

**MINUTES OF THE 2,297th
REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD
MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS
AND OFFICERS OF THE WINNETKA
PARK DISTRICT, WINNETKA, IL
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2014**

President Brad McLane called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Commissioners present: Teresa Claybrook, Richard Pierce, Gerri Kahnweiler, John Thomas, and Brad McLane. Commissioner Ian Larkin participated via telephone. Commissioners absent: Ed Harney. Staff present: Robert Smith, Executive Director; John Muno, Superintendent of Recreation; Bob Farmer, Chief Financial Officer; John Shea, Recreation Supervisor; Acting Superintendent of Parks, Costa Kutulas; and Libby Baker, Administrative Assistant/Safety Coordinator. Visitors present: See attendance records.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2014 FINANCIALS

Chief Financial Officer Bob Farmer highlighted the financials and answered questions. Commissioner Kahnweiler inquired as to who our outside vendor is for t-ball. Supt. Muno explained that we are working with the Illinois Baseball Academy (IBA) an independent contractor. The revenue is a 70/30 split. Commissioner Kahnweiler also inquired where the labor for the takedown of the pond on the green was coded. Bob Farmer stated that it was the ice arena fund. Commissioner Thomas asked for an explanation of the money in reserves and cash shown on the balance sheet noting that it is quite a bit higher than last month. CFO Farmer explained that property tax disbursements have started coming in. After review, Commissioner Kahnweiler moved to approve the February 2014 and March 2014 Financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2014 VOUCHERS

The Board was presented with the Voucher List for April 2014. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the April 2014 Voucher List in the amount of \$692,026.23. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Pierce, Larkin, Kahnweiler, Thomas, and McLane. Nays: None. Absent: Harney. **Motion carried.**

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

First to address the Board was Harold Nations, a 20+ year pass holder and 28 year resident. He expressed that the recent golf staff reorganization was a terrible mistake. He explained that a key staff member is not what's wrong with the golf course that is what is right. He shared his positive feelings towards staff. Mr. Nations also expressed that he does not believe that golf should be an enterprise fund, and that to be able to break even is impossibility. He gave background history on the formation of the course. He explained that this was due to the generosity of the early residents of Winnetka – nothing says it was built to generate revenue. It was built as an asset to provide recreational enjoyment for the residents. He would like to begin discussions

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about why golf is an enterprise fund. He would like to know more about how it became an enterprise fund. He thanked the board for allowing him to speak. Next to address the Board was Mike Kennedy, an Evanston resident and a member of the golf club for 8 years. He voiced his concerns about the recent change in golf staff and how certain situations were handled by senior management. He feels that this creates an environment of uncertainty, fear and concern. He wants the Board to consider what is now a huge problem at the golf course. Next to address the Board was Arthur Archambault, a resident since 1985 and golfer for over 25 years. He expressed his disappointment in the handling of the recent change in staff at the golf course. He asked that if somehow the board could entrust to them (the Men's Club) what the new direction is going to be for the golf course, how the leadership will be approached and how the Men's Club can support whatever staff's plans are. Next to address the Board was Dave Skrodzki, an Evanston resident and president of the Men's Club. He explained that he is speaking for himself, not the members of the golf club. He explained that he has met with Bob about this matter and expressed that the Men's Club will support Dan and Matt. He feels that Dan is a great asset. He is very shocked by what happened with the change in golf management and is glad that Matt and Dan have been promoted. Mr. Skrodzki explained that the club has already lost a few members. It may or may not be because of the current situation. Last to address the Board was Bob Lynn. He expressed that he understands that personnel matters have to be addressed and he trusts that the park district and board will run the course in the manner that it needs to be run. He attended the dinner last night and based on Matt Johnson's comments he is excited about what Matt has in mind. Commissioner McLane thanked the visitors for their comments and dedication. Mr. Nation wanted to know how the Board plans to proceed. President McLane told the visitors that staff will meet with members of the golf club. Director Smith stated John Muno is now overseeing the golf course and that Mr. Nation can talk with John and golf staff. Bob S. will plan to meet with the president of club to lay out the strategy and framework for moving golf operations forward. Mr. Nation thinks that a discussion should have been had with the users before a decision was made. President McLane expressed that the Board needs to look at the golf course from the view of all residents. Commissioner Thomas expressed that the board listened carefully to staff's recommendation, heard the explanation and they support the decision. Mr. Kennedy stated that he has uncertainty about recommending the course to other Evanston residents. Mr. Nation told the board that the golf course will never make money if it only relies on Winnetka residents. It needs non-residents as well.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES FROM MARCH 13, 2014

Commissioner Kahnweiler moved to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing from March 13, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

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APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2014

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Park Board meeting from March 13, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Claybrook and passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2014

Commissioner Kahnweiler moved to approve the minutes from the Executive Session meeting from March 13, 2014, as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by a voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Approval of Parks & Beaches Committee Minutes of April 10, 2014

Commissioner Claybrook moved to approve the minutes from the Parks & Beaches Committee meeting from April 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Administration Committee Minutes of April 10, 2014

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes from the Administration Committee meeting from April 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed by a voice vote.

Approval of Finance Committee Minutes of April 10, 2014

Commissioner Claybrook moved to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting from April 10, 2014, as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kahnweiler and passed by a voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

President McLane noted the positive correspondence received from Anne-Marie Lee from Boy Scout Troop 20 and Liza Sullivan from the Alliance for Early Childhood.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NSSRA Resolution

Commissioner Claybrook asked for an explanation of NSSRA's current location and the process. Commissioner Kahnweiler described their space and the limitations it has. Commissioner Kahnweiler made a motion to approve NSSRA Resolution No. 14-04-24 to ratify NSSRA Board action authorizing petition to Circuit Court for leave to sell property no longer needed for park or special recreation purposes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and a roll call

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vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Pierce, Larkin, Kahnweiler, Thomas, and McLane. Nays: None. Absent: Harney. **Motion carried.**

Administrative Assistant Baker gave a report and update noting that the Northbrook Park District Board recently passed a resolution to purchase the 5 Seasons Tennis Club and will put a referendum question on the November ballot. The Northbrook Park District will include NSSRA in the planning process. The building has more than enough space to accommodate NSSRA.

Skokie Playfield Service Center Bids

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve the bids from Krause Electric of Zion, IL for a total sum of \$38,709 and DeFranco Plumbing of Palatine, IL for a total sum of \$38,950 for the electrical and plumbing upgrades for the Skokie Playfield Service Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kahnweiler and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Pierce, Larkin, Kahnweiler, Thomas, and McLane. Nays: None. Absent: Harney. **Motion carried.**

Lakefront Master Plan Budget

Bob and Scott will start working on the advisory group and how the board will interact –Parks and Beaches or special committee. Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to approve the budget proposal from The Lakota Group of Chicago, IL for a not to exceed amount of \$237,961. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Pierce, Larkin, Kahnweiler, Thomas, and McLane. Nays: None. Absent: Harney. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Claybrook would like to see more local press in order to get the message out more about the Master Plan. President McLane will send a letter to State Senator Daniel Biss and Representative Robyn Gable thanking them for their support of the Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting

Director Smith explained the purpose of the Annual Meeting and provided committee and liaison information for the board to review and consider. Officers will be decided and assignment of committee members and liaisons will take place at the Annual Meeting in May.

Committee Responsibilities

Commissioner Kahnweiler has comments on the committees and will email them to Director Smith. She also suggested that the Administrative committee should review all committee and liaison responsibilities.

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Liaison Responsibilities

Commissioner Kahnweiler stated that she is the current New Trier liaison and questioned if there is value in having that liaison. Commissioner Claybrook questioned why there is not a District 36 liaison and feels that may be a better liaison because of the park district's interactions with the school district. President McLane asked that staff explore how the liaisons work and what the responsibilities are. President McLane gave an update on the status of the Foundation, stating that it is more of an ad hoc committee.

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Director Smith reported that he sent out his weekly update this afternoon. Commissioner McLane asked that it be included in the body of the email so it is easier to access. Director Smith reported that the Tribal Council Circle and the Leprechaun Leap will take place this Saturday, April 26.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Planning Commission – Commissioner Thomas explained that there was a meeting last night and gave the Board an update.

Caucus – President McLane reported that the Executive Committee of the Caucus asked the Board presidents to meet in preparation for the Town Meeting next month. He reported that the meeting focused on regenerating the Caucus.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

None

STAFF REPORTS

No comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss:

- ♦ The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. **Sect. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)**

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kahnweiler and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Pierce, Larkin, Kahnweiler, Thomas and McLane. Nays: none. Absent: Commissioner Harney. **Motion carried.**

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Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to return to open session at 9:06 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and was passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Thomas moved to adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 9:07 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Brad McLane, Board President

Robert Smith, Board Secretary