

**MINUTES OF THE 2,377th
REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD
MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS
OF THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT, WINNETKA, IL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020 – VIA ZOOM**

President Archambault called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mickey Archambault, Teresa Claybrook, Christina Codo, Warren James, Colleen Knupp, Eric Lussen, David Seaman

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff present in the Winnetka Park District Administrative Office with observance of social distancing practices: John Peterson, Executive Director; Christine Berman, Superintendent of Finance; Costa Kutulas, Superintendent of Parks; John Shea, Superintendent of Recreation; Kelsey Raftery, Marketing Brand Manager; Lara Kuechel, Executive Assistant, Molly Krohe, Marketing Specialist.

Audience Present via Zoom: None

Audience Present: Don Smith

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

COMMUNICATION: President Archambault read an email from Ian Sherman congratulating the Park District on a creative solution regarding the land swap. Former Commissioner John Thomas sent his congratulations to the Commissioners. Executive Director Peterson also remarked that former Park Board President, Gerri Kahnweiler, extended her congratulations via email on a “brilliant accomplishment” and that some notes from residents have been received questioning the status of the dog beach.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consent agenda to approve:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2020
- Closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2020
- Regular Board Meeting minutes of September 24, 2020
- Closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2020
- Public Hearing Minutes of September 29, 2020
- Special Board Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2020
- Closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2020

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – cont’d

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner James seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Seaman made a motion to approve the Financials for September 2020. Commissioner Codo seconded. President Archambault noted that Superintendent Berman had provided the Board with an updated report due to a correction made per a query by David Seaman. Superintendent Berman further explained that a chart was added and detailed the changes. A brief question and answer session took place. Executive Director Peterson complimented Superintendent Berman and staff. President Archambault noted that it was remarkable to come out ahead under the current circumstances. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Commissioner Knupp to approve vouchers for October 22, 2020 in the amount of \$1,369,005.20. Commissioner Seaman seconded the motion. A brief question and answer exchange took place. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Truth in Taxation Resolution #20-10-22

A motion was made by Commissioner Codo to approve the Truth in Taxation Resolution #20-10-22 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Claybrook. Superintendent Berman reported that the Resolution is an annual requirement for a plan to increase the 2020 tax levy, to be collected in 2021. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

REMARKS FROM VISITORS:

Don Smith – offered congratulations on the property swap.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Lakefront Update**

Superintendent Kutulas reported on the progress at Lloyd Park, saying that it is moving quickly and all sand is on-site.

Lloyd Tier II is undergoing the structural/civil design phase with The Lakota Group. Tower Road also is progressing, although slow. All materials from Germany have been accounted for and a mid-November completion date is expected. Land management and controlled burn should take place afterwards. Year 2 and 3 bluff restoration plans will follow and include Maple Beach as well.

Conversations are taking place with Shabica & Assoc. with the hopes of moving to permitting before the end of 2020.

Budget Update

Superintendent Berman reported that she is planning to hold one-on-one meetings with Board members in preparation for the upcoming budget review. She is finalizing detail for the presentation scheduled for November 12th. A brief discussion took place regarding alternative budget plans due to COVID. Executive Director Peterson noted the business unit leaders are prepared to execute a “plan B”, as may be required. Upon a question from Commissioner Seaman, he responded that the budgeting process under COVID operates “as is” unless we hear otherwise.

Indian Hill Easement

Commissioner Codo made a motion to approve the easement agreement between the Winnetka Park District and Village of Winnetka for the utility easement located at Indian Hill Park as presented. Commissioner Lussen seconded. Superintendent Kutulas explained that it is a project designed to reduce cables and provide an easement for a transformer. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Peterson reported that he is reviewing Cook County and State of Illinois COVID guidelines daily so we can adjust accordingly; working on ice programming plans and the possibility of a liquor license for the Park District's use.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Executive Director Peterson gave a brief update on plans to rebuild the Winnetka Parks Foundation Board, gain financial corporate involvement and perhaps develop a signature program with New Trier and Evanston High Schools. Commissioner Knupp reported that New Trier is currently using an all e-learning format.

STAFF UPDATES

Marketing Brand Manager, Kelsey Raftery – introduced new Marketing Specialist, Molly Kohe, who came to us from the Springfield Park District. Focus groups were held to discuss the website; 33 people attended via four groups.

Executive Assistant, Lara Kuechel – no report

Superintendent of Recreation, John Shea – fall events are underway, including: ghost stories at Tower, a sold-out family campfire, superhero tractor rides, and “trunk or treat”. Yoga sculpt has moved indoors to the tennis center with thanks to Pat Fragassi, A. C. Nielsen Tennis Center Manager. Plans are in place for comedy shows there November 7 with Richard Laible Productions. Plans are being made for winter events such as the Village of Winnetka tree lighting ceremony and decorating the Skokie Playfield facilities. He is seeking indoor activity space, potentially at the Winnetka Bible Church. He also noted the positive relationship with the Community House and hopes to be able to swap space in the future.

Superintendent of Parks, Costa Kutulas – the Parks Department is making improvements along the Green Bay Trail and has received the donation of a park bench. Clean-up and additional plantings have taken place in woodland areas and prairies, the winter shutdowns have been completed. Dialog with the Friends of the Green Bay Trail will be ongoing.

Superintendent of Finance, Christine Berman – preparing for the Property Tax Levy.

Commissioner James spoke about the Winnetka Scout Troop 20's plan to continue with their annual Christmas tree lot. The plan is to begin Saturday, November 21, but are currently working out COVID protocols.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Codo made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act, for the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, and 2(c)(6) for the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body, and Section 2(c)(1), for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Knupp, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

***Note:** Commissioner Knupp left the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 7:53 p.m. Commissioner Codo made a motion to return to Open Session. Commissioner James seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

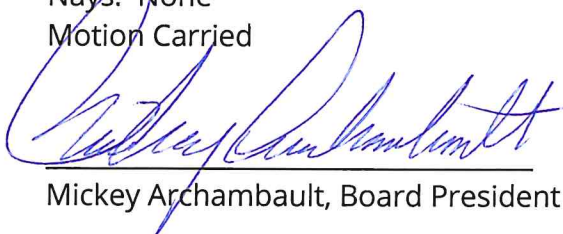
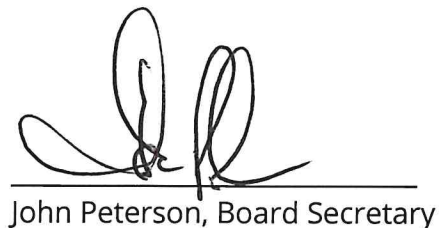
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Lussen, Seaman

Nays: None

Motion Carried


Mickey Archambault, Board President
John Peterson, Board Secretary