



Call to Order:

President Eric Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Cathy Cagle Jason Heisler, Michael Jacobson, Karen Johnson, Linda Matthias, Sarah Michehl, Eric Anderson

Early Dismissal: Commissioner Anderson left the meeting at 7:06pm.

Legal Counsel: Scott Puma, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni and Krafthefer, P.C.

Staff: Jason Herbster, Executive Director, Erik Jakubowski, Superintendent of Park Services, Amy Olson Manager of Park Planning and Development, Tina Becke, Superintendent of Business Services, Kurt Reckamp, Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Claire Naughton, Manager of Facility Services, Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizens: Dianne Miller and Bob Miller, Residents, Nicholas R., Emma P., Ian Lamp, Lamp Inc.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Michehl moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson. All were in favor.

Matters from the Public:

Dianne Miller, Resident, addressed the Board with concerns of Park Police and Board discussion at the December Park Board meeting. Ms. Miller submitted a copy of her comments. They will be included in the correspondence section of the January 2024 Regular Meeting packet,

Bob Biller, Resident, addressed the Board with concerns of the Park Police being funded by tax dollars and stated he was not in favor of a referendum. Mr. Miller submitted a copy of his comments. They will be included in the correspondence section of the January 2024 Regular Meeting packet,

Discussion Items

A. Haligus Park Construction Management Contract

Manager Amy Olson requested the Board to accept the Construction Management contract agreement from LAMP, Inc. as the advisor to manage the park development of the Haligus Road Park project. Hitchcock Design Group will handle the construction documents. Lamp Inc. will oversee the construction of the project.

Commissioner Cagle suggested forming a community input group to review future ADA projects. Commissioner Cagle moved to accept the proposal submitted for the Haligus Road Park Project from Lamp Inc., for a fee of \$290,000. Seconded by Commissioner Michehl.

Roll Call: Ayes: (7) Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Johnson, Matthias, Michehl, Anderson Nays: 0

## Direction/Discussions Items

### D. Advisory Referendum Question -Park Police

Commissioner Anderson noted that Attorney Puma provided a list of advisory referendum questions regarding the Park Police for an upcoming general election. He asked the Board if they were interested in an advisory referendum. It was a consensus of the Board to make the decision as a Board and not to enter in to an advisory referendum.

Commissioner Anderson noted that three budget scenarios have been submitted for the Board's review. Executive Director Herbster noted that the fourth budget scenario will be a budget without the Park Police Department. Intergovernmental agreements for police services with three municipalities and the County may be a part of this process as well. Commissioner Anderson stated there are some Park Districts that hire out for special detail services and should look into the other comparable District's budgets for the costs. Commissioner Cagle agreed with looking into other Park District security services and suggested assigning a security team under the direction of Superintendent Jakubowski, and a Security Service could be hired for special events.

Commissioner Michehl agreed with Jacobson and expressed concern if other districts that have security services, are if they were able to support the types of events that we have. She was not in favor of reinventing the wheel giving Superintendent Jakubowski a security force as we have already have it and it is working.

Commissioner Jacobson noted that the Park District has had a police force for 100 years and is more complicated than black and white, it would be hard to determine a cost savings. Cagle stated that the Park Police Officers do not want to be security teams, they want to be Police Officers participating in security checks, providing back up the City police and they carry weapons. Commissioner Michehl stated that she had no problem with them being legitimate police.

Commissioner Cagle suggested contacting other Park Districts regarding their security practices. Commissioner Anderson stated the City is trying to leverage this decision and the Board needs to look elsewhere. Commissioner Michehl expressed there was no need when there is a functional security system in place.

Commissioner Anderson suggested asking staff for one more scenario showing a budget without the Park District Police Force. Commissioner Jacobson noted when there is something already established and you take something away that is working it is hard to determine how well the district will function without the park police. Commissioner Johnson expressed concerned that the information gathered needs to be from a district comparable to the Crystal Lake Park District.

The Board agreed to remove the advisory questions from the table and have Executive Director Herbster develop a budget scenario without the Park Police and present it at the Committee Meeting of the Whole on February 1, 2024.

Commissioner Michehl thanked Attorney Puma for his work done on the advisory questions.

Commissioner Anderson left the meeting at 7:06pm. Commissioner Michehl took charge of the meeting.

### A. Tax Abatement Ordinances

The Board agreed to place the tax abatement ordinances on the consent agenda for the Regular Park Board meeting on January 18, 2024.

### B. Fund Balance Transfers from the General Fund, Recreation Fund, Bond and Interest Fund and

The Racket Club Fund to the Capital Fund

Executive Director Herbster explained The General Fund in the Audit combines the Corporate, Police, Aquatic, and Food Service Funds. A transfer from the Corporate Fund to Capital Fund of \$1,600,000 is included in the approved 2023-2024 Budget. The Recreation Fund includes a transfer of \$840,000 to the Capital Fund. The Bond and Interest Fund includes a transfer of \$142,988 to the Capital Fund. The Racket Club budget includes a transfer of \$200,000 to the Capital Fund. These transfers can be made if the Fund maintains a healthy fund balance after the transfer.

The Board agreed to place Fund Balance Transfers resolution on the consent agenda for the Regular Park Board meeting on January 18, 2024.

C. 10-Year Capital Replacement and Improvement Schedule Review

Executive Director Herbster noted that Manager Olson has revised the 10-Year Capital Replacement and Improvement Schedule. There are carry over items to be considered as priority projects such as the Della Street playground, Haligus Road Park and Mickey Sands field upgrades.

Other:

Commissioner Cagle asked for the status of the annual audit. Superintendent Becke noted the draft copy has been received and will be reviewed, filed this month and if available, it will be presented to the Board for acceptance at the next Park Board meeting.

Commissioner Michehl adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_ Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
President Secretary