



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

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cagle, Jason Heisler, Linda Matthias, Sarah Michehl, Eric Anderson
Commissioner Absent: Karen Johnson

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

Citizens: Sheree Lavelle, Joanel Powers, Christin Kolar, Sidney and Christopher Moody

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Michehl moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mattias. All were in favor.

Matters from the Public:

Sheree Levelle, Resident, presented newspaper articles from 1994-1999 on information on Lippold Park and the sediment in the channel of the lake and expressed safety concerns and the need for cleanup. Sidney and Christopher Moody, Residents, noted the increase of muck in the channel and expressed their concerns for the safety children and wildlife. Sidney presented pictures of the channel from her property. These articles and photos will be presented to Hey and Associates for their comments. Joanel Powers, Resident, noted the depth of the channel has decreased from two feet to muck in five years. She also expressed concerns of people falling and getting stuck in the muck.

Jason Herbster, Executive Director read a letter from Bob Miller regarding concerns of placing shields on the lights at Lippold Park. He suggested trying the shields out on one fixture before purchasing them for all the light standards at the golf driving range.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval: The Voucher Expenses for the month ending, September 30, 2023, in the amount of \$448,454.51.
- B. Approval: The Interim Voucher Expenses for the month ending August 31, 2023, in the amount of \$303,596.64.
- C. Accept: The Treasurer's Report for the month ending, August 31, 2023, in the amount of \$16,126,348.31.
- D. Approval: Regular Meeting Minutes 08.17.23
- E. Approval: Committee Meeting of the Whole Minutes 09.07.23
- F. Approval: MCYSA Request
- G. Approval: Helping Paws -Panting for Paws Event Request

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

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Matthias, Michehl, Anderson) Nays: 0
Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

Business Items

New Business Action Items

A. Approval: Soccer Federation Request

The Board discussed non-resident fees for the Elite Club National League for five soccer practices at Lippold Park. Commissioner Cagle noted that the Park District policy states there is a \$12 non-resident fee for Affiliate Groups. The Board agreed not to charge the full non-resident rate for five practices.

Commissioner Cagle moved to approve \$8.00 per non-resident for these five practices and for the District to work to build a long-term relationship and a field use agreement with the ECNL and the Rockford Park District.

Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Roll Call: 5 (Heisler, Jacobson, Matthias, Michehl, Cagle) Nays: 1 (Anderson)

B. Approval: Driving Range Light Shields Purchase

Commissioner Matthias moved to approve the purchase and installation of light shields for the Golf Learning Center Driving Range and certain soccer field lights from Project Green Environmental Solutions Inc. in the amount of \$17,015.00.

Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

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

C. Approval: Tree Grant Bid

Commissioner Matthias moved to accept the lowest responsible, responsive quote, GC Designs, Inc., for the 75 Tree Planting Grant project, in the amount of \$27,435.00.

Seconded by Commissioner Michehl.

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Matthias, Michehl, Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Anderson)

D. Approval: The Racket Club / South Sidewalk Project

Commissioner Jacobson moved to accept the lowest responsible, responsive bidder, Carmichael Construction, in the amount of \$28,255.00 for The Racket Club South Walk Rehabilitation Project.

Seconded by Commissioner Matthias.

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

E. Approval: Lake Ecology Intergovernmental Agreement

Executive Director Herbster reported the Lake Safety and Ecology Intergovernmental Agreement was passed by City Council with a 5 to 2 vote on Tuesday, September 19. One City Council member expressed concern that the District purchased the Harvester before seeking approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement from the City and the other Council member felt the District should find an alternative source of funding for lake ecology. Overall, the City was complimentary of the Park District. Herbster explained that the funds collected will be dedicated to weed harvesting and weed treatment. The Intergovernmental Agreement will be placed on the Village of Lakewood agenda for the Village meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

Commissioner Cagle moved to approve the Lake Safety and Ecology Intergovernmental Agreement, as presented.

Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Matthias, Michehl, Anderson)

Discussion:

A. Park Police Review

The Board discussed the questionnaire presented by Attorney Puma regarding Park Police Departments. Commissioner's comments are listed below.

- Commissioner Cagle noted the correct questions were asked in the survey and noted the results did not show a pro park district response. Commissioner Cagle commented that the Board does not need to follow the questionnaire; the Board needs to determine whether the District should be in the business of policing.
- Commissioner Jacobson expressed concern about dissolving the department and how would the City feel and how they would respond. He suggested combining the agencies with a hybrid department with Park District and Crystal Lake police.
- Commissioner Heisler suggested meeting with the Chief and Deputy Chief of Crystal Lake to discuss options.
- Commissioners Jacobson and Matthias expressed interest in hearing from the Police Chief and City staff.
- Commissioner Cagle noted that the Board is only having a broad discussion and suggested looking into the costs to take over the duties of the Park Police.
- Commissioner Cagle questioned picnic shelter permit check ins in the Police Report to the Board. Executive Director Herbster noted that permits are issued to guarantee space to avoid conflicts. Cagle suggested staff could check permits.
- Commissioner Jacobson noted that the survey highlighted one park district that dissolved their Police Department and hired a security service. He said sometimes they are not taken seriously. Executive Director Herbster expressed concerns of staff not being taken seriously when trying to deal with conflicts.
- Commissioner Michehl noted she found that she pays 2.4% or \$12.33 per year for Park Police when she reviewed her tax bill.
- Commissioner Anderson suggested that the District look at the amount of debt service for over 10 years, the District could have approximately \$7 million to use toward a capital project using the dollars allocated towards Park Police.
- Commissioner Anderson suggested that the District look at the amount of budget that would be saved from Park Police and if that could be used toward another capital project.

The Board agreed to request a meeting with Mayor Haleblian and Police Chief Black. Executive Director Herbster and Commissioner Anderson will attend the meeting.

The Board agreed for staff to compile a list of policing needs and to quantify the list showing costs and a plan showing if the duties would be covered by other staff, contracted out or dropped altogether. Commissioner Cagle asked for the report to be presented to the Board at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Reports to the Board:

Executive Director, Jason Herbster

- Will be taking Senator DeWitte on a Park Tour in October.

Superintendent of Business Services, Tina Becke

- Explained the monthly budget report that included revenue and expenses year to date through August 31, 2023, for the Racket Club/Police Department.
- Commissioner Cagle requested that The Racket Club consultant report and past 10 years of finances be included in the packet for the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 5. Superintendent Becke noted the figures are included in the annual audit report.
- Commissioner Cagle questioned the payroll report and the need for increasing the number of employees when the population has not increased. Executive Director Herbster noted that there was a decline due to COVID, and now more people are using the programs which requires hiring additional staff. Commissioner Matthias noted the school board met to review upcoming housing developments and suggested contacting the District for the projections.

Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Kurt Reckamp

- Fall programs are in full swing
- Mini Golf will close this weekend for the season
- Heidi Stolt, Recreation Aquatics Supervisor, has been promoted to Recreation Manager.

Manager of Park Planning and Development, Amy Olson

- The OSLAD Grant for Della Street Park application has been submitted. Hoping to receive the results by mid-December. Waiting to hear back on the grants for Mickey Sund Fields and Haligus Park.

Matters from the Board:

Commissioner Cathy Cagle

- Received feedback thanking the Parks Services for filling the potholes and repairing the tie downs on the dock at West Beach.
- Has an acquaintance that can provide information on investments and opening a brokerage account at different banks. Superintendent Becke noted the District has the Fifth Third Securities account and we opened 10-15 CD's this week. Commissioner Anderson asked about brokerage fees and suggested the District run comparisons on discount brokers.

Commissioner Michael Jacobson

- Commented that the staff's reports are well done, and he noted that he is proud to be part of a professional group of people.

Executive Session:

Commissioner Anderson moved to enter Executive Session to discuss item A. Litigation 2 (c)11 at 8:04 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Matthias.

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Cagle, Heisler, Jacobson, Matthias, Michehl, Anderson)

Reconvene:

Commissioner Cagle moved to reconvene at 8:33 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Matthias. All were in favor.

Action from Matters from Executive Session: None

Adjourn: Commissioner Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Approve: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary