

**Park District of Franklin Park  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 2021; 7:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
9560 Franklin Avenue  
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order at 7:05 p.m.**

President Zinga called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Physically Present: Commissioners Joseph E. Zinga, AnneMarie Casas, Susan E. O'Connell, Mark K. White and Michael A. Vonesh.

Also Present: Joseph D. Modrich, Director of Parks and Recreation; Maria Laskowski, Human Resources Manager; Daniel LoCascio, Superintendent of Recreation; Nathan Wick, Superintendent of Parks; Steven Selimos, North Park Manager; Stephanie Bersani, Superintendent of Finance & Technology; Kevin Meyers, Ice Arena Manager; Marco Galassini, Marketing & Communications Manager; and Attorney Thomas Hoffman.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda**

There were no Additions, Corrections or Deletions to the Agenda.

**Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Park Commissioners to sell not to exceed \$1,120,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of land purchased or condemned for parks and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of costs of issuance**

President Zinga asked for written or oral comments from the Commissioners. There were none.

President Zinga asked for written or oral comments from the Public. There were none.

President Zinga asked for additional comments from the Public. There were none.

President Zinga asked for a motion to Adjourn the Bond Issuance Notification Act (BINA) Public Hearing.

**Adjourn the Public Hearing**

Motion #1 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to finally adjourn the Bond Issuance Notification Act (BINA) Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Casas, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Zinga, yes. Motion carried.

President Zinga declared the hearing finally adjourned.

**Presentation / Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated September 28, 2021**

Motion #2 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner White to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated September 28, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners O’Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Zinga, yes. Casas, yes; Motion carried.

**Presentation / Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated September, 2021 in the amount of \$212,391.08**

Motion #3 by Commissioner O’Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to approve the September, 2021 Manual Bill Listing in the amount of \$212,391.08.

The Manual Bill Listing was reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Zinga, yes. Casas, yes; O’Connell, yes. Motion carried.

**Presentation / Approval of System Bill Listing dated October, 2021 in the amount of \$96,578.16**

Motion #4 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner O’Connell to approve the October, 2021 System Bill Listing in the amount of \$96,578.16.

The System Bill Listing was reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Vonesh, yes; Zinga, yes. Casas, yes; O’Connell, yes; White, yes. Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**Reports of Officers and Commissioners**

Commissioner Casas reported that the Franklin Park Speed Skating Club had three skaters compete in the Americup in Utah. Jersey Chytla achieved an Olympic qualifying time to compete in the upcoming Olympic trials.

Commissioner Casas congratulated our Pool staff on receiving the Platinum International Aquatics Safety Award.

Commissioner Casas saw a few events promoted where students can volunteer. She thinks it’s a great way to access that age group and expose them to working at the Park District. She saw a few volunteers on Saturday with Superintendent Wick and Assistant Costa gardening for Make a Difference Day. It is great to see the youth engaged.

Commissioner Casas stated that we are blessed with an active Skating community. The Ice Arena parents are sponsoring three tables for the Trick or Treat in the Park on Saturday.

Commissioner Casas noticed that Peoples and Places taped the Parade. Manager Skladzien did a great job on his first event.

Commissioner Casas attended the Leyden Township Halloween Fest. Ben White did a nice job. They created a maze for the kids to run through. She suggested looking into doing for a future event.

Commissioners O'Connell, Zinga, Vonesh and White thanked staff for the work on the Parade and Fall Fest. It was very well attended and enjoyed by the residents.

**Recess for Public Comment at 7:18 p.m.**

President Zinga recessed for Public Comment at 7:18 p.m.

Superintendent Wick introduced Italo Muralles and Jaylin Argueta. The Board welcomed them to the Park District.

**Reconvene at 7:22 p.m.**

President Zinga reconvened Public Comment at 7:22 p.m.

**Staff Reports:**

*Director*

Director Modrich reported that Penny Wilson is scheduled for November 3 with 14 full-time staff members attending via zoom.

Assistant Costa gave update on the Bee Hives. She reported that Hive number 4 might not survive the Winter. We will be looking into doing educational presentations, and having a Bee Club.

Director Modrich stated that the logo is almost done, and we will have labels for honey jars made.

*Superintendent of Recreation*

Superintendent LoCascio thanked the Board for coming out to the Parade. It was the first event since 2019 of that size. It was nice to see all the residents out and enjoying the day. Superintendent LoCascio stated that is could not have gotten done without the help of the Parks Department. Manager Skladzien did a good job learning everything for his first event.

The Recreation Department is getting ready for the Trick or Treat in the Park Halloween event on Saturday. Staff will be meeting with Superintendent Wick tomorrow to finalize set-up. Games are being added this year.

A Family Paint Night is scheduled for Friday night.

Superintendent LoCascio reported that the Youth Volleyball has 50 plus participants. It is nice to see the parking lot full tonight. Manager Nelson is evaluating teams tonight, and the teams will be split after Saturday; we will have 8 teams.

Superintendent LoCascio stated that we are very proud of the Pool staff. The Ellis Award was a very pleasantly surprise.

The Pool Liner project is being done and is very interesting to watch. The whole liner is being removed. A discussion was held.

Director Modrich commented that the Pool staff was great under these conditions this past Summer.

Director Modrich shared with the Board that a Union Rep was out at the Pool today. Superintendent LoCascio went to talk to the Foreman. The Union Rep asked questions took pics. Director Modrich had conversation with Union Rep. A discussion was held.

Commissioner Casas thanked Superintendent LoCascio for flexibility with Afterschool pick-up.

### *Ice Arena Manager*

Manager Meyers discussed the busy upcoming weekends at the Ice Arena, high school hockey games, Scary Skate, and next weekend the CCM World Invite Tournament.

### *Superintendent of Parks*

Superintendent Wick reported that Leyden Make a Difference day was held this past Saturday and the students were a great help, completing all the projects listed. They started with six students and two teachers and with the last 20 minutes another group that finished early arrived and help finish things up. The most amazing thing happened at the end when the only thing they wanted to do was play on the equipment.

Assistant Costa beat herself up last week finishing the circle at North Park planting a total 5,500 tulip bulbs. She still has more that are going in throughout the Park District. A total of 10,000 bulbs will be planted this Fall.

Italo and Jaylin worked on cleaning up the Service Center during the rain days. Weather is getting cooler and Vito has started to shut down and blowing out drinking fountains. Bob and staff will be removing site amenities from the ballfields.

Camera are to be installed at the end of November and beginning of December.

### *Marketing & Communication Manager*

Manager Galassini reported that the Fall Receptions newsletter will be dropped at the post office tomorrow. Staff is working on the third round of revisions for the Winter Spring 2022 brochure.

The Youth Volleyball League flyers were distributed to Grades 5-8 at School Districts 81, 83 and 84. Teen Night calendars were digitally sent to Hester Students. Certificates of completion were made for Micro Soccer, Hockey and Football.

Manager Galassini promoted our Fall events, Youth Basketball, Micro Basketball, Youth Volleyball League and Teen Night this month on social media. We received an increase in followers and engagements with Fall Fest content.

The Franklin Park Herald-Journal and People & Places Newspaper covered the Eddie Biondo Fall Fest Parade. We will be pitching a story on child-led play and the Park District's efforts.

A statement for our transition to ACTIVENet is being drafted. The Adult Sports Survey was distributed and has 71 responses this far.

The website is being updated as needed. 70% of visitors are finding us through organic searches.

### *North Park Manager*

Manager Selimos reported that Indoor Soccer started this month. In November Clubs pick up.

He reported that events are struggling with five being cancelled this month. November has one cancellation. November has one / two events scheduled every weekend. He has a site visit tomorrow to resell a cancelled date.

### *Superintendent of Finance & Technology*

Superintendent Bersani discussed the LED Light upgrade proposal eligible for ComEd rebates that encompass the Community Center downstairs rooms, downstairs hallway and gymnasium and North Park

gymnasium and the office/hallway. She reported that the Ice Arena and North Park's banquet hall and banquet hall entrance will be upgraded down the road. The Board was in favor of moving forward with the suggested LED upgrades described above.

Superintendent Bersani explained that the tentative go-live date is November 1 for ActiveNet, but expressed hesitancy in their implementation team carrying out the suggested date. She hopes to have more concrete answers by the end of week report.

#### *WSSRA*

Director Modrich reported that at the last WSSRA meeting a decision was made to refund Clyde Park District's portion of their shares that were being held.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### *Ice Arena Fire Update*

Closed Session discussion.

#### *Timber, Hawthorne and Little Pearl Parks*

Motion #5 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner White to approve Payout #006 to Integral Construction Inc. in the amount of \$69,731 as recommended by Hitchcock Design and staff, for Hawthorne Park, Timber Park and Little Pearl Park Improvements pending receipt of Certified Payrolls.

We currently have \$208,000 retainage being held.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Zinga, yes; Casas, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes. Motion carried.

#### *Budget 2021-2022*

Superintendent Bersani will be getting information to staff.

#### *CV-19 Adaptation 2021*

Director Modrich stated that there is nothing new.

#### *Energy/Utility Policy*

Director Modrich reported that our Energy Rep Jim Belden is worried with what's going to happen this Winter. We are covered until 2022, and doesn't feel we will get the low rates as we have been. We are concerned about pipelines, and the supply chain for energy. Hoping for a milder Winter. Predictions of 3-400% increase of natural gas. Stephanie has a good grasp on it. Cindy breaking down every bill that comes in.

A discussion was held.

### **New Business:**

#### *Truth-in-Taxation Resolution #21-22-2/R*

Motion #6 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to adopt Resolution #21-22-2/R, a Resolution Determining the Amounts of Money Exclusive of Levies for Debt Service and Election Costs Estimated to be Necessary to be Raised by Taxation Pursuant to the Proposed Levy of the Park District of Franklin Park for the Levy Year 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Casas, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Zinga, yes. Motion carried.

*Surplus Ordinance #21-22-2/O*

Motion #7 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Vonesh to adopt Ordinance #21-22-2/O, an Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Sale of Certain Used Property.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Zinga, yes; Casas, yes. Motion carried.

**Suggested Motions:**

There were no Suggested Motions.

**Required Signatures**

Manager Laskowski and Superintendent Bersani received the required signatures.

**Closed Session to discuss Probable / Imminent Litigation 2(c)2 and Personnel 2(c)1**

Motion #8 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to enter into Closed Session at 8:32 p.m. to discuss Probable / Imminent Litigation 2(c)2 and Personnel 2(c)1.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Zinga, yes; Casas, yes; O'Connell, yes. Motion carried.

**Rise Out of Closed Session**

Motion #9 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to rise out of Closed Session at 9:57 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Vonesh, yes; Zinga, yes. Casas, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes. Motion carried.

**Commissioner Transition**

A discussion was held.

**Adjourn at 8:57 p.m.**

Motion #10 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner Vonesh to adjourn at 9:57 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Zinga, yes; Casas, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes. Motion carried.

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Michael A. Vonesh, Secretary