

Call to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

Cathy Cagle, Jason Heisler, Micheal Jacobson, Karen Johnson, Sarah Mischehl, Eric Anderson
Commissioner Absent: Linda Matthias

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, Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary, John Longo, Park Police Chief, John O'Hara, Park Police Officer, Nick Marino, Park Police Officer, Kellie Makowski, Park Police Administrative Assistant

Citizens: Karen Longo, Theresa Svejcar, Dan Dziewior, Emilie Hoffman, Kirk Kiermas, Arturo Diaz, Diane and Bob Miller, Michele Meyer, Northwest Herald,

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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

Matters from the Public:

John Orso, Resident noted that there is a rash of vandalism throughout our parks. He contacted Park Police with regard to vandalism at Four Colonies Park. The Park Police did a great job conducting the investigation. He stated he was in favor of keeping the Park Police Force and asked the Park Board to consider keeping the Park Police.

John O'Hara, Park Police Officer, noted that he learned from the last Park Board meeting that there is no other way to save dollars by eliminating the Park Police. The decision to keep the embedded culture, public safety and crime prevention in the parks is to do nothing and keep the positive benefits by keeping the Park Police force.

Diane Miller, Resident made comments regarding the Park Police staff and dealings she had with the Park Police. She stated if the Board decided to keep the Park Police she would like to see regular patrolling at all of the parks and all trails, to expand the information given on the police report to the Board and requested to meet with John Longo and a Park Board member. Mrs. Miller submitted a copy of her comments; these comments will be included in the correspondence section of the March 21, 2024 Regular Park Board Meeting packet.

Bob Miller, Resident, made comments on the Park Police budget, staffing of the Park Police, marketing the Park Police and suggested a re-organization of the Park Police force. Mr. Miller submitted a copy of his comments; these comments will be included in the correspondence section of the March 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting packet.

Aturo Dias, Resident, stated he was in favor of keeping the Park Police force and thanked those that supported the Park Police and made the following comments. The Park Board's responsibility is to keep the Park District safe. The Park Police presence speaks volumes, deters the ill intent of many people and brings about a calm feeling. A private security firm does not have a connection to the parks and trails within the Park District. The bonds that are built between the Park Police and the community speaks volumes, and as a tax payer and someone that utilizes the parks he hoped the Board would decide to keep the Park District police.

Presentation: The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee presented the Green Business Award to the Park District for its environmentally friendly practices. A Green Business window decal will be placed at one of the Park District's facilities.

Unfinished Business:

A. Park Police Review

Commissioners Cagle, Jacobson, Michehl and Johnson stated they were not in favor of disbanding the Park Police force. Commissioner Cagle noted that she would like to see an annual stand-alone budget. Commissioner Jacobson agreed.

Commissioner Heisler noted that he was in favor of an advisory referendum and to let the decision be made by the voters.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he was disappointed with the analysis and that no pros were presented and only cons were presented if the Park Police were to be disbanded. Patrolling was not the issue with disbanding the Park Police because the patrol would be given by the Village of Lakewood and the City of Crystal Lake. There would be no private security for patrols, only for special events. He stated that he was in favor of reducing expenses and taxes. The Park Police do good work, but he was not in favor of keeping the Park Police.

Commissioner Cagle moved to keep the Crystal Lake Park Police Department, in its current form. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Roll Call:

Ayes: 4 (Cagle, Jacobson, Michehl, Johnson) Nays: 2 (Heisler, Anderson)

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Michehl moved to approve the following consent agenda item, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

- A. Approval: Voucher Expenses
- B. Approval: Interim Voucher Expenses
- C. Accept: Treasurer's Report
- D. Approval: Regular Meeting Minutes 01.18.24
- E. Approval: Committee Meeting of the Whole Minutes 02.01.24
- F. Approval: Ordinance 23.24.12 Park and Facility Naming Policy 3.7
- G. Approval: NAMI McHenry County / NAMI Walks McHenry County 2024 Event
- H. Approval: Helping Paws / Panting For Paws Event

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Heisler, Jacobson, Johnson, Michehl, Cagle, Anderson) Nays: 0

Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

New Business Action Items

A. Accept: Presentation and Acceptance of 2022-2023 Annual Audit

Courtney Moore, Lauterbach and Amen, presented the Annual Audit. Courtney highlighted the following items in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year 2022-2023,

- The Park District has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest level for local government.
- The District received an unmodified/clean audit opinion with no difficulties with management due to audit process.
- Ms. Moore encouraged the Board to review the Management Letter in regard to the New GASBY Pronouncements.
- The Racket Club is in compliance with the fund balance policy due to several operational and facility updates that were made.

B. Approval: Boat Launch Gate Access Control Upgrade

Commissioner Jacobson moved to approve the purchase of the boat launch gate access control system from Apex3, in the amount of \$29,996.24. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson. All were in favor.

C. Approval: Spoerl Playground Resurfacing Bid

Commissioner Cagle moved to accept the lowest responsible responsive bid for the artificial turf surfacing project at Spoerl Park, from Team Reil, in the amount of \$127,38600. Seconded by Commissioner Michehl.

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Jacobson, Johnson, Michehl, Cagle, Heisler, Anderson) Nays: 0

Discussion Items: None

Reports to the Board:

Executive Director Herbster will be out of the office the Wednesday, February 21 through Friday, February 23.

Superintendent of Business Services, Tina Becke

Reminder to Board and staff to complete the Economic Interest Statement before May 1. The Proposed Budget Binders will be delivered on February 22 to give the Park Board two weeks to review before the Budget Meeting. The Proposed Budget will be placed on the 03.07.24 COW meeting Agenda

Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Kurt Reckamp

The Digital Summer Camp Guide registration began on February 8. There are 807 registrations, with some summer day camp sessions already filled. The Theatre camp has 32 of 40 spots filled. The three new teen programs include Dance Camp, Sailing Camp and Lake Leisure Camp. Many inclusion requests have been received. The proposed inclusion budget numbers are significantly higher than in the past.

Superintendent of Park Services, Erik Jakubowski

Many natural resources projects are being completed due to the cooperation of the weather.

Matters from the Board:

Commissioner Cathy Cagle

- Noted she heard that the crosswalk on Pingree Road will be moved to accommodate the Ashton Pointe residents. Executive Director Herbster explained that the crosswalk to access Feinberg Park will be relocated further north on Pingree, and the northbound right lane will be eliminated to provide a shorter crosswalk.
- Excited that Director Herbster will be attending a tour of the Boys and Girls Club. Hopefully he will have some new ideas for teen programing.
- Noticed the District is receiving positive feedback on restoration from the community on Facebook.
- Great to hear that the aquatic staff will be returning to work this year.
- Patch printed the Daughter Date night event programs incorrectly. The event was printed as Daddy/Daughter Date Night.
- The employee benefit policy was discussed at the Decennial Committee Meeting. Commissioner Cagle asked the Board and staff to consider capping the benefit amount to make it an equal benefit for all staff. She felt the District should be fair to employees without children and not limit the benefit to employees with children for camp and the before and after school care programs.
- Asked the Board and staff to consider 40x60 refrigerated ice skating rinks. She gave Director Herbster the information for staff to review.

Executive Session:

Commissioner Cagle moved to enter in to Executive Session to discuss item E. Review of Minutes Including Semi-annual Review to Release 2 (c) 21 at 7:22pm.

Reconvene: Commissioner Micheal moved to reconvene Open Session at 7:24pm. Seconded by Commissioner Anderson, All were in favor.

Action from Matters from Executive Session:

Commissioner Cagle moved to approve Resolution 23.24.09 Semi-Annual Review and Release of Closed Session Minutes for release of the August 17, 2023 Executive Session Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Michehl, Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Johnson) Nays: 0

Adjourn: Commissioner Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm.

Approve: _____ Attest: _____
 President Secretary