

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 23, 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 President Kaplan.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Romes, Director Dunn, Deputy Director Donahue, Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Carr, Interim Director Becker, Director Gogola, Manager Johnson; Superintendent Ochs, Manager Saunders

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

President Kaplan requested a follow-up to Director Smith's presentation of Rosewood Beach from the July 9 Workshop Meeting.

Director Smith reminded the Board that at the July 9 Workshop Meeting he showed pictures of the beach erosion at Rosewood Beach. Director Smith stated that Staff is recommending the Park District of Highland Park retain the services of the SmithGroup for short and long-term erosion control concepts. Director Smith announced that SmithGroup will present some concepts at the August 13 Workshop Meeting.

President Kaplan asked if the Board need to take any action at the present time. Executive Director Romes stated that no action was needed at this time and Director Smith's update was informational.

Commissioner Bernstein asked if a Request For Proposal was necessary and if the SmithGroup was the company that had worked at Park Avenue Boating Facility. Executive Director Romes stated that SmithGroup had done work at Park Avenue Boating Facility and Rosewood Beach and no RFP is required. Director Smith reminded the Board that this an agreement for preliminary work only. Commissioner Bernstein asked if Smith Group would be working with the Army Corp. Director Smith shared that SmithGroup will be reaching out to other agencies like the Army Corp for permitting and other issues.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Mr. Chad Berkin spoke about his desire for the Park District of Highland Park Staff and the members of the Park Avenue Yacht Club to work together in a cooperative manner.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from June 25, 2019 Regular Board Meeting; Minutes from July 9, 2019 Workshop Meeting; Approval of the Policy Manual; Approval of the Personnel Policy – Overtime; Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$1,441,598.34.

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein.

**Roll Call:**

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

Motion Carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Interim Director Becker reported that tax revenues are starting to come in and total over \$6 million dollars. Interim Director Backer stated that that there is a surplus through six months of about \$4 million dollars as opposed to last year at this time the Park District was in a deficit position of that amount. He went on to explain the Park District is not spending as much capital as was budgeted. Interim Director Becker shared that the Park District is on pace to reduce pension costs by about a quarter of a million dollars, which is a savings of \$127,000 year over year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of Ordinance 19-06 – Surplus Ordinance**

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein to approve Ordinance 19-06 – Surplus Ordinance, seconded by Vice President Ruttenberg.

**Roll Call:**

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

Motion Carried

### **B. Parks Foundation Update**

Commissioner Grossberg reported that the Regular Meeting of the Parks Foundation of Highland Park was held at Sunset Valley Golf Club (SVGC). The Parks Foundation Board requested that the Park District identify and provide a list of public facing events such as community advisory committee meetings, coaches meetings and park district events that Foundation Board Members can attend and recruit new members.

Commissioner Grossberg stated that a grant application was submitted to the Highland Park Community Foundation on July 15th for their 2019-2020 funding year. The Foundation has requested ten thousand dollars. The Parks Foundation will find out mid-August whether the Foundation made it to the next round. YEA! HP has a small amount of reserves they are depleting; the Parks Foundation is awaiting a response to inquiry regarding additional (final) funding from their organization.

Commissioner Grossberg shared that The Nuestro Center will distribute information packets on free swim lessons available through the FYI Grant at the end of their camp sessions July 18. He stated that Parks Foundation President Bob Bernstein has reached out to several School District 112 administrators and PTO contacts, to inform them of this grant opportunity for underserved students in Highland Park, Highwood, Deerfield, and the surrounding areas.

Commissioner Grossberg closed his presentation sharing that "Give Back" night at Sunset Valley Golf Club was July 18, 2019 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Fifteen percent of the restaurant bill was donated to the Parks Foundation for Youth Golf Fund. The Backyard Grill hosted a "Give Back Day" on July 23. Ten percent of their proceeds went to the Parks Foundation. The next *yoga at Ravinia* event is scheduled for July 30. The last event raised approximately \$30.00-\$40.00 in donations. Parks Foundation board members were encouraged to attend.

Commissioner Grossberg reported that President Bernstein was approached by Coffee Cup Production regarding a fundraising opportunity at Funkfest slated at Toadstool, in Highwood this September.

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

Executive Director Romes reported on some upcoming events at the Park District of Highland Park. Friday, July 26 is the third Nine and Dine at Sunset Valley Golf Club. The price for dinner and nine holes is \$49.00 per person. The Recreation Center of Highland Park will be closed for its annual facility enhancement. The Recreation Center will be closed starting Monday, August 12 through Friday, August 16. Some of the work at the Recreation Center will include: cleaning updates, improvements to equipment, resurfacing of gym and studio floors and the replacement of five HVAC units. Aquatics will be closed through Friday, August 26 for the annual draining and cleaning of the pool.

Executive Director Romes announced that the Back to School Splash Bash will take place on August 11 at Hidden Creek AquaPark. Heller Nature Center will be hosting a annual Honey Harvest Demo on August 17 from 9:00-11:30 a.m., the price is \$18.00 per person. Finally, there will be a Twilight Paddleboard at Rosewood Beach Interpretive Center on August 15 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The cost for this activity is \$35.00 per person.

#### **D. Mid-Season Usage Report**

##### **a. Hidden Creek AquaPark**

Director Carr stated that memberships are down a bit in 2019 from 2018 at this time. There were several days where the pool was closed due to bad weather in June. The Early Bird Lap Swim was open all 30 days in June. Director Carr explained that July has seen higher temperatures and attendance has been very good.

##### **b. Rosewood Beach / Park Avenue Boating Facility**

Director Carr explained that Rosewood Beach has had nine full day closures this season. Six of those closures were due to beach hazard statements by the National Weather Service for high waves and rip currents. Three of those closures were due to high bacteria levels which were tested by the Lake County Health Department.

President Kaplan asked about the concession performance. Director Carr explained that the Park District is using a new company and the reviews have been mixed.

Director Carr reported that redesign to interior storage of the south garage at Park Avenue Boating Facility has allowed for an increase in storage capacity for stand-up paddle boards. He explained that high lake levels prevented the installation of the floating dock portion of the launching dock this season. Director Carr stated that high lake levels and high wave action have caused damage or displacement of the dock on three occasions this season. This caused temporary closure to the launch until the dock could be repaired or reset.

President Kaplan asked Director Carr for historical comparison of the Park Avenue Boating Facility based on the change in the configuration due to the construction of the water plant. President Kaplan asked that the study start in 2012 and go through the present.

**c. Sunset Valley Golf Club / Driving Range**

Manager Saunders reported that the Driving Range has seen an increase of 572 buckets and an increase of 770 participants from last year at this time. President Kaplan asked if mini-golf had families only participating. Manager Saunders stated that it saw participants of all ages, not just families. Executive Director Romes added that access from the Community Park should improve accessibility for middle school aged children to walk or bike to the mini-golf and driving range.

Commissioner Bernstein stated that construction this summer on Route 41 has been challenging and he felt that numbers for the Driving Range were good despite the traffic issue. Commissioner Bernstein asked if the lights had been used at the Driving Range. Manager Saunders stated that it has been too buggy when the lights are on.

Superintendent Ochs shared that the Sunset Valley Golf Club report was based on comparisons from 2016 as the 2019 season is the first full season for the newly renovated Sunset Valley Golf Club since that time. Superintendent Ochs reported that the pro shop numbers are up due to the sale of more apparel and clubs. The electric golf carts have seen increases in usage and are a big draw. Superintendent Ochs also stated that the drainage has been very good at the course this season.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf requested a side by side comparison of all the holes at the end of the season. Commissioner Grossberg asked if verbal reminders could be requested of the starters. President Kaplan stated that getting players to do this would be difficult because Sunset Valley Golf Club is a public course. Commissioner Bernstein requested an analysis from Superintendent Ochs on the numbers for the electric golf carts at the end of the season. Commissioner Bernstein asked if a review could be compiled for projected rounds and actual rounds for this season. Superintendent Ochs shared that a local golf club will be temporary closed soon, and members have contacted the Park District regarding use of Sunset Valley Golf Club. Commissioner Bernstein requested a 5-year plan for what will be required to maintain the course, necessary enhancements, and the resources will be required for this work.

**E. Board Comments – None**

**OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD**

Mr. David Sogin, 1092 Wade, Highland Park, shared that he is of the opinion that an Advisory Board should be created for Park Avenue Boating Facility so that Park District Staff and the community could come together to effect change and make improvements for the Yacht Club and Park Avenue Boating Facility.

**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 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened into open session at 8:13 p.m.

**ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY**

President Kaplan reported that the Board met in Closed Session under 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.

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein that all closed session minutes reviewed in Closed Session, continue to be left as confidential until further review.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

Motion Carried

**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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Romes, Secretary