



Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cagle, Michael Jacobson, Sarah Michehl, Eric Anderson

Commissioners Absent: Jason Heisler, Karen Johnson, Linda Matthias

Late Arrival: Linda Matthias arrived at 6:40pm.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizens: Bill Carvell, Resident, John Pletz, Resident

Approval of Agenda

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

Matters from the Public: Mr. Carvell commented on inaccurate information that was published in the Northwest Herald regarding lake ecology and weed harvesting. He noted that the article stated 143 people would benefit from addressing the lake ecology and harvesting. Mr. Carvell received information from the Park District and Lake Associations regarding the number of people living on the lake and the number of people/organizations benefiting from the use of the lake. He stated there were an estimated 1900 households on the lake, approximately 26,837 people in beach attendance, several organizations, i.e., Ski Club, Rowing Club, Regatta, Watercraft rentals, boat gate and fisherman key users. He noted some of the additional beach and park-based lake activities, such as the fireworks display, concerts, and festival events. Commissioner Anderson thanked Mr. Carvell.

Discussion Items

A. Lake Safety and Ecology Intergovernmental Agreement

The Board reviewed the draft Lake Safety and Ecology IGA. Commissioner Michehl noted that the Board wants to make it clear to the City Council that the decal sales will not lead to a windfall of funds for the Park District; there will still be a shortage. Commissioner Cagle requested an option be offered for contributions to Lake Ecology to be made at the time of the decal purchase. Executive Director Herbster noted that 1472 decals were sold in 2023, 1497 in 2022 and 1581 in 2021. Staff will also be looking into replacing the current gate access system, as there have been many issues with the current software program.

Additional verbiage and corrections will be made to the agreement and sent to the City of Crystal Lake. The Board will receive the agreement at the September 21, 2023, Regular Park Board meeting for approval.

## B. Park Police Review

Attorney Puma reported that there have been some technical issues preparing a survey. The survey was prepared for those of the same size Park District's and for those that dropped their police department in the last 10 years and asked for their experiences, questions include how park issues are reported, staffing issues, and intergovernmental agreements. Puma mentioned one Park District had disbanded and are looking at bringing their police department back to their District. Their statements will be included in the report.

Commissioner Anderson noted it is not the purpose of the Park Police to patrol outside Park District property. Executive Director Herbster stated the Park Police are sometimes called to assist the City of Crystal Lake, Village of Lakewood, or County. Commissioner Michehl asked for the percentage of time an Officer spends on calls outside of Park District property. Commissioner Cagle requested a log of police time of an average workday. Commissioner Anderson asked for a percentage of funds to be used by police at community centers.

Attorney Puma will submit the report to the Board at the Regular Park Board meeting on September 21 and staff will provide the information requested by the Board.

## C. Emergency Shelter Locations

Commissioner Cagle questions why Park programs were running when the school district closed some schools due to the heat temperatures. Executive Director Herbster noted two schools were closed and the outdoor Park programs were moved indoors. Commissioner Michehl commented on the importance of keeping our programs going as long as they are running them safely.

Executive Director Herbster stated the District has two main facilities to make available if needed. The Board discussed options to enter into Disaster Plan Intergovernmental Agreements with local agencies.

## Quarterly Financial Report

Superintendent Becke presented a first quarter report for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The report showed revenues and expenses for each fund and a net total for each fund. An additional column was added to the report to show the Total Budget for Revenues and Expenses for 2023-24.

Commissioner Anderson asked for a year-to-year comparison of funds. Becke noted that she does include prior year comparisons in her monthly report to the Board and could provide that report in the same format as the quarterly report. The board agreed.

Commissioner Cagle expressed concern on the return on investments. Becke noted that she was in contact with the bank and two CD's will be receiving higher rates. Executive Director Herbster will be meeting with District 155 regarding their investment program. The monthly bank statements will be included in the monthly board packets.

## Recreation Program Fund:

Superintendent Reckamp presented the quarterly recreation program report for May 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023. Reckamp noted there were 2678 campers attending the summer camp program, which includes participation in multiple sessions. Reckamp added that staff review the revenue reports monthly. Executive Director noted that programming has made a lot of progress as the participant numbers show an increase over the last three years.



Commissioner Michehl asked for attendance number for special events. Reckamp stated that staff would be able to provide ballpark numbers for large events. Registration for Park District run events such as Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, Caddy Shack is outsourced, and ticket sales would provide the attendance numbers. Commissioner Michehl suggested staff include the free special event attendance numbers to justify funding education and recreation.

Commissioner Cagle asked if the District received federal pandemic childcare subsidies for programming. Executive Director Herbster noted the District received a small amount from the CARE Act for Covid expenses. Superintendent Becke added a small bonus was received for the Child Care workers. Superintendent Reckamp reported that the District does provide scholarship assistance, and free morning extended time programming for D47 teachers (started with 20 teachers and 100 teachers are using the program), and McHenry County 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) aids families with the Extended Time, Summer Camp and Preschool programs.

#### Tax Levy-Draft Review

Executive Director Herbster noted that the Board discussed the needs and agreed to levy for 5% plus new growth at the Committee Meeting of the Whole on August 3. Superintendent Becke presented preliminary 2023 property tax levy information and timeline to the Board.

Commissioner Anderson explained the tax levy process. He stressed the importance of needing to know what funds are available and the amount needed to complete projects. Commissioner Cagle noted if a 5% tax levy is granted, there will still be staffing and resource issues to address. Executive Director expressed concerns of falling behind on deferred maintenance and public disappointment. Herbster referred to the 10-year Capital Replacement schedule and stated that currently, there aren't enough funds to complete the projects. Commissioner Cagle referred to the discussion regarding a cost recovery model to help make choices of what needs to be maintained, what could not be replaced and to be prepared to help make better decisions for future Boards. Commissioner Michehl agreed with Cagle and suggested a 3-year cost report be created to provide all information for upcoming projects.

Executive Director noted the report shows the budget and income numbers, services and usages are increasing and there is a potential need to hire more staff. Commissioner Michehl noted decisions need to be made based on funding, staffing needs to complete the capital projects for the next fiscal year. Olson agreed that the parks need to be reviewed, and suggested taking note that people move next to a park for the amenities, and we need to be sure there are funds to replace anything that is removed. Olson added that community feedback on amenities i.e., ADA access, exercise equipment, etc., are included in grant applications and need to be included in the project.

Commissioner Anderson requested tax levy scenarios of 5%, 2.5% and 0%, be prepared and presented at the Committee Meeting of the Whole on October 5.

#### Haligus Park Construction Management Company

Executive Director reported a request for proposal will be sent out in October for a Construction Manager to oversee the Haligus Park project. The proposal will be sent out to 3-4 highly qualified management companies. Commissioner Cagle asked if the electric charging stations were included in the plans for the park. Herbster stated staff is researching the charging stations. Manager Olson commented it was recommended to keep the silos, as the Archeological Consultant said they are of historical significance.

Other Discussion: The Board reviewed a draft letter to the channel homeowners regarding the dredging of the channel going into the lake. Commissioner Cagle suggested including at the beginning of the letter that the wetlands at Lippold Park are not responsible or the cause of the silt going into the channel per the monitoring that Hey and Associates conducted.

Matters from the Board

Commissioner Anderson asked staff to consider the request from the Crystal Lake Soccer Federation to allow the Elite Club National League from Rockford to hold soccer practices at Lippold Park.

Commissioner Anderson requested a report to include an explanation of all expenses for The Racket Club. Superintendent Becke will provide a Racket Club fund expense report which will include expenses budgeted in the Capital fund.

Commissioner Cagle requested a non-resident fee to be added for the adult sports leagues in the upcoming annual fee schedule.

Executive Director Herbster noted Rob Laue, Racket Club Manager, will be present at the Committee of the Whole meeting in October to speak about The Racket Club Financial Operation Assessment report.

Commissioner Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:11pm.

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