

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2020**

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 Grossberg, Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, President Kaplan

Absent: None

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Smith; Director Voss; Director Peters; Assistant Director Maliszewski; Assistant Director Henriques; Executive Coordinator Hejnowski; Director Carr

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None

President Kaplan congratulated the District on the awards received at the IPRA/IAPD Conference.

Executive Director Romes shared that the Park District of Highland Park received the following awards at the Conference. The Distinguished Agency Award, which recognizes outstanding policies and procedures; the 2020 Outstanding Program of the Year Award for the ParkSchool at West Ridge; and three Marketing awards: first place for a Sunset Valley Golf Club advertisement, first place for creative/nature photography, and second place for integrative photography. The Park District was also awarded the Government Finance Award for excellence in financial reporting.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Joel M. Cahn
26 Lakeview Terrace, Highland Park

Mr. Cahn stated that he has objections and concerns regarding the 2014 Shore Protection Plan proposals at Rosewood Beach. He is asking the District to reconsider or review the current lakefront plans for Rosewood Beach. He would like the District to look at lakefront data and surveys gathered from the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

Mr. Cahn read from the publication written by the University of Wisconsin and the Detroit District of U.S. Army Corps titled “Living on the Coast, Protecting Investments in Shore Property on the Great Lakes.” The publication recommends doing everything possible to avoid building structures where flooding waves and erosion are present. If structures are present in these areas, boulders and cement walls should be erected.

Mr. Cahn stated that the premise of Rosewood is ecologically incorrect, and it’s doing more harm than good. He stated that when you put hard structures in the water it causes lakebed down cutting, which causes adverse effects on the beach and the neighbors. He shared that the District and community are wasting their money on sand and rock solutions.

Mr. Cahn recommended another expert to the District, Gene Clark, Coastal Engineering Specialist University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute. Mr. Clark worked on the Lake Forest Coastal Structure and Wetlands and conducted a full discovery analysis before making any changes/enhancements to the site. Mr. Cahn asked why the Park District didn’t expand the scope of its research to include a discovery analysis of Rosewood Beach.

Mr. Cahn stated that the District is not following the guidelines outlined in the maintenance operations manual provided by the U.S. Army Corps for Rosewood Beach. Commissioner Bernstein asked Mr. Cahn if he had proof for his assertions and asked if he would share these reports and surveys. Mr. Cahn said he would leave his reports and documentations for Board and Staff to review.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of December 3, 2019 Workshop Meeting; Minutes from December 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting; Approval of Updated Alcohol and Drug Abuse Policy; Approval of Updated Illinois Victims’ Economic Security and Safety Act Policy; Approval of the Beach Management Plan Grant Agreement; Approval of the Extension to Tolling Agreement; Approval of Resolution 2020-01 to Amend the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget; Approval of Resolution 2020-02 Authorizing a Contract for Procurement of the Hidden Creek AquaPark Pool Filtration System; Approval of Ordinance 2020-01 Approving an Amendment to the Park District of Highland Park Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy; Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$4,568,341.17.

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

Roll Call:

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

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 2020-02 An Ordinance providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,250,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2020, of the Park District of Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois, for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of said Park District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Director Peters reported Ordinance 2020-02 will be used for the payment of parks and land, authorizing sale of said bond. If approved, the bond sale is slated to take place on Tuesday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bernstein shared that bonds have been extensively vetted during Finance Committee Meetings and at a hearing a few weeks ago. He stated that the bond sales are consistent with the District's funding model and GreenPrint/Capital Projects. Commissioner Bernstein encouraged the Board to approve the proposed sale.

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to to approve Ordinance 2020-02 An Ordinance providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,250,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2020, of the Park District of Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois, for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of said Park District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT

Director Peters reported that the District will close the books in mid-February in case any expenses come through. She stated that the District is anticipating another \$250,000 in expenses. Director Peters shared that all transfers have been completed but to expect one for the Special Recreation Fund which will be a transfer of less than the \$550,000 which was budgeted. The District made nearly 3 million dollars of debt payments.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks Foundation Update

Commissioner Grossberg reported that the Parks Foundation is working to finalize the governance of the Foundation. Manager Ochs and Supervisor Sangern gave an overview of the Foundation golf outing which will occur this summer. The outing will celebrate 100 years at Sunset Valley Golf Club. Commissioner Grossberg stated that the Foundation is very close to reaching its goal with fundraising for construction of the short game area. Commissioner Bernstein asked if the short game area is 100% privately funded, and Commissioner Grossberg stated that all the funding is from private donations and a grant.

Commissioner Grossberg stated that the Foundation had a good presence at the Martin Luther King Day Service Event at the Recreation Center of Highland Park. He stated that the Foundation is working on a brick project at Sunset Valley Golf Course and that the Foundation applied for a safe route grant which fund lighting for a trail. Commissioner Grossberg reported that he has been in communication with Jim Lederer of Bluegrass restaurant, and that the Shrimp Boil will take place sometime in March or April.

Commissioner Bernstein commented that he could report to his Mom that the Martin Luther King Day was a successful event, one for which she would have been proud.

B. Director's Report

Executive Director Romes reported events occurring at the Park District in the upcoming month. Spring Registration begins February 12. Valentine Family Skate at Centennial Ice Arena is February 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Nature Discovery Day, a free event will be at held at Heller Nature Center on February 1. The annual Daddy Daughter Date Night and the Royal Dinner Snowball will take place on February 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. President Kaplan shared that he attended and worked at the Walking Bingo event last Sunday at the Recreation Center of Highland Park.

Board Comments - None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD – None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made Vice President Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of 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)11 – litigation against or on behalf of the District or where the District finds that an action is probable or imminent;– for discussions between internal or external auditors and the Board.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened into Open Session at 7:16 p.m.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY

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)11 – litigation against or on behalf of the District or where the District finds that an action is probable or imminent for discussions between internal or external auditors and the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Romes, Secretary