

**Park District of Franklin Park
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 23, 2021; 7:00 p.m.
Community Center
9560 Franklin Avenue
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131
MINUTES**

Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.

President Zinga called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Commissioner Susan E. O'Connell.

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; Marco Galassini, Marketing & Communications Manager; and Attorney Thomas Hoffman.

Absent: Stephanie Bersani, Superintendent of Finance & Technology and Kevin Meyers, Ice Arena Manager.

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.

Bond Sale Presentation by Aaron Gold and Dan Forbes from Speer Financial, Inc.

Motion #1 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Vonesh to accept the bid from Peoples National Bank of Kewanee, Kewanee, Illinois in the amount of \$1,094,270 with a .480% Net Interest Rate for the General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2021.

Dan Forbes stated that Superintendent Bersani and his colleague Aaron did all the work. He reviewed bids received for the one year bonds.

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

Bond Series 2021 - Ordinance #21-22-3/O

Motion #2 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner Vonesh to adopt Ordinance #21-22-3/O, an Ordinance providing for the Issue of \$1,094,270 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2021, 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 the Expenses Incident thereto, Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax to Pay the Principal and Interest on said Bonds, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Bonds to Peoples National Bank of Kewanee, Kewanee, Illinois.

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

Presentation / Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated October 26, 2021

Motion #3 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated October 26, 2021.

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

Presentation / Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated October, 2021 in the amount of \$194,460.01

Motion #4 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner White to approve the October, 2021 Manual Bill Listing in the amount of \$194,460.01.

Manual Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

Presentation / Approval of System Bill Listing dated November, 2021 in the amount of \$66,668.64

Motion #5 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner Vonesh to approve the November, 2021 System Bill Listing in the amount of \$66,668.64.

System Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

Reports of Officers and Commissioners

Commissioner Casas reported that Competitions are finally back and excitement is in the air. Franklin Park Speed Skating hosted their annual Barrel Buster event with over 60 skaters.

She reported that last weekend Starr Blades Synchro Team competed in the Kick-Off Classic in Kalamazoo. The team enjoyed dinner with their coaches and pool time.

Commissioner Casas reminded the Board to mark their calendars for December 4 and 5 for the Figure Skating Holiday Show at the Ice Arena.

Commissioner Casas has had parents mention that the new registration system gave them some problems. It might need some enhancements but staff did a nice job addressing them. Maybe there is some opportunity to tweak the system to make it a better user experience

Commissioner White stated that the Halloween event was very nice and congratulated staff on a job well done.

President Zinga also agreed the Halloween event was very nice. Superintendent LoCascio stated the goal is to add to it every year; the games were added this year.

Recess for Public Comment at 7:26 p.m.

President Zinga recessed for Public Comment at 7:26 p.m.

John Conrad from laborers union and Bill Hogan from plumbers union addressed the Board regarding adding wording in the bidding documents and passing an Ordinance. If an ordinance was passed, it would show violations of contractors. A discussion was held. The Board thanked them for attending.

Reconvene at 7:43 p.m.

President Zinga reconvened Public Comment at 7:43 p.m.

Staff Reports:

Director

Director Modrich reported that the Pollinator program prompted the Village to join the Mayors Monarch Pledge. The Village is trying to do the same as we are. Andy Smollen from the Village has been wonderful to work with.

The Aurelius Team is meeting on Monday to finalize the artwork. You will see “branding” of honey very soon.

Director Modrich shared that the Christmas Party is scheduled on Friday, December 10 at the Ice Arena.

Ice Arena Manager

Manager Meyers discussed the various events that took place in November at the Ice Arena: CCM World Invite Tournament and the Franklin Park Speed Skating Barrel Buster Meet. The Synchronized Skating teams traveled for competitions this month.

Manager Meyers reported that public skating sessions have been busy on the weekends and the Holiday Ice Show is scheduled for December 4 and 5.

A discussion was held regarding the down time caused by controller malfunction in the compressor room.

Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Wick thanked staff (Cody Nelson, Tim Skladzien, Robb Fullara) that helped with laying the sod.

He reported that the Parks Crew have been busy mulching leaves and splitting logs for fire wood to be used at the Ice Arena.

Jen Costa planted 9,950 flower bulbs with 50 left to plant at North Park. Plants were picked up for use at the new parks.

Marketing & Communication Manager

Manager Galassini reported that the Winter Spring brochure was delivered to residents and facilities. Winter Break Camps we’re distributed to District 84 students.

He is emailing Teen Night reminders to Hester Students via Mr. Trotter.

Manager Galassini has materials for Polar Express and Santa Visits Homes ready.

He reported that Child-led play messages are now displayed on digital signage. Photos are being collected for IAPD’s contest.

Manager Galassini reported that we promoted Youth Basketball League, Fitness Classes and Teen Night on social media and ACTIVENet information is pinned on each profile.

He updated and provided Parks & Facilities chart and a Centre at North Park ad to the Chamber by O’Hare for its community guide.

All Winter Spring program information is on the website. Information on ACTIVENet is on the homepage pop-up. Our number of referral visitors increased via a site called My Kid List.

North Park Manager

Manager Selimos reported that North Park will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving and will reopen Friday and Saturday. The building will be closed Sunday also because no events were booked.

Superintendent of Finance/Technology

Superintendent Bersani reported that they are working out kinks on ACTIVENet.

Superintendent Bersani and Director Modrich will be meeting with staff to review budgets.

She reported that the Audit is being wrapped up.

The Board congratulated Superintendent Bersani on GFOA Certificate.

Superintendent of Recreation

Superintendent LoCascio stated that the Pool looks very nice. He commented that the workers are hard workers and you can tell they take pride in their work. The project should be done next week.

Superintendent LoCascio thanked the Board for coming out to the Halloween Event. They received a lot of good feedback from the vendors. Manager Skladzien did a great job planning the event. Superintendent LoCascio thanked Superintendent Wick and the Parks staff for their help with the event. Manager Skladzien is ready for Santa visits.

He reported that the Volleyball League is a great success. Leyden Township hosted the first game and we hosted last week. He gave kudos to Manager Nelson and his volunteers.

The Community Center will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving but open on Friday.

Commissioner Casas asked since the Daddy Daughter Event is back, if there can be a more formal Mother Son Event or a Family Dance? Superintendent LoCascio will have staff look into it.

WSSRA

Nothing new to report.

Unfinished Business

Ice Arena Fire Update

Will be discussed in Closed Session.

Timber, Hawthorne and Little Pearl Parks

Director Modrich reported that they are slowly getting closer to completion, but some things still need to be done. A soft opening is not going to be possible. Superintendent Wick put a crew together in short notice and adverse conditions to lay the sod. Will be discussed further in Closed Session.

Budget 2021-2022

Director Modrich reported that we have some concern with utilities and energy costs.

CV-19 Adaptation 2021

Director Modrich stated that it is nice seeing people are participating and embraced rules and regulations in place. The numbers are good at the Ice Arena. A discussion was held on mandates that have been put on hold.

Energy/Utility Policy

Director Modrich shared articles from Wall Street Journal. Reviewed and discussed concerns.

New Business:

Construction Manager Services

Director Modrich had received a proposal from WB Olsen before COVID hit. Park districts typically do utilize services. Something to think about in the future. They are open to doing a presentation in January. A discussion was held. Board would like to hear more.

Viper's Facility Use

Commissioner White shared that Vipers have had an inside training facility for over 20 years. In October they were given 30 day notice to be out. They do not have a facility. They were looking for a discount to rent the gym for clinics until they find another indoor facility. Superintendent LoCascio shared that he did talk to them and he gave them times we had available. He was just informed that they are going to use East Leyden. We have let them use gym in the past when they needed while roofing was being done. We do our best to accommodate our sports affiliates.

Superintendent LoCascio reported that Addison Park District Director is reevaluating sports affiliates policy, seeing what others are doing. We don't charge currently. He will share the results with us.

Suggested Motions:

No Suggested Motions.

Required Signatures

Manager Laskowski received the required signatures.

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

Motion #7 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to enter into Closed Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss Probable / Imminent Litigation 2(c)2 and Personnel 2(c)1.

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

Rise Out of Closed Session

Motion #8 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to rise out of Closed Session at 7:48 p.m.

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

Take action, if any, on matters discussed in Closed Session

No discussions.

Commissioner Transition

A discussion was held.

Adjourn at 9:55 p.m.

Motion #9 by Commissioner Vonesh, second by Commissioner White to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.

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

Michael A. Vonesh, Secretary