

**MINUTES OF THE 2,386th
REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD
MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS
OF THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT, WINNETKA, IL
THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021**

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

Commissioners Present: Mickey Archambault, Christina Codo, Warren James, Eric Lussen, Cynthia Rapp

Commissioners Absent: Colleen Root, David Seaman

Staff Present: John Peterson, Executive Director; Costa Kutulas, Director of Parks and Maintenance; Christine Berman, Superintendent of Finance; Kyle Berg, Superintendent of Recreation; Ania Cramer, Community Outreach/Business Development; Libby Baker, Office Associate; Molly Krohe, Marketing/Brand Manager; Pat Fragassi, Tennis Manager

Audience Present: Don Smith, Colin Cross, Liz Kunkle, Tim Clark, Brad Birchmeier, Chuck Dowding, Ed Gjertsen, Chris Crone

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Codo made a motion to approve the June 2021 Financials. Commissioner Archambault seconded the motion. Superintendent Berman reported a surplus of \$2.7 million above year-to-date budget and revenues at \$1.2 million above year-to-date budget. She also commented on year-end projections, noting Capitals/Contracts are projected to be \$6.6 million below budget due to the Elder/Centennial project being on hold. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp

Nays: None

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Codo made a motion to approve the vouchers for July 22, 2021 in the amount of \$1,631,202.69. Commissioner Archambault seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp

Nays: None

Motion carried

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

Mr. Cross, Winnetka Paddle Tennis Club president, addressed the board. He noted progress has been made since the last meeting, and park district staff have been fabulous. Mr. Cross reported the proposed budget is higher than the club expected. He asked the board to consider removing the requirement for the WTPC to make a \$50,000 payment to the Winnetka Park District to address the potential revenue lost if the Winnetka Golf Club removes its chipping green to provide room for the two additional platform tennis courts.

Chuck Dowding addressed the board. Mr. Dowding requested there be an increase in communication between the Park District and the Village Environmental & Forestry Commission. He noted there had previously been an ex officio park board member on the commission.

Liz Kunkle addressed the board and echoed Mr. Dowding's comments. She also noted the 10th Anniversary of Go Green Winnetka.

Brad Birchmeier thanked the board and Park District for their cooperation on the paddle expansion project.

Ed Gjertsen thanked the board and staff for their efforts over the last 18 months and asked for continued cooperation between the Winnetka Platform Tennis Club and the Park District. He noted an increase in players has created a need for additional paddle courts. Mr. Gjertsen asked the board to consider providing financial assistance to the WPTC for the expansion.

Tim Clark commented on the significant increase in paddle players and the need for additional courts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consent agenda to approve:

- Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2021
- Closed Session Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2021

Commissioner James asked that approval of the closed session minutes of June 24, 2021 be table until August so revisions can be made. The full board concurred and the minutes were removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Archambault made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2021. Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp

Nays: None

Motion carried

COMMUNICATIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Projects Presentation by Piper Sandler

Mr. Eric Anderson, Managing Director of Piper Sandler attended. He reported on the district's capital projects funding needs. Mr. Sandler reviewed the capital projects being considered and offered possible funding sources: bonds, donations, district funds, refunding existing debt, and referendum. Mr. Anderson responded to questions. The board discussed the projects and funding sources, specifically a referendum. In response to a question from Commissioner Codo, Mr. Anderson explained the process and timeline for filing a referendum question.

No action was taken.

Consideration of Toro Reelmaster 3555-D Purchase

Director Kutulas explained the use and life expectancy of the requested mower. He noted the current motor would be kept due to its minimal trade-in value. The cost of the mower is in the 2021 budget. Commissioner Archambault made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2021 Toro Reelmaster 3555-D mower from Reinders Co., Sussex WI, for the net price of \$55,319.16 as presented through the National Intergovernmental Purchasing Alliance. Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp

Nays: None

Motion carried

Phase 1 Paddle Court Expansion

Executive Director Peterson reported the site plan is almost complete. Work continues on the legal agreement. Park district staff is working hard to limit the expenses of the additional courts, expenses which are nearly all to be borne by the Winnetka Paddle Tennis Club. Executive Director Peterson expressed his support of the project and recognized the efforts of everyone involved. Commissioner Lussen asked for clarification on the \$50,000 payment referenced by Mr. Cross. Executive Director Peterson explained it is associated with the lost revenue associated with lessons when the additional tennis

courts use the property on which the current chipping green is located. The issue increases in complexity because of the timing of the Village's Stormwater Project, which will result in a new chipping green. Executive Director Peterson noted this specific cost to the WPTC already has been reduced to \$50k from \$100k, and staff is working to reduce costs further. Commissioner James expressed his support of the sport and project, noting the addition of two courts is a great use of park district real estate. No action was required of the board.

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Peterson introduced Kyle Berg as the new Superintendent of Recreation. He reported on the lakefront staff and their recent efforts to save a choking child.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Ania Cramer reported on a recent meeting of the new Winnetka Parks Foundation board. Four of the eight members attended, along with staff. The WPF mission, logo, and fundraising efforts were discussed.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

None

STAFF UPDATES

Costa Kutulas, Director of Parks & Maintenance – reported the Indian Hill playground installation is almost complete and includes a new adaptive swing. The playground installation was completed by staff resulting in a significant cost savings. Emerge Winnetka will be held in September. Staff is working on logistics with Val's list. Golf operations staff are catching up on mowing. Tree clearing will be done by the #3 hole. Stormwater work continues. The permitting process for Elder/Centennial is still in progress. The Stepan Family Boat Launch sign was installed. The Maple Beach boardwalk has been cleared.

Kyle Berg, Superintendent of Recreation – reported he is learning about the park district and will begin exploring new programming opportunities. Work is being done to secure additional lakefront staff so Lloyd Beach and the Stepan Family Boat Launch, along with other beaches, can stay open as long as possible once the summer staff returns to school.

Christine Berman, Superintendent of Finance – reported the annual report was distributed. The budget process is underway. Property tax bills are delayed with a new due date of October. A deficit in revenues will be reflected in next month's revenue reports.

Molly Krohe, Marketing/Brand Manager – reported the new Marketing Specialist would

begin August 9. The fall digital brochure will be released tomorrow. The cost savings associated with a digital brochure versus a print brochure was discussed.

Ania Cramer, Community Outreach/Business Development – reported she is working to secure sponsors for Fall Fest. Conversations continue with a potential donor for a dog park. Preliminary site plans were developed and shared with the individual. Staff worked with legal counsel on a funding agreement to give the potential donor once a commitment is made. The park district was invited to apply for a grant to build an outdoor fitness court.

Pat Fragassi, Tennis Manager – Indoor court resurfacing begins August 2. Courts will be unavailable for approximately 10 days. In cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, a blood drive will be held August 18. High school tennis begins soon. Staff is working to accommodate the requests for pickle ball. Court 6 has been identified as the court having the smallest impact on current tennis players. During the resurfacing project, blended lines will be applied to accommodate tennis and two pickle ball courts. Staff will be strategic when identifying available times for pickle ball and will continue to explore other opportunities if the demand continues.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Archambault made a motion to go into closed session at 7:55 p.m., 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, Section 2(c)(6) for the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body, and Section 2(c)(21) for discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes. Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp

Nays: None

Motion carried

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Codo made a motion to return to open session at 8:13 p.m. Commissioner Rapp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp

Nays: None

Motion carried

Release of Closed Session Minutes and Tape Disposal

Commissioner James made a motion to table the release of closed session minutes until August. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp

Nays: None

Motion carried

Commissioner Archambault made a motion to dispose of closed session audio recordings of meetings held from 2011 to 2019. Commissioner Rapp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp

Nays: None


Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Archambault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion. Passed by a voice vote.

Motion carried



John Peterson, Board Secretary

August 26, 2021
Date Approved