

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 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 January 17, 2024, meeting to order at approximately 6:02 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: Ott, Fischer, Larson, and President Schulz.

Also in Attendance Executive Director Greg Lewis, Director of Parks – Maintenance George Travnicek, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, Director of Recreation Lea Pipiras, Deputy Director of Business Services Jason Braglia, Recreation Supervisor Amy Maher, Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath, and Office Coordinator Aurora Abbott.

Treasurer’s Report President Schulz quoted the totals from the monthly Treasurer’s Report as presented for December 31, 2023. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the monthly Treasurer’s Report for December 31, 2023. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented for December 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 President Schulz quoted totals from the Payment of Bills as presented for December 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 December 31, 2023. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Special Guests President Schulz made a motion to amend the agenda to move Resolution #24-01 and Resolution #24-02 under New Business to the Special Guests Section. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #24-01 – Resolution Honoring the Mustang Legacy JV Cheerleading Squad’s 2023 ICA State Championship

President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #24-01 Honoring the Mustang Legacy JV Cheerleading Squad’s 2023 ICA State Championship. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Supervisor Maher read the resolution out loud to the public and congratulated the Mustang Legacy JV Cheerleading Squad on their win at ICA Championship in 2023. President Schulz commended the team for their hard work and dedication. The team performed their “We are the Mustangs” cheer for those in attendance.

Resolution #24-02 – Resolution Honoring the Bullstangs Varsity National Championship Team

President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #24-02 – Resolution Honoring the Bullstangs Varsity National Championship Team. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Supervisor Maher read the resolution out loud to the public and congratulated the Bullstangs Varsity Team on their National Champions title in the 2023 Thanksgiving Bowl National Championship. President Schulz acknowledged that their victory was impressive considering they had to combine two teams.

Communications

President Schulz noted that we received the 2023 Annual Report from IAPD labeled “The IAPD Experience.”

Approval of Minutes

Approval for the Regular Minutes of December 20, 2023

President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Regular Minutes of December 20, 2023. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee & Staff Reports

Business Services

Commissioner Ott noted that even though this was a light month, yearly comparisons show that registration is up by 9%. He stated that this was a testament to the quality of the programs and staff. He appreciated the inclusion of the maturation of CD investments by the district in the report.

Commissioner Ott reported on how the park district is making the best use of old computers by rolling down old equipment while updating computers currently in use.

Facilities / Planning

President Schulz reported that right now the staff is primarily focused on general maintenance updates.

Golf Course

Commissioner Larson reported that December was a great month due to the opening of the 1st phase of the range expansion project, the top tracer structure. We opened on December 26th as a soft opening and sold almost \$6,000 in range balls alone for the six days in December we were open. The public is extremely excited about our new top tracer structure and have all said that they cannot believe how nice it is compared to other locations. We had just over 500 golfers in December which is good considering the weather.

Commissioner Larson commented on how food and beverage operations brought in just over \$3,000 more than last December and that most of this was in the six days the new range was open. We will be updating the prices to reflect the costs of goods that keep going up in the food and beverage industry. He also noted that

the kitchen had a deep clean in December and that off-season maintenance has begun on equipment.

Director of Golf Schulz mentioned that they have been receiving requests to rent out bays. At this point the range is not set up for that, but they plan to offer it in the future.

Parks/Development

Athletic Associations/Sites

Commissioner Larson acknowledged the general success of the association teams and recognized the importance of the associations to the community. Commissioner Larson reported that new netting will be going up on baseball fields 5, 9, and 10 and a new shed is being built at Tyler/Bentley School.

Commissioner Larson reminded the public that we will be going out to bid for contracted mowing.

Development Update

Hibernia Park Phase II – OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks Maintenance Travnicek reported that the building at Hibernia now has a roof which is being shingled currently. HVAC work, plumbing, electrical, and gas services with Nicor are all underway. They have until September 30th to have Hibernia Phase 2 updates completed but are pushing to be open by the end of May.

Sky Harbor Park Update

Director of Parks Maintenance Travnicek reported that Integral Construction just cashed their final check, so everything is completed.

Water Chase Park – OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks Maintenance Travnicek noted that there were four noted bidders for Water Chase Park Development. George's Landscape, Inc. was the low-qualifying bidder and should be able to keep the project under budget. His recommendation is to award the bid to George's Landscape, Inc.

Haines Park Ice Skating

Director of Parks Maintenance Travnicek wanted to remind the public that at Haines Park a green flag means the ice is skateable and a red flag means the ice is not safe to skate on. The lights will be on until 10:30pm each night.

Recreation

Special Recreation Update

Executive Director Lewis noted that the Lincon-Way Foundation presented LWSRA with a \$60,000 check. LWSRA is currently in the process of receiving a \$100,000 grant to create a sensory garden outside their main building. They will need a letter from the park district before receiving the grant money since it would be built on our property. Executive Director Lewis noted that numbers are finally coming back up post-Covid both in terms of staff and participants.

Commissioner Fischer reported that the ACES Before and After School Program has 484 participants. Beyond the Bell, which serves as additional childcare when school is not in session, averaging 42 kids per day for each of the three days offered in December.

For adult programs, Commissioner Fischer highlighted the Christmas Around Chicago Bakery Bus Tour. A group of 20 participants visited different bakeries and learned about the history of Christmas holiday traditions of different nationalities in the Chicago neighborhoods. They also enjoyed lunch at Pompeii in Little Italy.

Commissioner Fischer reported that the Children's Basketball League tipped off on Sunday, December 3rd. We have a total of 52 teams with 89 volunteer coaches and a total of 521 participants throughout the six divisions. He acknowledged how essential volunteer coaches are for our programs and thanked them for their hard work. The games are being held in the fieldhouse and main gym at Lincoln-Way West High School. Commissioner Fischer gave a shout out thanking the two basketball sponsors- Burns Photography and Raising Canes's.

Commissioner Fischer spoke about the New Lenox Fire Department coming out to talk with our four-year-olds in the Kiddie Kampus program on December 4th and 5th for their Learn Not to Burn Program. On the evenings of December 13th, 14th, and 15th Kiddie Kampus held their annual Christmas Program where they performed a variety of Christmas songs for parents.

Commissioner Fisher highlighted the annual Noon Years Eve Celebration held on the New Lenox Commons Stage on December 28th from 11:30am-12:30pm. Once the clock struck Noon, there was a balloon drop for kids of all ages to enjoy. During the event, ice skating rentals were available as well as music for dancing and several games and crafts. Commissioner Fischer recognized Crawler Brewing Company coming out to serve hot chocolate to participants at the event.

Ice Rink Recap

Director of Recreation Pipiras noted that our ice rink in the New Lenox Commons did very well this year even with shorter hours. There were 43 more ice skate rentals this year compared to 2022. Some participants visited from as far away as North Carolina and Arizona, and Commissioner Fisher added that only about half of the renters were from New Lenox, showing that the Christmas in the Commons program offered by the Village of New Lenox in conjunction with our ice rink does a good job attracting people from all over. President Schulz pointed out the great partnership we have with the Village of New Lenox and thanked them for their support.

New Business

Resolution #24-03 - Resolution Honoring the NLYFA Lightweight Junior Warriors Championship Season

President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #24-03- Resolution Honoring the NLYFA Lightweight Junior Warriors Championship Season. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #24-4- Resolution Honoring the NLYFA Junior Varsity Warriors Championship Season

President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #24-04 - Resolution Honoring the NLYFA Junior Varsity Warriors Championship Season. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #24-05- Resolution Honoring the NLYFA Elite Football Team's National Championship

President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #24-05 – Resolution Honoring the NLYFA Elite Football Team's National Championship. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Bid Results- Water Chase Park Development

President Schulz requested a motion to award the Water Chase Park Development contract to George's Landscaping, Inc. for \$976,500.00 and not to exceed \$976,500.00. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Events

President Schulz congratulated the 2023 New Lenox Chamber of Commerce Award Winners, Business of the Year, Joey's Redhots, Citizen of the Year, Nicole DeGrave and Partner of the Year, Lincoln-Way Marching Band.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:36 p.m., President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the January 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Recording Secretary – Melissa McGrath