

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 6:03pm in the Board Room of the Village Hall, New Lenox, Illinois.

## **GENERAL FUNCTIONS:**

**Call to order** President Fischer called the November 16, 2016 meeting to order at approximately 6:03pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance** President Fischer led the Board, Staff, and all others present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call** President Fischer directed the Recording Secretary to take roll call. Upon taking roll call, the following were present, Commissioners: Larson, Kraemer, Schulz, Thomson and President Fischer.

**Also in Attendance** Executive Director Greg Lewis, Director of Recreation Shirley Braglia, Deputy Director of Executive Services Jacque Tuma, Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, Director of Business Services Kathy Lynch, Attorney Angelo Vitiritti and Communications/Marketing Supervisor Lauren Lotz.

**Treasurer's Report** Commissioner Kraemer quoted the totals from the monthly Treasurer's Report for October 31, 2016. President Fischer requested any questions or comments regarding the monthly Treasurer's Report for October 31, 2016. Hearing none, President Fischer requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for October 31, 2016. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Schulz. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Payment of Bills** Commissioner Kraemer quoted totals from the Payment of Bills presented for October 31, 2016. President Fischer requested any questions or comments. Hearing none, President Fischer requested a motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented for October 31, 2016. Motion made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Commissioner Schulz. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Special Guests** *Friends of the Park Donation Check Presentation*  
Communications/Marketing Supervisor Lauren Lotz introduced the members of Friends of the Park who were in attendance. President Tony Kroll, Treasurer Paul Manzi, Director Carol Barnas, Director MaryAnn Anderson and Director Jaynie Olson. President Tony Kroll appeared before the board to present a check to the New Lenox Park District. The check is in three parts: \$2,500 for improvements at Taylor Glen Park, \$2,800 earmarked for improvements at The Sanctuary Golf Course, and \$5,000 towards the purchase of the synthetic ice rink. The checks presented totaled \$10,300. Executive Director Lewis asked if this was the largest donation to date. President Tony Kroll stated it was and it was from the efforts of the whole group which made it possible but Friends of the Park need more help. President Tony Kroll stated anyone can join Friends of the Park by going on the New Lenox Park District website, along with Facebook. The Friends of the Park were able to raise some of the money through the Annual 55+ Metamucil Outing at the Sanctuary Golf Course along with Proud American Days. President Fischer add Friends of the Park is a small group but really have an impact on our Park District.

**Communications** *Thank You Letter to the Friends of the Park Donation*  
President Fischer stated the \$5,000 will go towards the synthetic ice rink, \$2,500 will go towards new benches at Taylor Glen Park, and \$2,800 will go towards replacing the carpet in the bar and grill area at Sanctuary Golf Course. President Fischer added when community groups donate money towards the Park District, it frees up extra money that the Park District can use to enhance or expand our existing programs. President Fischer thanked the Friends of the Park.

### *IAPD 2016 Research Findings*

President Fischer presented the research findings of the Illinois Association of Park Districts 2016 which is the W-2 and Revenue Analysis for the New Lenox Community Park District, with Statewide Comparisons. President Fischer stated Park Districts statewide are the same as our Park District. We have two sources of revenue, our tax levy

and user fees. President Fischer added the research findings gives a lot of information on employment and revenue data. Executive Director Lewis stated the IAPD Research Findings will assist us when we go after other grants and to show the impact, the numbers are 67,000 people statewide and \$720,000,000 paid in wages and compensation. Executive Director Lewis added Park Districts, Forest Preserves and Conservation Districts throughout the State of Illinois are huge employers and economic engines that do a lot statewide.

**Consent Agenda** *Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2016*

President Fischer requested any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda. Hearing no further questions or comments, President Fischer requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer and seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Committee & Staff  
Reports**

**Business Services** *National Recreation and Park Association – Lea Pipiras, CPRP*

President Fischer reported we have received formal certification for Lea Pipiras. Lea is now Certified with the National Recreation and Park Association. President Fischer added the Park District encourages all the staff to further their education. President Fischer congratulated Lea for putting that effort in.

*Approval of Worker’s Compensation Settlement*

President Fischer stated Worker’s Compensation Settlement, Section 2(c) (11) will be discussed in an Executive Session.

**Facilities/Planning** *Facilities/Planning*

Commissioner Thomson reported on the installation of the roof trusses and plywood for the roof of the new Lion’s Den building which has been completed, along with new lines which have been installed to separate electrical circuits in Room 1 at the Lions Community Center.

Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek reported the splash pad at Walker Park has been winterized for Winter. Director of Recreation Shirley Braglia reported the banquets and room rentals are doing well. Park rentals are closed for the season, we will be taking park rental reservations again on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Golf Course** *Operation & Financial Reports Month to Date & Year to Date*

Commissioner Kraemer stated the Chili Open went very well this year filling up in under 2 hours. All the leagues wrapped up and Fall clean-up has been completed. Commissioner Kraemer also reported in October the golf course had over 30,000 rounds again which is a large bench mark. We have added river rock to the sides of the bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup> hole which will help secure the bridge and prevent flooding around it. Director of Golf Bob Schulz reported the golf course will be open for gift card sales 7 days a week coming in December up until Christmas Eve; the golf course will be closed on Christmas Day. Director of Golf Bob Schulz wanted to congratulate the Chicago Cubs for winning the World Series and remind everyone the golf shop still has 3 Cubs golf bags in stock.

**Parks/Development** *Development Projects Update*

Commissioner Larson reported Taylor Glenn Park is finished and has drawn a lot of children to it. Commissioner Larson added the grass at Bristle Park has been cut down in the flood area. Commissioner Larson would like to add a 9-hole Frisbee golf course to the area next year. Also, the lawns at Water Chase are growing very well.

Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek presented a slideshow of Taylor Glenn Park. President Fischer stated he believes Taylor Glenn Park is a very nice park and we were able to get a lot for the money which was spent on it. Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek added the staff has been busy getting the parks winterized, taking down volleyball nets and blowing out water fountains. Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek stated we will be installing park name signs at Taylor Glenn along with Prairie Ridge Park. Lastly, the plows and salt trucks are ready with more environmentally friendly salts which should be easier on the rugs and floors inside the buildings.

## Recreation

### Asset of the Month – Conflict Resolution

Young person seeks to resolve conflict non-violently. Quote of the Month: “Conflict cannot survive without your participation.” Executive Director Lewis read the Asset of the Month and quote aloud.

### Special Recreation

#### Monthly Reports, Staff Report, Monthly Financial Reports

Executive Director Lewis stated a bid opening as been completed on a service road that goes to the north out of the Lincolnway Special Recreations parking lot. The bids were consistent ranging from \$170,000 to \$200,000. Executive Director Lewis added we would need another budget levy to have the full amount but we do already have over \$120,000 in the fund. This project will be done next Spring. Executive Director Lewis stated Lincolnway still has a lot of activity going on including the Suburban Service League Dinner which we received a \$1,500 check. Also, the Quinlan Family donated \$1,000 for the future Sensory Room. Executive Director Lewis also added the budget's in good shape. President Fischer requested any questions or comments. None were noted.

#### Proud American Days 2016 Planning

Executive Director Lewis reported Menards will be contacted after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to request the use of the property. Executive Director Lewis reported work continues on booking bands and entertainment.

#### Christmas in the Commons

Executive Director Lewis reported the Village of New Lenox has stepped up Christmas, so the Park District wanted help by adding a synthetic ice rink which will be opening on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Executive Director Lewis added the ice rink will have open times and skate rentals for \$5.00. The ice rink will be 30' x 64' with a rubber mat measuring 30' x 8' with benches on it. Executive Director Lewis also noted the Park District will have complimentary hot chocolate on opening day along with free skate rentals. After that day, hot chocolate, coffee and water will cost \$2.00. Executive Director Lewis added the Village has a sponsorship program and if you are a business and would like to get involved please contact the Village or the Park District. Friends of the Park were the first to become a \$5,000 sponsor, so their name will be on a banner at the entrance of the ice rink along with having their name on the ice skate bags. President Fischer requested any questions or comments. None were noted.

Commissioner Schulz reported the Winter/Spring Catalog will in The Patriot Newspaper coming this week, the Holiday Light contest is coming up, houses will be judged on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Schulz added the Children's Basketball League has 626 participates this year which is an increase of 101 participates from last year. Director of Recreation Shirley Braglia reported Kiddie Kampus, ACES and Trailblazers are preparing for the Holidays. Director of Recreation Shirley Braglia also reported the staff has done a great job putting the Winter/Spring Catalog together. President Fischer requested any questions or comments. None were noted.

**New Business**

*Ordinance #16-11-01 Levy Ordinance 2016-2017*

President Fischer requested any questions or comments. None were noted. President Fischer requested a motion to approve Ordinance #16-11-01. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Questions and  
Comments from the  
Floor**

Nancy Hertz addressed the Board regarding the tax levy. Ms. Hertz asked why there is a 28.77% tax increase. Attorney Angelo Vitiritti explained the Park District asked for 27.46% but it does not attribute to an 27.46% increase for each individual home. Attorney Angelo Vitiritti stated you have new business' and housing coming in, plus the county only gives us so much, then they cut us. So even though we are asking for 27%, the county is going to cut us because we can only go up by the Consumer Price Index from last year's levy. Attorney Angelo Vitiritti added the Park District asked for more so we do not miss out on any other portion and not only are we asking for 27.46% across the board but each fund we are asking for increases because if we do not ask for them they may cut us in the fund. This is based on the appropriation notice in July. Ms. Hertz stated it is difficult to follow all the taxing bodies of the Village, State and so on and if everyone says they are going to have an increase, how are we able to pay the increase? Attorney Angelo Vitiritti stated the Park Districts budget is over 8 million dollars and our tax levy only brings in 3 million dollars, so we are not asking for what we need because they will not give it to us, we cannot ask for 8 million dollars. Commissioner Larson asked Ms. Hertz if she likes the beautiful parks we have and the services we provide. Commissioner Larson stated everyone likes to use them but nobody wants to pay for them, so we have to find sources of revenue to continue to provide these services. Ms. Hertz added not everyone uses the services the Park District provides. Commissioner Larson stated the Park District does provide services for everyone in the Community whether you are a senior citizen or a toddler, we provide programs along with beautiful open spaces but all of which costs money to maintain, which is what makes property taxes increase as well. Commissioner Larson added the District does provide and even with the limited taxes we receive and by charging user fees, we make up the difference. Executive Director Lewis added the system is flawed and if we do not react to the system then we will get cut backs even worse than the Consumer Price Index and when the Consumer Price Index is that low, it only equates to about \$60,000 of new money each year. Even the Special Recreation levy has been taken out of the tax gap which is supposed to be \$0.04 but we do not even get the \$0.04 so we have to take it out of our regular fund. Executive Director Lewis suggests everyone to look at their tax bill to see the Park District is only \$0.25 which is the smallest thing on there but we make it up from our user fees. Executive Director Lewis noted 3 million dollars is in tax money and we are an 8-million-dollar operation, so the other 5 million dollars comes from user fees. Nancy Hertz stated she believes it would be very helpful to use newspapers to get across the ideas to help get the word out through the whole community and she does believe the Park District does a great job at what they do. President Fischer reminded Ms. Hertz several years ago, the Park District tried to pass a referendum to retire old debt and wanted to renew new debt which was not going to have a tax increase. We went to anyone who would listen to us, we put it on the Park Districts website, we went to cable television along with homeowners and athletic associations to educate people how we operate but it still got voted down. We have tried to educate the consumers. President Fischer continued to state the Park District does not have a recreation space so we are entirely indebted to District 122 or District 120 to use their facilities and

for the use of their property, we cut the grass for them which costs us around \$80,000. If the Park District does not have the money we do not spend the money and if it was not for all of our volunteers, the Park District would be out of business because we could not afford to pay them. Commissioner Kraemer noted the Park District only receives 2.1%. President Fischer thanked Nancy Hertz for addressing the Board.

**Community Events** President Fischer announced the upcoming events as follows:

**Peace Lutheran Church 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner**

November 24, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Turkey with all the trimming and heart-warming fellowship too!

Please come and spend Thanksgiving with us if you...

- Are alone or in need
- Are new to the area and want to meet others
- Would like to spend Thanksgiving with others!

Please call in your reservation for this FREE DINNER by November 21<sup>st</sup> to Peace Lutheran Church, (815)485-5327 or e-mail the church at [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org).

Let us know how many adults and children will be attending. If you know of others who could benefit from the dinner, please encourage them to attend. Transportation will be available, so please let us know if a ride is needed. We also deliver to the homebound.

**New Lenox Lions Club Breakfast With Santa**

December 4, 2016 from 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Lincolnway West High School, New Lenox

Come out to enjoy a wonderful pancake, egg, and sausage breakfast made by the New Lenox Lions Club. Have your picture taken with Santa; children's games, enter the raffles for toys. Tickets for the event can be purchased at the door or from any Lions Club members. Adults tickets are \$5, children ages 2-9 are \$4 and children 2 & under are FREE. All proceeds for this event are donated to charity.

**VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX Christmas in the Commons**

**Kick-Off Celebration ~ Sunday, December 4, 2016**

Welcome the holiday season with our annual Christmas celebration in the Village Hall and the Village Commons. The event will run from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and will feature your favorite holiday traditions including visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse-drawn wagon rides, a coloring contest, holiday performances, and more. The event will culminate in the official presentation of the Village's new holiday lights and official Christmas tree. Please visit [www.newlenox.net](http://www.newlenox.net) for full details.

**Holiday Lights – December 4 through January 8**

See the Village of New Lenox's dazzling new display of lights throughout the Village Commons, highlighted by a 36-foot-tall lighted Santa Claus (the largest lighted Santa in the United States!). Don't forget to mail your letter to Santa in his special mailbox by December 18<sup>th</sup> to receive a response.

**Ice Skating – December 4 through January 8**

A synthetic ice skating rink will be located in the Village Commons courtesy of the Village of New Lenox and the New Lenox Community Park District. Standard ice skates can be used on this rink, and there will be limited skates available to rent. Please visit [www.newlenox.net](http://www.newlenox.net) for full details.

## **NEW LENOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

### **Jingle & Mingle Holiday Party**

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Atrium at Gatto's Restaurant & Bar

1938 E. Lincoln Highway, New Lenox, 60451

\$25 per guest – RSVP's requested by December 1, 2016

Night of networking, food & beverages, 50/50 merry money raffle and the 2016 award announcements from Business Partner and Citizen of the Year.

### **Jingle All The Way Toy Drive**

The Chamber will partner again with the New Lenox Township to provide local children with a toy-filled holiday. Donations will be accepted at the Jingle & Mingle event and at the Chamber office through Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Contact the Chamber at 815.462.4241 for full details.

## **VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX – SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA**

Mental Health First Aid Training

December 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

New Lenox Village Hall Community Room

To register for the FREE event, please contact Dan Martin, New Lenox Police Department at 815.462.6100 or [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net).

This class provides CEU's for counselors and social workers.

## **NEW LENOX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

“Wreaths Across America”

The New Lenox Fire Protection District is still accepting donations for this year's Wreath Laying Event at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery in Elwood on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost of each wreath is \$15. Donations are accepted at NLFPD, 261 E. Maple Street, New Lenox, Illinois. Donations received will be used to purchase wreaths honoring our nation's veterans, either for this year's or next year's event. For any questions, please call 815.463.4500.

## **NEW LENOX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOUNDATION**

The New Lenox Fire Protection District Pancake Breakfast is on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, District's Station 1 located at 261 E. Maple Street. The breakfast will be held from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. The breakfast is free to the public, but is intended for community seniors and families less fortunate. Those who attend are encouraged to bring a food donation for our local food pantry. For more information, please contact Tim Hartnell at 815.462.0023 or visit [www.nlfdfoundation.org](http://www.nlfdfoundation.org).

### **Commissioner & Director Comments**

- Commissioner Schulz wanted to commend the Park Districts relationships they have with the outside volunteer groups. Commissioner Schulz added he attended the Blizzard Dance Event and everything was perfect, the staff was very helpful. The donation the Friends of the Park receive is from events the Park District put together. It is the Park Districts relationship with these outside groups that allow them to make extra money.
- Commissioner Thomson congratulated the staff for putting out an asset like the ice rink which people can utilize in the winter time.
- Commissioner Kraemer thanked Nancy Hertz for bringing her question to the Board. He also added the ice rink is going to be great and is an asset to the tax payers. He hopes everyone has a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

- Commissioner Larson thanked the staff members for their continued good job. Boo and Brew was a great time. Commissioner Larson added he was a former Boy Scout and wanted to thank them for a successful even.
- President Fischer wanted to remind everyone of the importance of volunteers and how important volunteers are to the Park District. The money the Lions Club raised with the Blizzard Dance Event goes towards the families that are in need during the Holidays. Also, the 51,000 items of food which was collected by the Boys and Girl Scouts is amazing and all organized by volunteers. President Fischer wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hopes everyone takes a second to remember our Veterans on Veterans Day.

**Executive Session** President Fischer requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:15pm regarding Worker's Compensation Settlement Section 2(c) (11) Litigation. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon returning, President Fischer requested a motion to approved Worker's Compensation Settlement. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Reconvene** President Fischer requested to reconvene at 7:25pm to Regular Session of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Thomson. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment** At approximately 7:25 p.m., President Fischer requested a motion to adjourn the November 16, 2016 Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Thomson. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lori Mennite  
Recording Secretary