner Agency Contributions, funding the Closing and Design fees for the acquisition and renovation of the property located at 1221 County Line Road, Highland Park, Illinois.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Grossberg 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 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 Grossberg, Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Flores
Weisskopf, Commissioner Bernstein, President Kaplan
Nay: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned into closed session at 7:37 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened into open session at 7:46 p.m.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY - None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Grossberg and approved by unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Romes, Secretary