



**Park District Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019**

MISSION STATEMENT: To enhance the lives of our residents by providing programs, services, facilities and open spaces that safely promote health, recreation and community in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner.

Call to Order:

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

Commissioners Present: Thomas Aquilina, Caroline Bachour-Chemaly, Jason Heisler, Shawn Zimmerman, Cathy Cagle, Debbie Gallagher

Commissioner Absent: Michele Hartwig

Legal Counsel:

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

Staff:

Jason Herbster, Executive Director, Erik Jakubowski, Superintendent of Park Services, Ann Viger, Director of Park Development and Interpretive Services, Katrina Hanna, Superintendent of Business Services, Kurt Reckamp, Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, John Fiorina, Natural Resources & Interpretive Services Manager, Will Sutphin, Nature Center Recreation Supervisor, Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary

Citizens: Kathy Molland, Matt Clarke, Donna Clarke, Dee Budelier

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

Consent Agenda Item A. Singing for AJ Fundraiser Event Request was move to New Business Item E. Commissioner Bachour-Chemaly moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Aquilina. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

A. Commissioner Cagle moved to approve the July 18, 2019, Regular Meeting minutes, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Aquilina. All were in favor.

B. Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the July 25, 2019, Workshop Meeting minutes, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bachour-Chemaly. All were in favor.

Approval of Voucher Expenses

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Voucher Expenses for the month ending, July 31, 2019, in the amount of \$484,736.78. Seconded by Commissioner Bachour-Chemaly.

Roll Call:

Ayes: 6 (Aquilina, Bachour-Chemaly, Heisler, Zimmerman, Cagle, Gallagher) Nays: 0

Approval of Interim Voucher Expenses

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Interim Voucher Expenses for the month ending, August 31, 2019, in the amount of \$129,874.15. Seconded by Commissioner Bachour-Chemaly.

Roll Call:

Ayes: 6 (Heisler, Zimmerman, Cagle, Aquilina, Bachour-Chemaly, Gallagher) Nays: 0

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending, July 31, 2019, in the amount of \$11,515,876.41. Seconded by Commissioner Bachour-Chemaly,

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Zimmerman, Cagle, Aquilina, Bachour-Chemaly, Heisler, Gallagher) Nays: 0

Matters from the Public:

Dee Budelier, Resident, expressed concerns of buckthorn at the Prairie Ridge Conservation area moving on to her property. She requested more evaluations on the management of the prairie. The board referred this issue to staff.

Introduction: John Fiorina, Natural Resources & Interpretive Services Manager, introduced Will Sutphin, Nature Center Recreation Supervisor. Sutphin will oversee the Nature Center and programs.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

Consent Agenda:

A. Singing for AJ Fundraiser Event was moved to New Business, Item E.

New Business

A. Approval: Lippold Park Easement Agreement

Commissioner Cagle moved to approve the easement agreement with the City of Crystal Lake, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Aquilina.

Roll Call: Ayes 6 (Cagle, Aquilina, Bachour-Chemaly, Heisler, Zimmerman, Gallagher) Nays: 0

B. Approval: Ordinance 19.20.04 Amendment to General Practices Manual Policy 5.17

Commissioner Cagle moved to approve Ordinance 19.20.04, amending General Practices Manual Policy 5.17, as presented.

Commissioner Heisler clarified the policy was changing the time allowed for a member of the public to comment from 5 minutes to 3 minutes and felt 3 minutes is too short. Attorney Puma stated the public access council has approved 3 minutes, and the Board always has the option at any time to extend time. Commissioner Gallagher added the public can always request a matter to be placed on the agenda for a presentation. The public comment timeframe has been extended to 30 minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Aquilina.

Ayes: 5 (Aquilina, Bachour-Chemaly, Zimmerman, Cagle, Gallagher) Nays: 1 (Heisler)

C. Discussion: Ball Hockey Rink Concept

Executive Director Herbster reported he and Commissioner Gallagher met with Mr. Kenny McCeudden, Park District resident to discuss the concept of a ball hockey rink, in honor of AJ. He and Mr. M toured several potential parks for this amenity. Commissioner Gallagher stated Mr. Kenny shared ideas for fundraising, programming and open play. Commissioner Aquilina asked for the costs. Director Herbster stated approximately costs could come in between \$200,000-350,000. Commissioner Gallagher noted this does not include infrastructure costs if built in a park without a parking lot. Herbster noted this is a popular activity across the country. It was a consensus of the Board for staff to research sites and costs for this type of project.

D. Discussion: Lake Management

Executive Director Herbster explained the changes in the environment, the increased depth of clarity of the water, zebra mussels, and the lower lake level are contributing to the buildup of the weed mass on the west end of the lake. Herbster spoke with Hey and Associates regarding options to address the removal of weeds. The cost of weed harvesting is approximately \$2,400 per harvest or \$10,000 - \$12,000 per year.

Herbster noted the recommendation from Hey and Associates is to schedule a harvester at the right time of year to clean up the surface and try to cut back up to two feet off the top to keep the weeds at bay. The removal of weeds is not a permanent solution as this is a natural occurrence. This is a messy process, which the lakefront homeowners experience across the lake, for a short period of time. Residents have suggested the Park District purchase a harvester. Herbster noted a harvester could cost \$85,000 - \$125,000, which does not include the cost of additional staff.

Commissioner Gallagher stated the Park District's responsibility is the ecology of the lake, and suggested sharing harvesting costs with the Village of Lakewood and the City of Crystal Lake, if the weeds are effecting the use of the lake. Gallagher suggested a \$5 increase to the sale of lake decals could help with the costs of harvesting. Commissioner Heisler agreed the lake decals should be increased as other lakes in the area charge more. Director Herbster added it would make sense to raise the lake usage decals fee for weed harvesting. The boaters are chopping up weeds that contribute to the issue on the west end and they could be contributing to the harvesting.

Commissioner Cagle agreed with Commissioner Gallagher. Cagle stated she was in favor of the District committing to funding weed abatement and asking the Village of Lakewood and the City of Crystal Lake to join us. Commissioner Gallagher agreed and suggested the west end neighbors also contact the Village of Lakewood and the City of Crystal lake regarding assistance in funding the harvesting expenses for weed abatement. Commissioner Cagle added the District has been taking care of property we don't own (the lake), and questioned if this was an appropriate use of tax dollars.

Commissioner Heisler stated this time of the year, weeds are everywhere on the lake, and more predominantly on the west end and everyone on the lake is raking the weeds. He asked about the driving force behind this issue. Commissioner Gallagher stated the Eel Grass reproduces and floats to the top of the water.

Commissioner Gallagher suggested weed harvesting would be a great topic for the Lake Advisory Committee and to share those concerns with the Village and the City. Gallagher suggested scheduling a Health of the Lake meeting in the spring of 2020.

Residents Donna Clark and Matt Clark addressed the board with concerns of the weed matts. Ms. Clark distributed pictures of her and her neighbors' lake property. Mrs. Clark reported the weed problems begin in June. Their family has not enjoyed their lakefront property this year due to all of the weeds. They stated the weeds have increased in the last five years. Mr. Clark reported he rescued a full grown mallard duck that had gotten itself caught in the weed bed.

Mr. Clark suggested moving the buoys out 15 feet further so boats don't chop up the milfoil. Commissioner Gallagher stated the Village of Lakewood places the buoys on the lake. He asked about purchasing a harvester. The property value has come down because their lakefront property is unusable. It is impossible for the homeowner to take care of this issue. Mrs. Clark stated no one takes responsibility, there is no enjoyment of having lakefront property and the weeds decompose and fall to the bottom. The smell is disgusting.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark stated they will be addressing these concerns at the City of Crystal Lake. They felt it was not too late for harvesting. They suggested harvesting at the beginning of the season through the end of the season.

Mr. Clark commented if the weeds are not removed they just sit at the bottom and grow again the next year. He asked about dredging the lake. Commissioner Gallagher expressed that dredging may not be healthy for the lake. Commissioner Cagle asked for the costs of dredging. Director Herbster stated he had inquired a few years back and the cost was approximately \$2,000,000. Cagle asked if dredging would offer a solution. Director Herbster said it would help some and could destroy the fish habitat on the west end. Director Herbster added the dredged material cannot be removed until it reaches a certain level of dryness, and neighbors would have to deal with the smell.

Commissioner Gallagher suggested contacting Hey and Associates regarding dredging. Ms. Clark suggested contacting someone other than Hey and Associates.

Commissioner Heisler asked if the harvesting machine can cut 6ft below the surface. Director Herbster stated the wheels paddle cuts approximately 2ft below the surface. The front part skims along the surface and pulls the weeds on to a conveyer.

Commissioner Cagle asked about the cycle between leaving debris to rot and submerge, and the relationship of weed growth the following year. Director Herbster will contact Hey and Associates regarding Commissioner Cagle's question and asked the Board if he should schedule another harvesting. The Board agreed to decide on additional harvesting after they receive an answer to Commissioner Cagle's question.

E. A. Singing for AJ Fundraiser Event

Kurt Reckamp, Chief Dan Dziewior and Lauren Thibodeau, Facility Supervisor met with Debra De Stefano to discuss the Singing for AJ fundraising event request to be held on October 12, 2019. After discussing the letter of request and meeting with Ms. De Stefano, staff had the following concerns; the event is not being run by a certified 501(c)3 organization, working with a go fund me page and with the event being held on park district property and the attendance becoming larger than expected. It was suggested Ms. Stefano take more time to organize this event. No action was taken.

Reports to the Board:

Jason Herbster, Executive Director

- Herbster met with the Village of Lakewood President regarding a potential park site. The desired property is located next to the water treatment plant and there are plans for future home development. The Board agreed to continue to pursue the project. Ann Viger will review the property and Herbster will contact the Village Manager to discuss plans for a park.
- Herbster noted the attitude and interest survey will be presented at the September Board meeting.

Ann Viger, Director of Park Development and Interpretive Services

- Sterne's Fen Restoration Project: The next phase of restoration project will included the removal of invasive trees along the trail and will begin in January. This project is funded by a grant received from the Defenders. A notification will be sent to neighbors and signs will be posted.

Katrina Hanna, Superintendent of Business Services

- Auditor review went well and the presentation will be held at the October Board meeting. Purchasing Card staff training will begin next week.

Kurt Reckamp, Superintendent of Program and Facility Services

- John Streit, MCYSA, reported the 27th annual tournament finished in July, with 90 teams from around the world. The tournament went well and he thanked the Board and staff for all of the support and work done for the tournament.
- Concession Stands: Funnel cakes, kettle corn and shaved ice has been well received. The camper lunch program went extremely well.

Matters from the Board:

Shawn Zimmerman

- Marketing Reports: The website analytics are astronomically increasing. Tennis being the top search. Facebook likes are staying high.
- Sterne's Woods: Requested before and after of Fetzner and Sterne's. Zimmerman stated he had people approach him to comment how nice the Sterne's Fen is.
- Summer Concert Series: Great turnouts.

Jason Heisler:

- Summer Concert Series: Can the schedule be extended? Director Herbster stated the series runs during the summer, as the staff returns to school in the fall. Keeping people out of the water can be a problem. The Board asked staff to look in to the possibilities of extending the concerts.

Caroline Bachour-Chemaly:

- Agrees with the possibility of extending the summer concert series.
- Happy with the return of the Orienteering program.
- The Racket Club numbers are decreasing.
- A set of table and chairs were stolen from the Racket Club.

Cathy Cagle:

- She attended a City Council Meeting. Beginning in January, 2020, the consolidated tax fund for the sale of cannabis will go in to effect. The City and County will be receiving 6% of this tax.
- She was invited to a tour of Butternut Preserve.

Thomas Aquilina

- Thanked staff for work done this summer.
- The fall brochure has upgraded dramatically. Done extremely well. Stands out and articulates our programs better than in the past.

Debbie Gallagher:

- Staff is holding off on applying for a grant for Main Beach. The plans of phase II need to be reviewed, as everything lake related was eliminated due to the lake being private.
- The Lake Advisory Committee: Director Herbster has gathered Information from surrounding lakes regarding Lake Advisory Committees. Commissioner Gallagher and Executive Director Herbster will review and formulate a draft to review at the September meeting. After Board review, it will be sent to the Village of Lakewood and the City of Crystal Lake for their review. Gallagher suggested that she and Jason set up a meeting with the CCAPOA to discuss the pier ordinance agreement. The Board was in agreement.

Committee Meeting Dates: None.

Executive Session:

Commissioner Cagle moved to enter Executive Session at 8:15pm to discuss items Litigation 2(c) 11, Sale or Lease 2(c) 6 and Review of Closed Session Minutes Including Semi-annual Review to Release 2(c) 21
Seconded by Commissioner Aquilina.

Roll Call:

Ayes: 6 (Aquilina, Bachour-Chemaly, Heisler, Zimmerman, Cagle, Gallagher) Nays: 0

Reconvene:

Commissioner Aquilina moved to reconvene at 8:40 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Cagle. All were in favor.

Matters from Executive Session:

Commissioner Cagle moved to approved Resolution 19.20.03, Release of Closed Session Minutes.
Seconded by Commissioner Aquilina.

Roll Call: Ayes: 6 (Aquilina, Cagle, Heisler, Zimmerman, Cagle, Gallagher) Nays: 0

Adjourn:

Commissioner Aquilina moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41PM. Seconded by Commissioner Cagle. All were in favor.

Approve: _____
President

Attest: _____
Secretary