

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 23, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Vice President Freeman.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Freeman

**Absent:** Commissioner Kaplan, President Grossberg

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Smith; Director Peters; Director Gogola; Director Voss; Director Hall; Director Baird; Assistant Director Acevedo; Assistant Director Reyes; Coordinator Hejnowski

**Guest Speakers:** None

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to approve the Minutes July 12, 2023 Workshop Meeting, the Minutes July 18, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting, the Minutes July 26, 2023 Regular Meeting, Ordinance #2023-06: Authorizing and Providing for the Conveyance or Sale of Surplus Personal Property, OSLAD Grant Resolution of Authorization, the 2023 Roof Improvements Project Bid, Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$2,798,348.17

**Roll Call:**

**Aye:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Freeman

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Kaplan, President Grossberg

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

**FINANCIAL FORECASTS AND TREASURER’S REPORT**

***Operations (General and Recreation Funds) Budget vs. Actual***

Director Peters reported that as of July 31, 2023, actual revenues are exceeding budgeted revenue by about \$1.2 million and actual expenses are \$1.6 million less than budgeted, for a year-to-date surplus of \$2.7 million.

***Conclusion***

The following Park District programs and facilities are performing better than budget: interest income has a \$376,000 surplus, youth dance has a \$26,000 surplus, tennis has an \$83,000 surplus, sponsorship revenue has a \$37,000 surplus, Recreation Center memberships has a \$150,000 surplus and personal training has a \$27,000 surplus, and golf has a \$400,000 surplus. Also, there is a \$400,000 savings from payroll expenses.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that tennis is always a successful enterprise, however he would like to recognize and commend golf and staff at the Recreation Center of Highland Park. Their dedication has allowed for significant surpluses as of July 31, 2023.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration to Approve the Fontana-Pasquesi Donation and Naming Rights Agreement**

Director Gogola reported that according to Park District policy, Park Property may be named after individuals or groups who have made substantial philanthropic donations toward the development of Park Property. The threshold for considering the naming of a park, building, or facility includes the provision of an agreed-upon term to fund an endowment for the continued maintenance and/or programming of the park, building, or facility. To this end, Staff has been in discussions with Laurence and Maria Fontana-Pasquesi to rename Cloverdale Park in exchange for a generous donation to finance all or part of the scheduled maintenance of the park.

Per the terms of the agreement, the Fontana-Pasquesi family has agreed to donate \$250,000 to the Parks Foundation of Highland Park to rename Cloverdale Park, “Fontana-Pasquesi Park”. These funds will be used for the repair and replacement of existing park amenities, and appurtenant improvements located at Cloverdale Park. Conditions included in the attached agreement include an initial term of the naming rights of twenty-five (25) years, appropriate signage in accordance with PDHP standards, and a park dedication on a date to be agreed upon by both parties.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to authorize the Executive Director to enter into Donation and Naming Rights Agreement between the Park District of Highland Park and Laurence and Maria Fontana-Pasquesi?

Upon approval of the Naming Rights Agreement by the Park Board of Commissioners, the park name “Fontana-Pasquesi Park” will sit for a period of 60 days for public review before being formally adopted based on a 4/5 vote of the Park Board of Commissioners.

**Roll Call:**

**Aye:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Freeman

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Kaplan, President Grossberg

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

**B. Consideration to Approve AIA Document A133 – 2019 standard form of Agreement for construction management services for the New Community Center at West Ridge Park**

This item was removed from the agenda. The Park Board of Commissioners and staff need time to review the agreement which was received this morning. This item will be presented at a future meeting of the Park Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Parks Foundation Update**

Director Gogola reported the Parks Foundation met last week to discuss scholarships. Moving forward the FYI scholarship will only be available to Highwood Families, specifically children enrolled in District 112 kindergarten through High School. Additionally, members of the Parks Foundation will be attending several events offered by Highwood Schools and the Library to promote PDHP programs and scholarship opportunities. She is pleased to report that Luisa Espinosa has taken the lead of this initiative since she is also a school liaison. Lastly, the Parks Foundation is working on a Dad Bod Tournament, which has a tremendous amount of support from Highland Park and Highwood parents.

**B. Board Committee Updates**

Executive Director Romes reported that at the August 2, 2023 Lakefront, Parks, and Natural Areas Committee Meeting staff reviewed the donation from the Fontana-Pasquesi family and the draft agreement to rename Cloverdale Park and the design development layout plan for the site, furniture, pergola, fencing, and boardwalk options for the Park Avenue North Project. Staff proposed two projects for the OSLAD Grant Application. Staff received consensus from the Committee to use the redevelopment of Lincoln Park for the grant application. Staff are developing an RFP for additional recreational purposes at the Highland Park Golf Learning Center. Lastly, Moroney Park Playground improvements should be complete in late August.

At the August 15, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting staff reviewed the Lincoln Park Improvements project budget with/without OSLAD Grant funds and the impacts on the five-year capital plan. Staff reviewed the bid openings for the 2023 Roof Improvements Project. It was the consensus of the Finance Committee to place the bid from All American Exterior Solutions on the August 23, 2023 Regular Meeting consent agenda. Staff reviewed the construction management contract proposals from Gilbane and W.B. Olsen for the New Community Center at West Ridge Park. The Park District and Larry Hillman, Hilco, hosted a neighborhood meeting on August 21, 2023, regarding the proposed north parking lot at Sunset Woods Park. Lastly, Staff provided a five-year financial analysis report of athletics and a review of the cost centers from January 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023.

**C. Directors Report**

Executive Director Romes reported that the Recreation Center of Highland Park reopened on August 18, which now offers a functional fitness area and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 20 at 5:00 p.m. for Centennial Ice Arena. The ribbon cutting will be a small photo opportunity with Park Board members and skating families. Guests will be invited to come inside to see the renovation and enjoy light refreshments.

As for upcoming events, the Park District is hosting a Free Blues Concert performance by Chicago's Rhythm Rockets at Memorial Park on August 27 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.; the Park District is proud to host the APP Pickleball Tournament for the third year in a row beginning Wednesday, August 30 through Sunday, September 3 at Danny Cunniff Park; a free Movie in the Park featuring Disney's Finding Nemo on September 1 from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. at West Ridge Park; the Family Luau on September 8 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Rosewood Beach Interpretive Center where children will show off their hula hoop skills, make their own leis, create sand sculptures, and have a lovely Hawaiian dinner together; BYOB Paint and Sip on September 15 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Heller Nature Center where adults can bring their favorite beverage and create a display-worthy masterpiece; Cozy Campfire on September 22 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Rosewood Beach; Harvest Moon Yoga on September 29 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Rosewood Beach; and Camping Under the Stars on Saturday September 30 through Sunday October 1 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 a.m. at the Preserve of Highland Park. Participants will spend the night under the stars. Enjoy lawn games, fishing and a tent decorating contest, before a cozy fire with a classic s'mores. Wake to a light breakfast spread.

Regarding the excessive heat, Executive Director Romes reported that Hidden Creek AquaPark will be open tomorrow for lap swim from 5:30-10:00 a.m. and 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. and the splash pad will be open from 9:00 a.m. – noon for children ages 6 and under. Sunset Valley Golf Club, the Highland Park Golf Learning Center, and River's Edge Mini Golf will be open for regular hours. Lastly, all other outdoor lessons and programs scheduled tomorrow will be moved inside where possible for our residents and staff's health and safety. Other outdoor programs that cannot be moved indoors may be canceled.

**D. Board Comments**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. 2023 Hidden Creek Aqua Park Pool Shell Replacement Update**

Director Smith reported that at the June 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, the Park Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Aqua Blue Pools to replace the pool shell at Hidden Creek Aqua Park. The Park District is terminating the contract with Aqua Blue Pools for breach of contract as Aqua Blue Pools has failed to provide the required Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. He provided details on the situation and plans to complete the necessary repairs to the pool shell in advance of the 2024 season.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None.

Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 23, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein, seconded by Commissioner Rутtenberg, and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Roxanne Hejnowski*

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary