

**Park District of Franklin Park  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 23, 2024; 7:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
9560 Franklin Avenue  
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.**

President Casas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

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

Present: Daniel LoCascio, Director of Parks and Recreation; Maria Laskowski, Human Resources Manager; Nathan Wick, Superintendent of Parks; Catherine Saponieri, Marketing & Communications Manager; Liz Visteen, Superintendent of Recreation; Stephanie Bersani, Superintendent of Finance & Technology and Carla Deak, Ice Arena Manager.

Electronically Present: Attorney Thomas Hoffman.

Also Present: Jennifer Costa, Parks Services Assistant and Aaron Gold, Speer Financial.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

No additions, corrections and deletions to the Agenda.

**Recess for Public Comment at 7:01 p.m.**

President Casas recessed for Public Comment at 7:01 p.m.

No public comment.

**Reconvene at 7:01 p.m.**

President Casas reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

**Bond Sale Presentation by Representatives from Speer Financial, Inc.**

Motion #1 by Commissioner Zinga, second by Commissioner Vonesh to accept the bid from Busey Bank in the amount of \$1,179,275 with a 3.83% Net Interest Rate for the General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2024.

Aaron Gold from Speer Financial reviewed bids received for the 2024 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds. Closing will be held in February.

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

**Bond Series 2024 - Ordinance #23-24-6/O**

Motion #2 by Commissioner Zinga, second by Commissioner White to adopt Ordinance #23-24-6/O, an Ordinance Providing for the Issue of \$1,179,275 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2024, of the Park District of Franklin Park, Cook County, Illinois, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of land purchased or condemned for parks and the existing land and facilities of said Park 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 Busey Bank.

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

**Presentation / Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated December 19, 2023.**

Motion #3 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner O'Connell to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated December 19, 2023.

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

**Presentation / Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated December, 2023 in the amount of \$259,813.55**

Motion #4 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Zinga to approve the December, 2023 Manual Bill Listing in the amount of \$259,813.55.

The Manual Bill Listing was reviewed. A discussion was held regarding Protection Fleet Services invoices for repairs to trucks.

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

**Presentation / Approval of System Bill Listing dated January, 2024 in the amount of \$56,261.81**

Motion #5 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Vonesh to approve the January, 2024 System Bill Listing in the amount of \$56,261.81.

The System Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**Reports of Officers and Commissioners**

Commissioner Zinga apologized for missing the Foundation meeting.

Commissioner White attended State Conference Committee meeting for exhibit hall, the numbers are back to pre-covid. He reminded everyone to put their tickets in for the drawings because there will be more prizes this year and they are trying a new format.



President Casas was excited to see the Mother / Son event was held, but was not able to attend. She thanked staff for bringing the event back. One of our Franklin Park Speed Skater will be representing us in Japan. President Casas stated that the company replacing doors and windows is very professional. The Star Blades competed in Synchro Illinois and we had good representation. The Valentine decorations look very nice.

Commissioner O'Connell thanked all for hard work with snow removal and building shut down. She commented the new doors and windows all look nice.

#### **Staff Reports:**

##### *Director*

Director LoCascio stated we are very fortunate that the Village included us in the Ordinance and made us exempt. Attorney Hoffman explained that Cook County is meeting this week, to discuss further revisions that everyone is keeping an eye on. A discussion was held.

A Kick-off meeting was held with Eric Horning from Hitchcock Design. Putting together designs for a potential dog park and land acquisition. A public meeting will be held in April for Park X-Design for OSLAD grant requirements. Proposed designs would be ready for June with Park X Design. Moving April meeting to North Park to get a bigger resident group out. Will be advertised on Social Media and flyers delivered to neighbors.

##### *Marketing & Communication Manager*

Manager Saponieri reported that the Winter Newsletter has been published digitally. We were hoping to have Newsletters at Post Office by January 18, but they were dropped off today. Should be delivered by end of the week. She reviewed Analytics in her report. Pushing events on Social Media.

##### *Superintendent of Finance/Technology*

Superintendent Bersani stated that we are 67% through the year. Most of funds are there. The goal is to get them at 100%. W2's were issued this week, and we will be working on 1099's. Ryan from Sterling addressed some IT issues today. The card readers are being replaced. Auditors should have a draft to us by next week.

##### *Superintendent of Recreation*

Superintendent Visteen stated that the Daddy / Daughter Dance Friday night was cancelled due to low enrollment, and the four that were registered were moved to Saturday. There are 70 signed up for Saturday. We are in the process of interviewing for Athletic & Facility Manager, with second interviews scheduled next week.

##### *Ice Arena Manager*

Manager Deak reported that January has been busy with Star Blades in multiple competitions and Panther Paws in tournaments. We were able to accommodate a local tournament this past weekend, and they asking for another weekend. The Ice Arena hosted the Mother Son and Teen Night. Leyden Hockey had their Senior Night and a Prospect Skate. Ice Show Soloists tryouts tomorrow and Spring Registration now. Panther Teams wrapping up next month. President Casas asked if we will be hosting any clinics during Spring Break. Manager Deak will look into. Facility is holding up. Repairs to roof and restroom possibly this year.



#### *Superintendent of Parks*

Superintendent Wick reported that daily cold weather checks of facilities. Struggling with main lobby and office area rooftop freezing up. Manager Menolascina and Tony from Permistar will be looking into. Parks staff is changing out ceiling tiles throughout North Park. The Paver lots iced up this morning, and we used more salt than usual. Assistant Costa is working on more Valentine's Day decorations throughout the District. Manager Menolascina and Assistant Costa passed the Certified Pool Operator. Assistant Costa shared that we are participating in a seed swap this year with the Village through the Tree Preservation Commission on February 10 at North Park. A discussion was held regarding Community Center Generator.

#### *WSSRA*

Appreciation Dinner being held February 10 at North Park.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### *Ice Arena & North Park Window/Door Replacement Project*

Motion #6 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Vonesh to approve Payout #5 to WB Olson, Inc., in the amount of \$ 211,829; leaving a balance to finish project, plus retainage of \$435,829.

Director LoCascio recapped the project progress. Superintendent Wick noticed that the patio doors at North Park were not level with the patio. He worked with contractor for a temporary fix. The Banquet Hall floor is higher, so the Patio Pavers may have to be re-done. A discussion was held.

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

##### *LAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights State Conference / January, 2024*

Manager Laskowski compiled conference information for everyone attending the conference.

##### *Personnel Policy Approval*

Motion #7 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Zinga to approve the changes to the Personnel Policy – Section 1.0 – Employment Policies and Procedures and Section 2.0 – Payroll Policies and Procedures, as presented by staff at the December 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

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

#### **New Business:**

##### *Website Redesign Proposal*

Motion #8 by Commissioner Zinga, second by Commissioner O'Connell to approve the proposal from Antlur, LLC dated January 17, 2024 for the Website Redesign in an amount not to exceed \$8,500, as presented by staff.

Manager Saponieri reviewed the proposal with the Board.

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

*CNN*

Director LoCascio has been in contact with CNN regarding reviewing their agreement from 1997 for the use of the Banquet Hall for \$1,160 per month that has not been addressed or increased. A discussion was held. The Board is in favor of an increase and / or assisting them to find a new location.

*Solar Assessment*

Director LoCascio is looking into Solar Panels for our facilities. A discussion was held.

**Suggested Motions**

No suggested motions.

**Required Signatures**

Manager Laskowski received required signatures.

**Adjourn at 8:49 p.m.**

Motion #11 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Zinga to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

---

Susan E. O'Connell, Secretary