

**Park District of Franklin Park  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022; 7:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
9560 Franklin Avenue  
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.**

President Zinga called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Physically Present: Commissioners AnneMarie Casas, Susan E. O'Connell, Joseph E. Zinga and Mark K. White.  
Absent: Commissioner 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; Jen Costa, Parks Services Assistant; Steven Selimos, North Park Manager; Marco Galassini, Marketing & Communications Manager; Stephanie Bersani, Superintendent of Finance & Technology; Liz Visteen, (incoming Superintendent of Recreation) 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**

No Additions, Corrections or Deletions to the Agenda.

**Presentation / Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated February 22, 2022**

Motion #1 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated February 22, 2022.

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

**Presentation / Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated February, 2022 in the amount of \$ \$137,777.59**

Motion #2 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner White to approve the February, 2022 Manual Bill Listing in the amount of \$137,777.59.

Manual Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

**Presentation / Approval of System Bill Listing dated March, 2022 in the amount of \$48,481.23**

Motion #3 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner White to approve the March, 2022 System Bill Listing in the amount of \$48,481.23.

System Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

**Correspondence**

Thank you card from Bersani Family for Congratulations Cookie Bouquet on birth of Christian.

### **Reports of Officers and Commissioners**

Commissioner Casas thanked staff for working on the registration system. Nice job categorizing classes on Active.Net to make registering easier this time.

Commissioner Casas reached out to the US Figure Skating Ice Man program and they sent gloves to the Boys Team.

Commissioner Casas shared that Ice Arena parents expressed concern with new construction across the street and traffic. She let them know that the traffic will be on the other side of the building.

Commissioner Casas suggested adding Ice Skating Camp to the Spring into Summer Brochure next time.

Commissioner White asked if draft minutes can be sent on Friday, or following week so they have time to review before next Board Meeting.

Commissioner White thinks great idea to plant tree in honor of Joe “Tiny” Lauro. He also suggested planting a tree in memory of past Commissioner Fred Olson.

### **Recess for Public Comment at 7:23 p.m.**

President Zinga recessed for Public Comment at 7:23 p.m.

Superintendent LoCascio introduced Incoming Superintendent of Recreation Lis Visteen to the Board. She looks forward to becoming a part of the team.

### **Reconvene at 7:24 p.m.**

President Zinga reconvened Public Comment at 7:24 p.m.

### **Staff Reports:**

#### *Director*

Items later on the Agenda. Director Modrich reported that we are still waiting to hear on the DCEO Grant submitted in December for the Children’s Garden.

#### *Superintendent of Finance/Technology*

Director Modrich stated that Superintendent Bersani and staff are working hard on getting the Proposed Budget into the next phase.

#### *Superintendent of Recreation*

Superintendent LoCascio reported the following:

Summer hiring is underway. We are always in need of Lifeguards.

Special events are planned and ready. Assistant Costa has been a big help for Earth Day. Easter Eggs are ordered and Breakfast with Bunny is planned with Manager Selimos help.

Baseball Fields are scheduled and start playing outside the first week of April, depending on weather. We were able to fit in Schiller Park on Tuesday nights.

Leyden League Basketball ends Saturday. It was a big success and we will look into making minor improvements for next year. Manager Nelson did a great job.

Spring Break Camp is full and starts next week.

Teen Night attendance is good. Manager Rivera is doing a good job working with the kids.

Staff is getting ready for Summer.

Commissioner Casas's 5<sup>th</sup> grader is looking forward to attending Teen Nights next year.

#### *Ice Arena Manager*

Manager Meyers is on vacation. Director Modrich spoke with Manager Deak and she reported there was a good turnout for the Sara V. Bolan Shamrock Showdown Women's 4x4 Tournament.

Panther Spring League held tryouts last week.

Commissioner Casas is excited to see numbers are getting back to pre-Covid. A discussion was held.

#### *Superintendent of Parks*

Superintendent Wick reported the following:

Warmer days have brought more people into our parks now requiring daily clean up at North Park.

The parking lots were cleaned and re-stoned last Fall, and while using the sweeper for snow removal, stones were collected in the piles and grass. Staff vacuumed, raked and blew the stones back into the parking lot.

Staff continues to work at the Service Center cleaning and reorganization of supplies and offices.

Manager Menolascina has been working with General Mechanical for a solution in the Pool maintenance room because it gets really hot. They are recommending mechanical cooling. This room houses the chemical control, VFD drive, air compressor, and electrical. A discussion was held.

Superintendent Wick receives multiple phone calls of excitement from Manager Costa as she starts to see all the bulbs she planted starting to grow in the parks. Manager Costa commented it is fun to see them coming up.

Assistant Costa is planting and preparing plants for Hawthorne Park.

BAF project fans are stored at the Service Center. Starting tomorrow Manager Menolascina will be installing four of them in the gym then five ceiling fans in the dance room.

Rags Electrical will move to the Community Center next.

We are hoping that the HVAC issues have been solved in the lower level of the Community Center. Supervisor Menolascina worked with General Mechanical, BAS, and Sterling to balance out the air moving into the rooms. He also was able to get alarms sent to email and text messages.

Assistant Costa shared that we were awarded a grant for Discovery Garden that she applied for. Students from North School will help plant and mulch.

Assistant Costa reported that four out of the five beehives made it through the Winter.

Assistant Costa is putting a proposal together for Hawthorne Park for all pollinator plants, humming bird, and butterfly and pollinator garden. Companion planting is included and Green House plants are growing at the Service Center.

Staff will begin to get fields ready for use next week as weather and field conditions allow.

### *Marketing & Communication Manager*

Manager Galassini reported the following:

Staff is currently working on the third draft of the summer brochure. Manager Galassini will look into adding the Skating and Hockey Camp information. The brochure is at 32 pages which is a pre-pandemic count.

We continue distributing flyers to District 84 students and our in-house programs. All camp documents are on the website. Project Aurelius pamphlets are being designed for Earth Day. He is waiting for quotes and bus wrapping sketches from It's A Sign in Oak Park.

Manager Galassini promoted Summer Camps, Easter Events, Paint & Sip, Spring Break Camp, and Narwhal Swim Team on social media. He responded to the resident commenting about the status of Timber & Hawthorne Parks.

Press releases and event dates were sent to local publications. The Village of Franklin Park is including Earth Day information in its next newsletter.

Priority registration emails were sent to current Tot School, Playschool and Preschool families. Employment emails were sent to Leyden students who signed interest forms at the job fair.

Manager Galassini included the update on Timber & Hawthorne Parks on our website's homepage. Manager Meyers adjusted the Gymnasium schedule on ACTIVENet to show when Open Play is available, similar to how it was on MaxGalaxy.

### *North Park Manager*

Manager Selimos reported the following:

The CNN Café has reopened with four to a table, and averaging thirty a day. They will be doing calls to get seniors back.

Bookings have picked up since mandates have been removed. Currently looking at pricing and comparing with competitors. Manager Selimos will share comparisons next month.

Superintendent Wick reported that we are having issues with a Scott Street neighbor adjacent to nature area and sand volleyball. Their wooden fence is missing boards and there are aggressive dogs that reside there. Police reports have been made and reported to the Community Development Department of Schiller Park. We also informed the Mayor's office. Staff is getting pricing to replace fence. A discussion was held.

### *WSSRA*

Director Modrich reported that WSSRA is partnering with Park District of Forest Park in buying a property for potential joint use. Discussions are underway and they will keep everyone posted.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### *Ice Arena Fire Update*

Director Modrich has not heard back. Will discuss in Closed Session.

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

Will discuss in Closed Session.

#### *Budget 2022-2023*

Discussed.

### *CV-19 Adaptation 2021*

Director Modrich stated that it is interesting to see optional mask and each person doing what they are comfortable with.

### *Energy/Utility Policy*

Director Modrich reported that Jim Belden our Consultant is watching every day, as is he, and it is very scary how unstable and unpredictable the energy market is.

### **New Business:**

#### *Director Vehicle*

Motion #4 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to authorize the purchase of a 2022 Ford Explorer XLT as part of the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative from Kunes Country Ford of Antioch for an amount not to exceed \$34,341.

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

#### *Pool Deck Furniture*

Motion #5 was amended by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to authorize the purchase of ten chaise lounge chairs and five chairs from Zenon Company in the amount of \$3,581 due to the quickest shipping time and positive previous experiences.

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

#### *2022-2023 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Schedule*

Motion #6 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to approve the Regular Monthly Board Meeting Schedule of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Franklin Park for the Fiscal Year commencing May 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023, as follows:

May 24, 2022 – Community Center	November 22, 2022 – Community Center
June 28, 2022 – Community Center	December 13, 2022 – Community Center
July 26, 2022 – Community Center	January 24, 2023 – Community Center
August 23, 2022 – Community Center	February 28, 2023 – Community Center
September 27, 2022 – Community Center	March 28, 2023 – Community Center
October 25, 2022 – Community Center	April 25, 2023 – Community Center

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

### **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 O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to enter into Closed Session at 8:28 p.m. to discuss Probable / Imminent Litigation 2(c)2 and Personnel 2(c)1.

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

### **Rise Out of Closed Session**

Motion #8 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to rise out of Closed Session at 10:34 p.m.

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

**Adjourn at 10:35 p.m.**

Motion #9 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

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

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Michael A. Vonesh, Secretary