

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

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 Meyers.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Kaplan, President Meyers

Staff Present: Executive Director McElroy, Director Becker, Director Stumpf, Director Baker, Director Behlow, Director Donahue, Asst. Director Malartsik, Asst. Director Romes, Associate Project Manager Mary Gardocki

Guests: Residents Janet Bernstein, Lane Young, Steve Dry, and Councilman Alyssa Knobel, City of Highland Park

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON AGENDA - None
No public comment

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from October 22 Board Meeting; Minutes from November 5 Workshop Meeting; Minutes from November 5 Special Meeting; Minutes from November 6 Special Meeting; Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$1,240,628.72; Purchase of Capital Equipment - Riding Mowers in the amount of \$41,935.93; Purchase of Capital Equipment Vehicles in the amount \$127,883.00; Amendment to the Investment Policy

Motion was made by Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, seconded by Commissioner Ruttenberg to accept the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: None

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Truth in Taxation Resolution

The Treasurer's Report was moved in order to precede the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. Director Becker presented an overview of the Park District's tax levy history since 2009 explaining that four years ago, the Board made a conscious decision to reduce taxes by 12.7% and has held that reduced rate for the past three years. The Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve a tax levy of \$10,388,432 for 2013, an increase of \$640,905. This increase is based on a 1.7% CPI increase in its "capped funds," and levying four cents of EAV for the Special Recreation Fund and will mean that a homeowner of a \$450,000 home will pay an additional \$24 per year. President Meyers noted that the additional funding is needed to meet federal ADA facility requirements and to keep up with the rate of inflation. As required by law, when the Truth in Taxation Resolution indicates an increase to the estimated tax levy greater than 5%, a public hearing must be held.

Treasurer's Report

Director Becker presented an overview of the revenues and expenses by fund noting that gymnastics, indoor tennis, West Ridge activities, and golf are outperforming their revenue budgets.

Director Becker made note of the inclusion of a new investment analysis report per the Board's request. President Meyers thanked Director Becker for the statement and requested that it also include the investment's effective year of maturity.

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

President Meyers opened the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing and asked if there were any citizens in attendance that would like to speak to the 2013 Truth in Taxation Resolution. There were none.

President Meyers asked if there were any Commissioners who would like to comment on the Resolution. Commissioner Bernstein commented that even with the increase, taxes levied are less than they were in 2009 and that the decision has been well vetted by the Board.

President Meyers asked Executive Director McElroy if any written communication was received relative to the proposed budget. There was no communication received.

President Meyers asked for a motion to close the hearing. Commissioner Bernstein so moved. Vice President Kaplan seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed.

Truth in Taxation Resolution 13-19

President Meyers called for a motion to approve the Truth in Taxation Resolution 13-19. Commissioner Bernstein moved to approve. Commissioner Flores-Weisskopf seconded.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Rutenberg, Vice President Kaplan, President Meyers

Nay: None

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Falcon Hockey Club Report

Falcons Hockey Club representative Steve Dry presented an overview of the organization stating that although they serve the surrounding communities, the majority of their participants reside in Highland Park. He complimented Centennial Ice Arena, the Falcon's home ice, and expressed his appreciation for the attentiveness of the staff and the quality of the ice. Dry stressed that a second sheet of ice would allow them to expand their program.

2014 Board Meeting Calendar

Executive Director Liza McElroy presented a list of Park Board meeting dates with Workshop Board Meetings generally held on the second Tuesday and Regular Board Meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Vice President Kaplan made a motion to approve the 2014 Board Meeting calendar. Commissioner Bernstein seconded.

Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER/COMMITTEE REPORT

Executive Director McElroy reported that by law the Park District is required to post signs stating that concealed weapons are prohibited in parks and facilities and that the signs are currently being installed.

Upcoming special events include:

Summer Camp Open House at the Recreation Center on November 23 from 9am-Noon.

Thanksgiving Day Public Skate at Centennial Ice Arena from 7:30-9pm.

Polar Express December 7 & 14 leaving from the Metra Station.

Sunset Valley Golf Advisory Committee will meet November 20.

Commissioner Bernstein reported on the Athletics Advisory Committee stating that there was much discussion on football and how to prevent injury. He was pleased that the Park District staff is proactive in safety protocols. He noted that a number of people on the committee expressed a need for an indoor field house or complex.

Commissioner Flores Weisskopf noted that the tennis teams at Deer Creek have been having a great time competing and that there is a wish list for more courts and paddle ball.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that the Centennial Ice Arena Advisory Committee has expressed facility needs. President Meyers noted that all will be considered in the master planning process.

OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg, seconded by Vice President Kaplan, 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)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 Bernstein, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Kaplan, President Meyers

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned into Closed Session at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary