

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Village Hall, New Lenox, Illinois.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

- Call to order** President Schulz called the September 20, 2023, meeting to order at approximately 6:01 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance** President Schulz led the Board, Staff, and all others present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call** President Schulz directed the Recording Secretary to take roll call. Upon taking roll call, the following were present, Commissioners: Kraemer, Fischer, Ott, and President Schulz.
- Also, in Attendance** Executive Director Greg Lewis, Director of Business Services Kathy Lynch, Director of Recreation Lea Pipiras, Deputy Director of Business Services Karen Acklin, Deputy Director of Business Services Jason Braglia, Director of Parks-Maintenance George Travnicek, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, and Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath.
- Treasurer's Report** Commissioner Kraemer quoted the totals from the Monthly Treasurer's Report as presented for August 31, 2023. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the Monthly Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2023. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented for August 31, 2023. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. 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 as presented for August 31, 2023. President Schulz requested any questions or comments. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented for August 31, 2023. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes** *Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2023*
President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2023. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2023, as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Committee & Staff Reports** Commissioner Ott reported that Jacque Tuma has resigned from her position of Deputy Director Executive Director after 20 years. Executive Director Lewis stated that she moved on to the Village of Orland Hills and we wish her the best in her new position. Director of Recreation Lea Pipiras has been taking the time to look at the position and its responsibilities and restructuring the responsibilities of other staff members.
- Business Services** Commissioner Ott also reported that we received a Thank You Letter from Tom Reedy from Stifel formally thanking the park district for entrusting them to serve as the underwriter for the District's General Obligation Park Bonds. Commissioner Ott noted that the proceeds of the bonds have been invested in a 3-month CD which is good that we are putting the money to good work while we wait for the golf course project to finish. Commissioner Ott noted that there were a few FOIA requests and thanked the Business Services office for taking care of these. Commissioner Ott stated that Director of Business Services Kathy Lynch reached out to him and Commissioner Fischer regarding the project reports and ask it to be a good idea to have a project report for each individual project that is currently in progress.
- Facilities / Planning** President Schulz reported that routine maintenance has been happening including general HVAC and general plumbing. President Schulz thanked the staff in that department for a job well done as always.

Golf Course

Commissioner Kraemer reported that August was another good month and was about \$20K better than last year. All outings in August were up from last year and we received more league play than in the past. Some of our leagues ended in August and the High Schools filled those times. Commissioner Kraemer reported that we closed the driving range the last week of August for the season so that the project can keep moving forward. Commissioner Kraemer spoke of the project and stated that we are right on schedule for the “Golf” portion and should be finished on time and the next part, the “Structure” portion is in the packet now for approval. Commissioner Kraemer reported that there has been nothing but positive reviews and excitement for this much needed range expansion.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Food and Beverage operations did well again although we are still dealing with some supply chain issues, but we are working around them when needed. Our customers are being conditioned by the supply chain issues, so the complaints are fewer. Most of the staff of the college and teacher help have gone back so we are working with a small staff.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that we came through the heat of the summer pretty good overall. The fall maintenance will start in September, and we will be doing green aerations in October this year. Commission Kraemer noted that we marked the T1 fiber line for the construction project and found the needed irrigation tap on for the construction teams.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that our rounds of golf are up from the previous year as well as our Food & Beverage Operations. Commissioner Kraemer suggested to the public to use our on-line process to obtain a tee-time.

Director of Golf Bob Schulz reported that we had one bid for the structure portion of our range which came in higher than we had budgeted. Director of Golf Schulz stated that they meet with Cover the Tees and had them value engineer the project to get the cost down without decreasing what we want and doesn't decrease the size of the structure we want. If everything goes well our deadline for this part of the project will be the end of October. As of today, the netting system is up, and it looks great with what we envision once the structure is up. Executive Director Lewis stated we will about \$140,000 more than we projected into the project that will have to be made up with an earlier start date. He noted that we made all the cuts we can make to give the community the product we want to put out to them. Executive Director Lewis stated that he feels very good about where we are and that all things are coming together for this project. Executive Director Lewis noted that the contractor we normally use stepped up and worked with the group and was able to help with lowering the bid. Director of Golf Schulz wanted to thank the mayor and his village staff for waiving the permit fees which is among a lot of fees that the village has waived for us. President Schulz thanked Director of Golf Schulz for all the hard work he has put in on this project.

Parks/Development

Hibernia Park Phase II – OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks-Maintenance Travniczek reported it has been slow but is moving forward. We just received the construction permit for the multi-use building from the village, and the three fitness stations should be completed in the next 3 to 5 days. He noted that they will start to power sidewalks for the boardwalk on the northeast side of the site and within the next 3 weeks they will be excavating and pouring the footings for the piers. Finally, the boat dock expansion for the ADA kayak launch has been completed.

Sky Harbor Park

Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek reported that we have not heard anything back from Integral Construction so we will go ahead complete those three tasks ourselves but have the concrete square contracted out to our concrete company.

Water Chase Park

Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek noted that we are still in the process of working on the bid specs with a lot of alternates in there including pickle ball courts and many of the amenities we are looking for.

Bristol Park

Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek stated that we are on schedule with the equipment delivered next week from the end of September to the beginning of October for installation. The homeowners are very excited about the park being completed.

Executive Director Lewis wanted to make sure everyone is aware that Director of Parks-Maintenance Travnicek has done a great job with the unexpected issues that have been raised with the site and asked if in the future should soil samples be done before taking on park property.

Executive Director Lewis stated that with Water Chase Park on hold we had basically real nice pickleball courts planned to it to the next level it would constitute more money and then be a better product for programming and events, but we need to stay on budget. Executive Director Lewis noted that by bidding it the way we are bidding it, it gives us more options.

Executive Director Lewis noted to the staff and board members that beginning next month the budget reports will be part of development and separated by project, which will make it easier for all to look at and be called out if need be.

Recreation

Special Recreation

Executive Director Lewis reported that a lot of activity has been happening with Special Rec. The Foundation Golf Outings were both a huge success with about \$26,500 at the Sanctuary and \$16,00 at Green Garden. Executive Director Lewis stated that they received \$10,000 from the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau for the teams and athletes that stayed in the area hotels for the 2023 Wheelchair World Series. They also received \$3800 from the Knights of Columbus which will be used to fund financial assistance and upcoming sensory projects.

Executive Director Lewis noted that they will be working with a few Eagle Scouts to complete the Sensory Garden project from a \$10,000 DEOC Grant.

Commissioner Fischer reported that our Rec Department is getting larger each season with the only thing that is holding us back is having a Rec Center, but we are doing fantastic with what we have. Commissioner Fischer noted that our summer camp program, Camp Wewannago, had 477 campers which is an increase of 118 campers from last year. The campers enjoyed onsite activities as well as field trips to water parks, amusement parks and tumbling gyms. Commissioner Fischer noted that our current ACES program has 430 participants and 52 staff members. Our Fall Athletics are up and running with the Fall Adult Softball League having 27 teams playing on various nights throughout the week. The Fall Kick Start Soccer league has 206 players between the ages of 3 and 6 years old with 20 teams and 34 volunteer coaches. Commissioner Fischer stated that our volunteers have a huge impact on our programs in the park district and thanked each of them. Commissioner Fischer stated that our Kiddie Kampus

preschool program currently has 197 children enrolled which is up from 191 last year. He reported that we had a great special event called Bake Me Crazy on August 10th at Firefighters Park and it was estimated between 100-125 participants attended. He thanked the business who generously donated delicious, tasty treats as well as the event sponsor, T.R. Miller, who provided their wheel of fortune game for kids and adults.

Commissioner Fischer highlighted one of the part-time employees, Caitlin Eichhorn, for her work with the website and social media in the last 90 days our awareness has gone up 135%.

Director of Recreation Pipiras reported that one of our Kiddie Kampus teachers, Jennifer Bucci, who teaches our 3-year-old preschool was nominated by Deanna MacDonald for the Teacher Spotlight in the New Lenox Patch and T-Mobile. A certificate was placed in the packet noting our New Lenox Community Park District Kiddie Kampus was voted as one of the best preschools as well as the New Lenox Community Park District was voted as 2023 Best Family Recreation.

Unfinished Business Amended Ordinance #8 General Use Regulation Ordinance

President Schulz stated that this Amended Ordinance was being tabled again but Executive Director Lewis suggested to pull this Amended Ordinance from the Agenda all together and put it back in the Administrations hands due to the restructuring we need to take our time looking at the all the pieces. Executive Director Lewis noted that there is nothing there that cannot be handled and there could be something we learn at the Legal Symposium in November that could help with what is being looked at. He stated that once it is complete it will be brought back for approval. All board members agreed with Executive Director Lewis.

Bid Results – The Sanctuary Golf Course – 20 Bay Driving Range Facility with Range Ball Technology

President Schulz requested a motion to approve the bid from Performance Delivery Inc dba. Cover The Tees as the lowest responsible bidder. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business Ordinance #23-09-01 Ordinance Declaring Currently Owned Property as Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal (Beaver Creek Trailer)

President Schulz asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance #23-09-01 Declaring Currently Owned Property as Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Change Order #1 – Revised Contract Pricing

President Schulz asked for a motion to adopt Change Order #1 – Revised Contract Pricing with Performance Delivery Inc dba. Cover The Tees. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Events President Schulz noted the Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Craft and Vendor Fair on October 21, 2023, as well as the Friends of the Parks Metamucil 50+ Golf Outing on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

President Schulz spoke about the Friends of the Parks Empty Bowls event and thanked everyone who participated in this event and made it so successful.

Executive Director Lewis wanted it noted that we celebrated the life of former Director of Recreation, Shirley Braglia, who recently passed away. Shirley gave so much of her life to the New Lenox Community Park District and had a profound effect on where the park district is at today.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:43p.m., President Schultz requested a motion to adjourn the September 20, 2023, Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa McGrath, Recording Secretary