

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2021**

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Park District of Highland Park Held on November 16, 2021. Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, The President of the Board of Park Commissioners has made a finding that it is not practical or prudent to hold in person meetings because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Neither the elected officials nor the public will be allowed to attend Regular or Committee Meetings in person but will participate virtually. Links to the virtual meeting can be found on the Park District website <https://www.pdhp.org/park-board/meetings/>

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Ruttenberg.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Peters, Director Gogola, Director Carr; Assistant Director Maliszewski; Assistant Director Murrin; General Manager/Superintendent of Golf Operations Ochs; Manager Johnson; Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speakers: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Kaplan reported that he has received several requests from members of the community asking if the Recreation Center of Highland Park would require guests to show proof a negative COVID test result or proof of vaccination.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK – TRUTH IN TAXATION ACT

A motion was made by Vice President Grossberg and seconded by Commissioner Kaplan to convene the public hearing for the Truth in Taxation Act on the proposed property tax levy increase for the Park District of Highland Park for 2021.

Roll Call:

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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

President Ruttenberg reported that the public hearing for the Truth in Taxation Act on the proposed property tax levy increase for the Park District of Highland Park for 2021 is now in session.

As required by law, notification of tonight's hearing was posted in the Highland Park News on December 2, 2021.

Anyone wishing to speak on the Public Hearing will need to use the "Raise Hand" function in Zoom to indicate that they would like to speak. The Board Secretary will call on registrants who have activated the "Raise Hand" feature in alphabetical order.

President Ruttenberg reported that let the record show that there were no members of the community or Board of Commissioners who have chosen to speak to this issue and Executive Director Romes did not receive any written communications relative to the proposed property tax increase.

A motion was made by Vice President Grossberg and seconded by Commissioner Freeman to close the public hearing.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice President Grossberg, seconded by Commissioner Freeman to approve the Minutes from the October 28, 2021 Parks and Natural Areas Committee Meeting, the Minutes from the November 9, 2021 Workshop Meeting, the Minutes from the November 16, 2021 Special Meeting, the Minutes from the November 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, the Minutes from the November 23, 2021

Lakefront Committee Meeting, the Golf Maintenance Equipment Purchase, the Purchase of Two Capital Replacement Ballfield Groomers, Sunset Woods Park Master Plan, the 2022 Sunset Woods Park Albion Restoration Bid, the Dynegy Electric Service Agreement bid via Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC), and Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$5,085,467.40.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

FINANCIAL FORECASTS AND TREASURER’S REPORT

Operations (General and Recreation Funds) Budget vs. Actual

Director Peters reported that as of November 30, 2021, staff budgeted a little more than \$18 million in operating revenue and she is pleased to report the actual revenue is a little more than \$20.8 million, for a \$2.5 million. On the expense side at the end of November showing actual expenses of \$1.5 million less than what the District had budgeted. Overall, when consolidating those two differences the District has a surplus of about \$4 million. When compared to the 3-year average it’s a \$2.7 million year-to-date net surplus. The surplus is contributed to property taxes from 2020 that came in 2021 that could not be carried back and several cost centers that are significantly exceeding where their budgets. On the expense side, the significant difference here is payroll of over \$400,000 and related insurance and pension costs of about another \$600,000.

Conclusion

Director Peters reported in January 2021, Park District programs and facilities were either partially closed or canceled due to COVID mitigation effect and since then the Park District was able to significantly adjust expenses, especially payroll at over \$400,000 below budget resulting in roughly \$4 million above budgeted net revenue for the period ended November 30, 2021.

Athletics has a surplus of \$280,772, camp has a \$107,262 surplus, tennis has a \$463,804 surplus, golf has a \$761,965 surplus, recreation has a \$219,369 surplus, West Ridge Center has a \$124,862 surplus, and Centennial Ice Arena has a \$160,892 surplus. All cost centers except for one are operating at a surplus at month end which places the Park District at a very favorable financial position at the end of November.

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET AND THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Budget Overview

The General, Special Recreation and Recreation Funds anticipate a combined operating surplus, before transfers, of \$3,512,527. Of that surplus, \$3,500,000 will be transferred to the Capital Projects Fund and an additional \$1,674,735 to Debt Service.

Summary of the 2022 Budget

Director Peters reported that capital expenditures are approximately \$12.5 million, operating expenditures are approximately \$19.4 million, consolidated expenditures, including operations, debt, and capital, are approximately \$35.1 million, consolidated operating revenues are approximately \$22.9 million, and tax support for the 2022 fiscal year represents approximately 55% of total revenues.

New for 2022

Director Peters reported that 2022 plans for a return to normalcy or the “new normal” after the impacts from the global pandemic. Budget preparation was guided by guidelines in Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois State Plan. However, staff will continue to be prepared to adapt quickly. In an effort to remain both fiscally responsible and strategic in the delivery of services to the community, staff anticipates the development of its new strategic plan, an updated compensation plan, and increased collaboration with the Parks Foundation to support Capital Campaign Fundraising.

Acknowledgments

The 2022 budget is a collaborative effort that involves supervisors, managers, and support staff, throughout the District. Additionally, the Budget will be reviewed continuously during the year and could not have been accomplished without the efforts of Park District staff and the support of our Park Board Commissioners.

Public Meeting Schedule

Director Peters reported that staff are presenting the 2022 Budget this evening to the Park Board of Commissioners, the publication for the public hearing on the 2022 Budget will be posted to the Highland Park News on January 13, 2022, staff will conduct a hearing on the 2022 Budget and Appropriation and the January 25, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, and the approved 2022 Budget and Appropriation will be taken to Lake County on January 26, 2022.

Tax Funding

Director Peters reported that Park District’s tax rate is 6.9%, which is much lower than other taxing bodies.

Proposed 2022 Budget by Fund

- A. Table 1** - Director Peters reminded the Finance Committee that there is a \$9.7 million planned deficiency to fund capital projects.

- B. Table 2** – As of December 31, 2022 the Park District is budgeting to have \$27.7 million. staff are recommending transferring more from the General Fund to the Capital Fund, so the reserve will be 57% in 2022 which is similar to pre-COVID years. The Recreation Fund typically had a 40% reserve in pre-COVID years, and staff are projecting a 48% reserve in 2022. Lastly, the Special Recreation Fund will have a 36% reserve in 2022.

- C. **Table 3** - Director Peters reported that staff are budgeting for phase 5, the new normal in 2022. Staff used the 2020 Budget to develop the 2022 Budget.

Overall, Director Peters reported that the Park District is budgeting to have \$37.6 million as cash on hand at the beginning of the 2022 fiscal year. Staff are expecting to receive \$25.2 million in revenue during the 2022 fiscal year and estimating to spend \$35.2 million. As a result, staff are expecting to have \$27.7 million as cash on hand as of December 31, 2022.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of Ordinance #2021-06 Supplemental Tax Levy for Debt Service for 2021

Director Peters reported that Pursuant to the Provisions of the Local Government Debt Reform Act, as amended (the “*Debt Reform Act*”), the Bonds (together with all other outstanding limited tax bonds of the District) are payable from the DSEB, which is an amount equal to that portion of the extension of the District for the 1991 levy year constituting an extension for payment of principal of and interest on bonds issued by the District without referendum (but not including alternate bonds issued under Section 15 of the Debt Reform Act or refunding obligations issued to refund or to continue to refund obligations of the District initially issued pursuant to referendum, if any). Although the obligation of the District to pay the Bonds is a general obligation under the Park Code, and all taxable property in the District is subject to the levy of taxes to pay the Bonds without limitation as to rate, the amount of taxes that may be extended to pay the Bonds is limited by the Tax Extension Limitation Law to the amount of the DSEB.

A motion was made by Commissioners Bernstein, seconded by Commissioner Kaplan to approve Ordinance 2021-06, Supplemental Tax Levy for Debt Service for 2021, representing the District’s additional request for property taxes to be received in 2022 for the debt service fund. The amount of the supplemental levy is \$19,290.76 (nineteen thousand, two hundred ninety dollars and seventy-six cents).

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

B. Approval of Ordinance #2021-07 Tax Levy for 2021

Director Peters reported that the 2021 tax levy ordinance represents the District’s request for property taxes and reflects an increase of 5.76% from the 2020 property taxes collected during 2021, based on a

CPI increase of 1.4% for those funds which are under the property tax cap and .04% per \$100 Equalized Assessed Valuation for the Special Recreation Fund. This levy focuses on capturing new growth within the District. The levy request, exclusive of debt service, totals \$12,381,667 (twelve million, three hundred eighty-one thousand, six hundred sixty-seven dollars).

As the Truth in Taxation percentage is greater than 5%, a public hearing notice was published in the local paper announcing a public hearing regarding the tax levy this evening, where members of the public can express their opinions of the levy.

A motion was made by Vice President Grossberg, seconded by Commissioner Freeman to approve Ordinance 2021-07, Tax Levy Ordinance for 2021, representing the District's request for property taxes to be received in 2022. The amount of the levy is \$12,381,667 (twelve million, three hundred eighty-one thousand, six hundred sixty-seven dollars), exclusive of debt service.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

C. Approval of the 2022 License Agreement with the North Shore Yacht Club

Director Carr reported that Staff presented the 2022 draft License Agreement between the Park District of Highland Park and the North Shore Yacht Club (NSYC) to the Park Board of Commissioners at the December 7 Workshop Meeting. This annual agreement has a term that runs on the calendar year and provides the framework around what the licensed facilities are, what fees are paid and when, how the facilities are maintained, and the general rules and regulations for the licensed facilities. The current agreement expires on December 31.

Notable changes to the agreement for 2022 are a License Fee for 2022 is scheduled to be \$7,140 a 5% increase from the 2021 fee, the inclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the term of the agreement related to the improvement fee for the breakwater, prorated refund of the license fee, if needed, due to NSYC's inability to access licensed facilities due to construction, adding definition of dates to the Boating Season to help assist the Park District in management of the property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaplan, seconded by Vice President Grossberg authorizing the Executive Director to enter into the 2022 Licensed Agreement with the North Shore Yacht Club.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Freeman, Vice President Grossberg,
President Ruttenberg

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Commissioner Bernstein

Motion Carried

D. Approval of the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding with the North Shore Yacht Club

Director Carr reported that Staff presented the 2022 draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Park District of Highland Park and the North Shore Yacht Club (NSYC) to the Park Board of Commissioners at the December 7 Workshop Meeting. This MOU was developed to provide a framework and expectations regarding the NSYC commitment of contributing \$200,000 over the term of 20 years to support the breakwater and ramp replacement project at Park Avenue Boating Facility. Based on feedback from the Park Board, staff will present this agreement and recommend the Park Board of Commissioners to authorize Executive Director to enter into the 2022 MOU with the NSYC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaplan and seconded by Commissioner Freeman authorizing the Executive Director to enter into the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the North Shore Yacht Club.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Freeman, Vice President Grossberg,
President Ruttenberg

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Commissioner Bernstein

Motion Carried

E. 2022 Affiliated and Sponsored Organizations Update

Director Carr reported that Staff presented the 2022 applications for Affiliated and Sponsored Organizations to the Recreation Committee on December 7, 2021. He provided a summary of Park District Policy 6.05.02 Affiliated Organizations.

Policy 6.05.02 Affiliated Organizations.

Organizations may be provided facilities to accommodate the activities of these affiliated organizations commensurate with existing programs offered by the District. The organization must pay District a reasonable fee for any direct costs and/or revenue loss by providing facility space. Affiliate Organizations must have at least 51% of the members/participants and/or activities of the Organization reside and/or serve residents of the Park District

Per Park District procedure, staff received 4 applications requesting status as Park District Affiliate Groups and 2 applications requesting status as a Park District Sponsored Groups. He provided a summary of each organization.

Affiliated Organization Applications

a. Highland Park Pops

The Pops provide an opportunity for big band musicians to play on a regular basis and perform at various community functions throughout the year. The Pops has been an affiliate for 42 years and they are requesting usage of rehearsal space and storage space at West Ridge as well as other Park District locations if available. The Pops strive to have over 51% of musicians residing in Highland Park and works with the Park District to coordinate complimentary performances in the community.

b. Highland Park Aquatics Club (HPAC)

HPAC provides year-round competitive swim training for the community. The Park District's Learn to Swim program feeds into HPAC and their programming acts as a feeder program to Highland Park High School. HPAC has been an affiliate for 15 years and they are requesting usage of the pool at the Recreation Center as well as Hidden Creek for a reduced fee. HPAC has over 51% participation from residents of Highland Park.

c. Uptown Music Theater of Highland Park

Uptown Music Theater provides educational instruction and training to help individuals improve or develop their abilities in theater. Uptown Music Theater has been an affiliate for 2 years and they are requesting usage of rehearsal space at West Ridge as well as other Park District locations if available. Uptown Music staff, volunteers, board, and members are comprised of over 51% residents of Highland Park. Uptown Music is planning 2 shows in 2022 at a location to be determined in Highland Park.

d. American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Highland Park

AYSO's mission is to provide world-class youth soccer programs and enrich children's lives. AYSO has been an affiliate of the Park District for 22 years. They are requesting the use of fields at Olson Park, Kennedy Park, and Woodridge Park. AYSO conducts its own field maintenance and reimburses the Park District for any direct expenditures. AYSO has over 51% participation from residents of Highland Park.

e. Highland Park Players

The Player’s purpose is to enrich, educate and entertain our community by providing area residents the opportunity to attend and participate in a theater experience. A typical year would have two shows, one in Northbrook and one for younger audiences at an elementary school in Highland Park. The Players have planned for two shows and a Musical Theater workshop for the 2022 season. The Players have a current roster of 15 members with 8 of those members residing in Highland Park. The Players have been a sponsored organization for 33 years and they are requesting a stipend of \$5,000 and usage of audition and rehearsal space at available Park District facilities

The Players do not meet the required criteria for a Sponsored Group since they do not have at least 90% of the members/participants residing in Highland Park, or activities serving residents. However, they do qualify for affiliate status.

All other applicants qualify for affiliate status with the Park District. Staff recommended to the Recreation Committee approval of all affiliate group applicants in addition to The Players as an affiliate group of the Park District in 2022 with no financial stipend provided. Staff also recommended approval of the Strings as a Sponsored Group with consideration given to “in-kind” services instead of a financial stipend.

Director Carr reported that staff recommends approval from the Board of Park Commissioners authorization for the Executive Director to enter into 2022 Affiliate Organization Agreements with the following organizations, Highland Park Pops, Highland Park Aquatics Club (HPAC), Uptown Theater of Highland Park, American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) of Highland Park, and the Highland Park Players.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein, seconded by Commissioner Kaplan authorizing the Executive Director to enter into the 2022 Affiliate Organization Agreements for items a – e.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

F. Approval of the Highland Park Strings Sponsored Organization Agreement

Director Carr reported that Staff presented the 2022 applications for Affiliated and Sponsored Organizations to the Recreation Committee on December 7, 2021. He provided a summary of Park District Policy 6.05.01 Sponsored Organizations. The Recreation Committee requested the Sponsored Group applications be shared with the Park Board Commissioners, including applicants' financial projections for 2022 as well as a benchmark comparison of other Park District's policies regarding stipends.

Policy 6.05.01 Sponsored Organizations.

Organizations may be provided on a limited basis, staff, facility, and administrative support in the planning and operational functions of the recreational activity. In some instances, the District provides limited financial assistance. The organization may pay District a reasonable fee for any Direct Costs or revenue loss by providing facility space. Sponsored Organizations must have at least 90% of the members/participants and/or activities of the Sponsored Organization reside and/or serve residents of the Park District

The Strings have presented classical concerts to the Highland Park community for the last 42 years. They plan four performances per year. Three performances are held at the Highland Park High School at no charge to the community. Attendance ranges from 400-800 people per show of which over 90% are estimated to be Highland Park residents. One show is held at Ravinia and acts as their major fundraising event. The Strings are comprised of 40 musicians, 8 of those musicians are residents of Highland Park. The founder of The Strings, Larry Block resides in Highland Park. The Strings have been a sponsored organization with the Park District for 42 years. They are requesting a \$15,000 stipend and administrative support.

Based on applicant qualifications reviewed by staff, The Strings qualify for Sponsored Group status as all their shows are held in Highland Park with an estimated attendance being above 90 percent residents.

Based on applicant qualifications reviewed by staff, The Strings qualify for Sponsored Group status as all their shows are held in Highland Park with an estimated attendance being above 90 percent residents.

Director Carr reported that Staff recommends approval from the Board of Park Commissioners authorization for the Executive Director to enter into the 2022 Sponsored Organization Agreement with the Highland Park Strings, with a financial stipend of \$0 with the condition that The Strings are invited to make a presentation to the Board to consider and discuss the possibility of a stipend in January or February 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kaplan, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a 2022 Sponsored Organization Agreement with the Highland Park

Strings, with a financial stipend of \$0 with the condition that The Strings are invited to make a presentation to the Board to consider and discuss the possibility of a stipend in January or February 2022.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Meetings

Executive Director Romes stated this was added to the agenda at the request of Commissioner Freeman to discuss committee meeting options as well as meeting options for consideration for 2022, such as in-person, virtual, or hybrid.

Commissioner Freeman stated she has sensed fatigue and frustration and possible repetitive discussions from the current amount of committee meetings. Said perhaps some of the committee meetings could be consolidated and meet with different frequency based on need is one suggestion. Would like to consider in-person meetings with the idea of working more efficiently and making sure all are on the same page.

President Ruttenberg said two things are being introduced. The first is to reduce or combine the committees into four committees. Second, Executive Director Romes circulated information to the Park Board that the Finance Committee will meet quarterly or as needed, Facility and Recreation Committee to meet monthly or as needed, Lakefront, Parks, and Natural Areas to meet monthly or as needed, and a Policy Committee to meet quarterly or as needed. Another bullet point that followed is an option to include at the Board meetings as an agenda item with committee updates which would be a quick synopsis of any meeting in which five commissioners did not attend. President Ruttenberg asked if there is any objection to consolidating the committees and changing the schedule.

Commissioners Kaplan, Freeman, and Vice President Grossman had no objection.

Commissioner Bernstein feels a lot of good work has been done at the Committee level, however, he agrees he has meeting fatigue. By reducing committee meetings he feels the Board Meetings will increase along with staff presentations, however, he supports the combining of committees.

None of the Board Members are opposed to combining and reducing Committee Meetings.

All of the Park Board would like the Finance Committee Meetings to meet monthly.

Commissioner Bernstein would like the Committee Meetings to start at 5:00 p.m. so long as they are virtual.

None of the Board Members are opposed to Committee Meetings starting at 5:00 p.m.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if the meetings should still be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

All of the Park Board agreed to keep the Workshop and Regular Meetings at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Director Romes reported that the Park Board of Commissioners will need to vote on a new public meeting schedule at the January 7 Workshop Meeting, permitting meetings to change from Tuesday to Wednesday evenings.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if the Park Board would like to return to in-person meetings.

President Ruttenberg would like to stay virtual.

Commissioner Kaplan would consider a hybrid.

Commissioner Freeman and Vice President Grossberg have always been in favor of meeting in person.

Commissioners Bernstein reported that the CDC expects January to be a bad month. The goal is to meet in person but to be sensitive to what CDC says. As a result, he would like to continue meeting virtually.

The Park Board agreed meetings will remain virtual and will revisit based on CDC guidance.

B. Parks Foundation Update

Vice President Grossberg reported that the foundation has been busy helping raise funds for the Park Avenue Boating Facility, and he is pleased to report that there is a donor committed to matching up to \$150,000.

As for the FYI program, they have received a \$3,500 grant from the community foundation to fund the learn to swim lessons and camp scholarships.

C. Board Comments

Commissioner Kaplan reported that he has received several requests from members of the community asking if the Recreation Center of Highland Park would require guests to show proof of a negative COVID test result or proof of vaccination. He would like to know what the Park Board of Commissioners thinks.

President Ruttenberg is in favor to require guests to show proof of a negative COVID test result or proof of vaccination.

Commissioner Grossberg would like to know how this has affected business.

President Ruttenberg said he has spoken to people that say they don't feel comfortable going into a public venue unless they knew everyone was vaccinated.

Executive Director Romes reported that I am not prepared to discuss this. It would be very challenging to do this. Is the effort to do this needed and worth the cost and impact on how it will affect staff, patrons, operations, costs, etc. This would be logistically and legally challenging. We are a public facility, not a private venue. It's also not mandated; we are only operating under the States mask mandate.

D. Director's Report

Executive Director Romes shared a list of upcoming events. Currently, there is a waitlist for this year's Polar Parade, which is Friday, December 17 from 4 – 7:30 p.m. Registered families will listen for the jingle bells and keep their eyes peeled as Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Elf will be riding in their one-horse-open-sleigh throughout Highland Park and dropping off special gifts from the North pole.

Centennial Ice Arena is hosting Family Skate Night on Wednesday, December 22 and Wednesday, December 29 from 5 – 7:00 p.m. (pre-registration is required). Skating coaches are available to assist new skaters. Skate rentals are available for \$3 at the front desk on the night of the event. Registration Fee is \$6/youth and \$7/adult.

Heller Nature Center is hosting two events on Monday, January 17. Naturalist's will kick off the day with a mini version of the Winter Olympics which includes fun variations of sports such as cross-country skiing, curling, and luge from 10 – 12:00 p.m. Afterwards, Naturalists are hosting Tie Dye the Forest from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Since the landscape can look drab and dreary after the first few weeks of winter participants will paint the snow, tie-dye t-shirts, and make colorful works of art with nature. It's \$33 per event.

To note, as we start to get snowfall and colder weather residents can check our website for updates on cross country skiing at Heller Nature Center which will once again be available by reservation, our sled hill at Danny Cunniff Park and outdoor ice skating at Sunset Woods Park.

Lastly, the 13th Annual Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service on January 17, 2022 will be held virtually, due to the COVID pandemic from 10 – 11:00 a.m. This is a free event proudly sponsored by the Park

District and the Highland Park Human Relations Advisory Group honoring the civil rights icon with virtual keynote presentations that further the legacy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Councilwoman Lidawer

1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park – listen to this

While she is disappointed that the MLK event will be virtual, she feels it was a wise decision based on the COVID cases.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Freeman and seconded by Commissioner Kaplan and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary