



**Vernon Hills Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 25, 2018 – 6:30p.m.
635 N. Aspen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Vernon Hills Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Doerhoefer at 6:37 p.m. at 635 N. Aspen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061.

Present: Commissioners Ballowe, Robbins, Kessler, Meline, Doerhoefer. Staff: Jeff Fougerousse, Tom Ritter, Cheryl Buhmann, Marla DeCicco, James Kim, Mark Purcell, Amy Darling.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - President Doerhoefer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Omnibus Vote Agenda – Items under the Omnibus Vote Agenda are considered routine and/or non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. If a separate vote on any one item is desired, it will be pulled from the Omnibus Vote Agenda and voted on separately.

- A. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting (Strategic Planning) December 14, 2017
- B. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting (Truth in Taxation Hearing) December 14, 2017
- C. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting December 14, 2017
- D. Payables (less Grainger) & Payroll through January 25, 2018 in the amount of \$793,744.69.

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Meline.

Second by Commissioner Robbins.

Vote to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

Ayes: Commissioner Robbins, Ballowe, Meline, Kessler, Doerhoefer

Nays: None. Motion Carries

Following the Omnibus Vote, President Doerhoefer read aloud an announcement that the Vernon Hills Park District was formally recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Agency at the recent IAPD/IPRA State Conference. This accreditation is effective from 2018-2023 and acknowledges that the Vernon Hills Park District has met state guidelines demonstrating exceptional service to the community. The Distinguished Agency plaque was displayed at the entrance of the board room.

4. Welcome to Visitors and Guests - Public Comment Period

Margaret Resnick, Executive Director of the Mundelein Park District and Rose Nudo-Semsak, Community Center Manager of the Mundelein Park District publicly thanked the Vernon Hills Park District for permitting

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Mundelein members to use Lakeview Fitness at a moment's notice. On January 1, Mundelein experienced a pipe burst in their community center which took 2.5 days to repair. Their members were welcomed by Vernon Hills Park District without question and both Margaret and Rose expressed their gratitude for that partnership. President Doerhoefer commented that the partnership works both ways and that Mundelein Park District has consistently offered their facilities during the annual Lakeview cleaning/maintenance shutdown.

5. Financial Reports for the Period Ending December 31, 2017

President Doerhoefer confirmed that there are no changes to the financial reports and that they are on file.

At this time, President Doerhoefer announced that New Business would be called.

8. New Business

A. Wetlands Research Presentation -Kathy Paap, Donald Hey

President Doerhoefer invited Kathy Paap of Wetlands Research Inc. to the podium. Kathy thanked those in attendance for taking the time to listen to the project proposal to restore wetlands to portions of the Seavey ditch and Indian Creek in the Sullivan Woods area. The presentation highlighted information on the company, goals and scope of the project and future landscape expectations.

B. Proposed Sullivan Woods Wetland Project – Jeff Bard

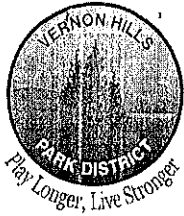
President Doerhoefer invited Jeff Bard to the podium. Jeff is a long time resident of Vernon Hills who asked to address the board with additional information related to the wetlands project proposed by Wetlands Research Inc. The presentation highlighted the geographical history of the area being considered and addressed many of the anticipated outcomes expected by Wetlands Research Inc. The presentation also discussed water quality trading challenges and the potential impacts to both residents and wildlife in the area. Jeff also suggested alternative restoration locations.

At the conclusion of Jeff's presentation, President Doerhoefer asked the board members whether they would like to vote today on whether or not to move forward with the project. Commissioner Robbins responded that he would like more time to review the data that was presented by Jeff Bard as it was the first time being heard. President Doerhoefer commented to the public that Jeff Bard's presentation was only received by the board earlier that afternoon and as such, limited time had been given to review it. Commissioner Meline stated that even a vote to move forward with the project would not indicate a blanket agreement for the project. It would only be an agreement to consider additional information. Securing funding is a significant issue that would need to be demonstrated. President Doerhoefer confirmed that an affirmative vote by the board would only provide Wetlands Research Inc. the approval necessary to begin fundraising efforts to pay for the project and its sustained maintenance. If that funding was not secured, the Park District would have to vote on whether or not to fund the project from its own budget.

James Kim, Parks Superintendent explained that the Park District has budgeted for continued cleanup of the fallen trees and brush along the ditch and cutback of some of the invasive species along the path. This is a partnered effort with the Village of Vernon Hills.



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Dave Brown, Public Works Director/Village Engineer for the Village of Vernon Hills asked to speak at the podium. Dave has experience in this type of restoration project. He stated that the structure of the area being discussed is similar to those he has worked with before with respect to the falling trees and brush. It is his opinion that a restoration project of some type, whether with Wetlands Research Inc. or another company could be beneficial.

President Doerhoefer confirmed the board consensus to vote on any further action with Wetlands Research Inc. at the February 22, 2018 Regular Board Meeting.

C. 2018/2019 Salary Classification Schedule and Merit Recommendation

Executive Director Fougousse clarified that no motion for approval was expected at this meeting. Materials have been provided to the board for their review. Jeff would ask for direction on the recommendation at either the February or March meetings as the board goes thru the annual budget process.

D. Ordinance 01-18: AN ORDINANCE abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2017 to pay debt service on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2013A, of the Vernon Hills Park District, Lake County, Illinois

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 01-18.

Motion by Commissioner Robbins.

Second by Commissioner Kessler.

Vote to approve the Ordinance 01-18.

Ayes: Commissioner Ballowe, Robbins, Meline, Kessler, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

E. Ordinance 02-18 : AN ORDINANCE abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2017 to pay debt service on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2016A, of the Vernon Hills Park District, Lake County, Illinois

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 02-18.

Motion by Commissioner Kessler.

Second by Commissioner Robbins.

Vote to approve the Ordinance 2-18.

Ayes: Commissioner Meline, Kessler, Ballowe, Robbins, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.



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F. Resolution 01-18: District Mowing Contract Extension

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve Resolution 01-18 authorizing the President of the Vernon Hills Park Board of Commissioners to extend the mowing contract between the Vernon Hills Park District and Acres Group of Wauconda, Illinois from April 1, 2018 thru November 13, 2018 in the amount of \$47,045.79.

Motion by Commissioner Meline.

Second by Commissioner Ballowe.

Discussion: Commissioner Robbins inquired as to whether there was an increase in price from the previous year. James Kim explained that there was a slight increase due to a three week extension of services over last year.

Vote to approve the Resolution 01-18.

Ayes: Commissioner Kessler, Ballowe, Robbins, Meline, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

G. Resolution 02-18: District Landscape Contract Extension

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve Resolution 02-18 authorizing the President of the Vernon Hills Park Board of Commissioners to extend the landscape contract between the Vernon Hills Park District and Balanced Environments of Wadsworth, Illinois from April 1, 2018 thru October 31, 2018.

Motion by Commissioner Meline.

Second by Commissioner Robbins.

Discussion: Commissioner Robbins inquired as to whether there was an increase in price from the previous year. James Kim explained that there was a slight increase due to a more thorough determination of acreage that would be serviced. While not the lowest bid, the lowest bid package did not include a bid bond or the proper insurance requirements.

Vote to approve the Resolution 02-18.

Ayes: Commissioner Ballowe, Kessler, Robbins, Meline, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

H. Shadow Creek HOA Tree Trimming Request

Executive Director Fougrouse explained that he and James Kim met with the homeowners association and addressed the need for the trimming. A formal request has been made via correspondence to the District. President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve the Shadow Creek Tree Trimming Request in permitting Sawvell Tree Services to trim four Cottonwood trees at a cost of \$ 3500.00.



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Motion by Commissioner Meline.
Second by Commissioner Robbins.

Vote to approve the Shadow Creek HOA Tree Trimming Request.
Ayes: Commissioner Ballowe, Meline, Robbins, Kessler, Doerhoefer.
Nays: None. Motion Carries.

7. Unfinished Business- Hawthorn Kindergarten Facility Driveway

Executive Director Fougrousse updated the board on developments regarding traffic flow. No cars or busses are expected to be using the Sullivan parking lot to gain access to the kindergarten facility. A double access gated driveway will be created on Philip Road. Jeff commended Gewalt Hamilton for their work on developing this solution.

6. Reports and Communication

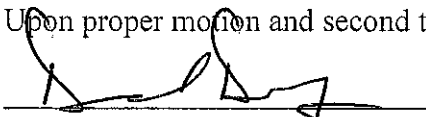
- A. Executive Director- Jeff Fougrousse – report attached. In addition, Jeff announced a public meeting to review the 2018/2019 proposed budget. This meeting will take place February 22, 2018 at 5:00pm and is open to residents. The regular board meeting will follow at 7:00 pm.
- B. Finance and HR Superintendent- Marla DeCicco – report attached.
- C. Recreation Superintendent- Tom Ritter –report attached.
- D. Parks Superintendent- James Kim - report attached.
- E. Marketing & Communications Manager- Cheryl Buhmann –report attached.
- F. Lakeview Facility Supervisor – Mark Purcell – report attached.
- G. Commissioner/Committee Reports and Communications – none.
- H. Board Correspondence - President Doerhoefer acknowledged two pieces of correspondence received by the board. One expressed concerns with Lakeview Fitness which will be addressed and the second addressed the Wetlands Research Inc.

9. Commissioner Comments

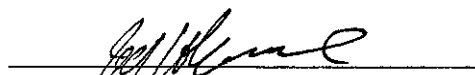
- A. Commissioner Ballowe- none
- B. Commissioner Meline -none
- C. Commissioner Robbins -none
- D. Commissioner Kessler -none
- E. Commissioner Doerhoefer -none

10. Adjournment

Upon proper motion and second the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



David Doerhoefer, Park Board President



Jeff Fougrousse, Park Board Secretary

