

**WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020
COMMUNITY ROOM
6:00 P.M.**

President Archambault called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff present in the Winnetka Park District Administrative Office with observance of social distancing practices: John Peterson, Executive Director; John Muno, Transitional Executive Director; John Shea, Superintendent of Recreation; Christine Berman, Superintendent of Finance; Lara Kuechel, Executive Assistant. Via videoconference: Costa Kutulas, Superintendent of Parks and Kelsey Raftery, Marketing Brand Manager; Pat Fragassi, Nielsen Tennis Center Manger.

Audience Present via Zoom videoconference: Jon Shabica, Shabica and Assoc.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA
None

COMMUNICATIONS
None

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Commissioner to Checking Account

It was decided that President Archambault will be added as a signer to the District checking account.

Board Meeting

A brief discussion took place following Commissioner Codo's suggestion that the meeting time change to an earlier hour. President Archambault confirmed that it will remain at 6:00 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stormwater – Crow Island and Skokie Playfield IGAs

President Archambault reported that the IGAs have been fully executed, also added thanks and communicated with Chris Rintz to find out the next steps and the timeline as the Village may not receive final approval until the end of the year. Transitional Executive Director John Muno complimented the tremendous amount of efforts that went into the IGAs. President Archambault noted that it is a very fair document and is anxious to get it going.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – cont'd

Lakefront Master Plan Update

Superintendent Kutulas said that they are working through weather setbacks at Tower and will be going out to bid with a preliminary meeting May 20th and the bid opening will be June 4th. Jon Shabica noted that he has not heard from the Army Corp of Engineers regarding public comments to date. Questions were posed by President Archambault and Commissioner Lussen regarding formal responses and weather. Shabica said that at this time no news is good news.

Superintendent Shea discussed the continually rising Lake Michigan levels and made a slide presentation illustrating the damage incurred.

Summer Lakefront Operations

Superintendent Shea further reported on plans for summer operations: Lloyd and Elder Beaches are closed for the summer; Tower Beach, looking at possibilities for accommodating visitors and perhaps no lifeguards, modifying payment processes; Maple Beach, proposed beach launching only with free passes to those who held season passes in 2019; Centennial Beach, continue monitoring. President Archambault expressed concerns about the lake conditions and a lengthy discussion took place with comments and questions posed by Commissioners Claybrook, James and Lussen predominantly concerning staffing the lakefront. Superintendent Shea and Executive Director Peterson further discussed the steps taken to gather information from PDRMA and the IAPD to prepare in response to Commissioners concerns and the challenges that the Park District is facing to be sensitive to the desires for the opening of the beaches and begin able to operate safely.

A discussion also took place between Park Board Commissioners and Jon Shabica regarding the placement of armor stone and repairs needed to make Lloyd Beach usable.

Capital Project Financing

Executive Director Peterson recognized the efforts of Superintendent Berman in pursuit of financing and the aggressive work to gather forecasting information from the Park District's business units. Christine Berman provided a timeline slide presentation, she further said that a presentation will be given at the next Board meeting and hopes to have a special meeting June 11th for financing in 2020. In early July the Lloyd project will begin and financing will be available. A brief questions and answer session took place with President Archambault.

COVID-19

Superintendent Berman shared additional documentation to report on reductions in relation to the current COVID-19 crisis (i.e. capitals, personnel and operating expenses). She noted that at this point our losses are not bad in relative terms nationwide and the numbers are fluid. Executive Director Peterson is looking to get some business interruption coverage through PDRMA. It is not factored into the figures previously discussed. He added that he and Superintendent Berman will be meeting with each business unit for a better command of financials. President Archambault questioned net numbers and Commissioner Codo inquired about outstanding insurance claims. Superintendent Kutulas said that they are waiting to hear from a third party, clarifying that hard structures can be quantified and are looking at IEMA possibilities.

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Peterson reported that he has been participating in weekly conferences with John Muno, John Shea and other community organizations re: COVID-19 status, it is also a positive opportunity to meet other community leaders. Park ambassadors have been working collaboratively with the police dept. to manage “hot spots” for social distancing in the community and abiding by the framework of many entities.

Pat Fragassi added felt comfortable in opening the outdoor tennis courts at the A.C. Nielsen Tennis Center due to additional directives for operating and training staff. He announced that they received a positive response from patrons and encouraged by the observance of new protocols. He also reported that he applied for a USTA Grant of \$5,000 towards personal protective equipment and supplies.

He added that he coordinated with Senator Fine regarding our plan to open the tennis courts and received further approval. Terrific attitude and leadership demonstrated by Pat Fragassi.

Conversations took place with Paul Schwartz and Colin Cross of the WPTC in thoughtfully reviewing plans to open the paddle courts, using Pat’s for plans to manage risks.

A brief discussion regarding open spaces took place between Commissioners Claybrook and Knupp.

***It is noted that Commissioner Knupp signed-off at 7:37pm**

Solid golf revenue has been reported and Ice Arena Manager, Paul Schwartz and Commissioner Lussen have shared ideas to look towards opportunities for the Ice Arena to open. A compelling plan is in place through The Lakota Group and the WPD is further examining ways to incent their work with us and pursue financing more aggressively through meetings with Lara Kuechel, Costa Kutulas and Christine Berman.

Transitional Executive Director Muno said that Executive Director Peterson has really exhibited a high degree of enthusiasm and energy.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioners Claybrook and Lussen made suggestions for candidates to fill the Board spot vacated by John Peterson. President Archambault said that they have 3 candidates that will be further vetted in May.

STAFF UPDATES

Kelsey Raftery – sending camp and beach plan information and communications regarding golf and tennis court openings, further noting that the fall brochure will not be printed for the time being. She also received support from Commissioner Claybrook to move forward with online publications in the future.

Superintendent Berman – a draft audit has been received for review, on track to bring it to the Board for approval.

STAFF UPDATES – cont'd

Lara Kuechel – said that the Rebuild Illinois grant was a particularly exciting opportunity and is hopeful that we are able to get them moving due to the urgency of deadlines.

Superintendent Kutulas – looking to bring back full parks staff with social distancing in mind. Beach season clean-up is under way, tree orders have come in and new plantings are taking place.

Superintendent Shea - reported that the rec staff is reviewing what they can and cannot do for summer camp, will likely offer limited sessions beginning June 22nd, or when we reach Phase 3 of the State of IL plan. Priority registration will be offered for those already signed-up.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner James made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1), for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 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 to discuss the purchase or lease of property pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Claybrook, Codo, James, Lussen

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

It is noted that Commissioner Claybrook left the meeting prior to return to Open Session.

At 8:30p.m. Commissioner Codo made a motion to return to Open Session.

Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen.

Nays: None

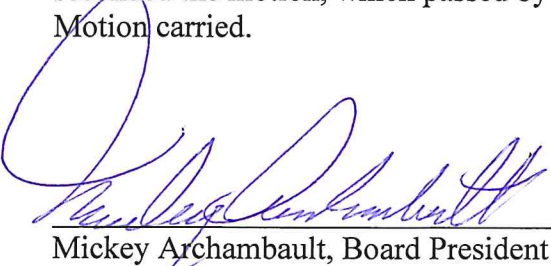
Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

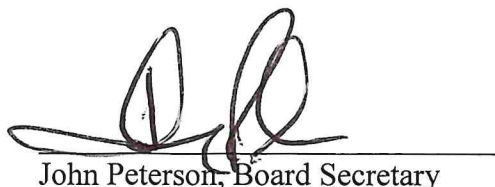
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Codo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Commissioner Lussen seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote.

Motion carried.



Mickey Archambault, Board President



John Peterson, Board Secretary