



Vernon Hills Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
635 N. Aspen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

November 19, 2020 – 6:00p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Present: Commissioners Sente, Doerhoefer, Kessler, Meline, Robbins.

Staff: Jeff Fougerousse, Amy Darling.

Guests: Senator Adriane Johnson, Barrett Monie, Greg Petry

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

3. Swearing In of Commissioner Carol Sente

Carol Sente was sworn in as Park Board Commissioner by Secretary Jeff Fougerousse. Senator Adriane Johnson presented Commissioner Sente with a certificate of congratulations for her appointment.

4. Appointment of Park Board Vice President

Secretary Fougerousse requested nominations for the appointment of the Park Board Vice President.

Commissioner Meline nominated Commissioner Kessler.

Secretary Fougerousse asked if there were any other nominations to be heard?

Seeing that there are no other nominations Secretary Fougerousse called the Board to close the nomination of Park Board Vice President.

Commissioner Doerhoefer seconded the nomination of Commissioner Kessler.

Roll call to appoint Commissioner Kessler to the office of Park Board Vice President.

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

Nays: None. Appointment is made.





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5. 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 Regular Meeting October 22, 2020
 - B. Payables & Payroll through November 19, 2020 in the amount of \$784,345.72.

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

Motion by Commissioner Meline.

Second by Commissioner Sente.

Discussion: None.

Vote to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

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

Nays: None. Motion Carries

6. Financial Reports for the Period Ending October 31, 2020

President Doerhoefer confirmed with Executive Director Fougrousse that there are no changes to the October 31, 2020 financial reports and that they are on file.

7. Welcome to Visitors and Guests - Public Comment Period

Greg Petry, on behalf of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association as well as Musco Lighting presented the district with the 2020 Gold Medal Award Finalist plaque.

Commissioner Kessler presented the IAPD Certificate of Appreciation to Commissioner Doerhoefer recognizing his 15 years of board member service.

8. Unfinished Business – none.

9. Reports and Communication

- A. Executive Director- Jeff Fougrousse- report attached. In addition, Executive Director Fougrousse provided the following updates:

The district will be receiving a CARES Act reimbursement from Lake County in the amount of \$87,000. The district is awaiting approval on a \$200,000 grant request for the PALS Safe Center E-Learning program.



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Executive Director Fougousse provided summary reports from superintendents not in attendance. All reports are attached.

Discussion items:

Commissioner Robbins: As of Oct 31st the district is still holding funds in the kindergarten building operating account even though the building is complete. Jeff explained that the school district is awaiting a final architectural payable that will dramatically reduce the funds in the account. Since the year end audit is complete, Commissioner Robbins would like to make sure the necessary journal adjustments are made in the current financial statements. Jeff will follow up with Marla to confirm. Commissioner Robbins requested a quarterly report on utility savings by using the solar panels at the park maintenance facility. Jeff will provide information on the savings at the December board meeting.

Commissioner Kessler: Are group classes still being held at Lakeview Fitness in Tier 3. Jeff confirmed they are taking place in a heated outdoor tent with a maximum of 10 participants. Equipment rentals are being explored for virtual classes. Virtual classes are expected to expand as weather prevents participants from being outdoors. If in person visits to Lakeview Fitness decline dramatically, reducing hours of operation may be considered. With the brochure going virtual how do we reach those residents who don't have access to a computer. Commissioner Meline noted that during this pandemic he felt confident that most families have gained access to the Internet to accommodate work and e-learning needs. Commissioner Meline also recommended that if the program guides remain virtual over the next 2-3 years, a comparison of registrations between virtual and hard copy brochure would be beneficial. Commissioner Kessler also recommended updating the website with tools or pages that could assist in navigating the digital brochure. Jeff will follow up with Marketing Manager Cheryl Buhmann with the Commissioners' comments.

Commissioner Sente- is personal training available indoors at Lakeview. Jeff confirmed that personal training sessions are still eligible to take place indoors and masks are required at all times.

- B. Commissioner/Committee Reports and Communications – none.
- C. Board Correspondence - none.

10. New Business

Executive Director Fougousse contacted Dan Forbes from Speer Financial by phone. Dan provided a comprehensive review of the bond sale. At the conclusion of the review, Dan recommended that the board adopt the bond ordinance and approve the sale.



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President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve Bond Ordinance 05-20 “An ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$1,094,529.19 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2020, at a net interest rate of 0.794 percent in accordance with net terms on the final term sheet of the District for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding bonds of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof.”

Dan Forbes informed the board that the issue amount of the bond sale stated in the motion is incorrect.

Motion by Commissioner Meline.
No Second
Motion fails.

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve Bond Ordinance 05-20 “An ordinance providing for the issue of approximately **\$1,092, 290.00** General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2020, at a net interest rate of 0.794 percent in accordance with net terms on the final term sheet of the District for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding bonds of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof.”

Motion by Commissioner Meline.
Second by Commissioner Robbins.

Discussion: Commissioner Kessler asked why the purchase was for an approximate dollar amount. Dan Forbes confirmed that bond counsel should have eliminated term from their agenda language and does not materially affect the adoption of the ordinance and purchase of the bond.

Vote to approve the Bond Ordinance 05-20.
Ayes: Sente, Robbins, Meline, Kessler, Doerhoefer.
Nays: None. Motion Carries

Dan will follow up with bond counsel on any clerical items that need to be addressed.

A. Resolution 7-20 Truth in Taxation

President Doerhoefer stated the following:

Each year the Park Board is required to meet formally and estimate the amount of money they will need to levy to cover their operating costs for the next fiscal year.



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At tonight's meeting, the Board will vote on resolution 7-20 to levy an estimated \$4,066,000 in property taxes less debt service and special recreation taxes in December of 2020. This estimate represents a 4.77% increase over the 2019 tax levy. The 4.77% increase is based on an estimate for the 2020 tax year EAV (equalized assessed value) and will be reduced based on the actual EAV before any tax dollars are extended. The levy increase is based on the rising cost of living, an increase in Park District residents and the expansion and improvement of Park District facilities.

Vernon Hills Park District continues to provide the lowest tax rate out of all Lake County Park Districts.

By State of Illinois Statute, a Truth in Taxation hearing is required to be held in any year that the Park Board determines that the current year's estimated levy will exceed the prior year's actual levy by 5% or more. Since the estimate for the 2020 levy does not exceed the 2019 levy by more than 5%, a Truth in Taxation Hearing will not be held this year.

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve Resolution 7-20.

Motion by Commissioner Robbins.
Second by Commissioner Kessler.
Discussion: None
Vote to approve Resolution 7-20.
Ayes: Meline, Kessler, Sente, Robbins, Doerhoefer.
Nays: None. Motion Carries

B. Resolution 08-20 SRACLC Accessibility

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve Resolution 8-20

Motion by Commissioner Kessler.
Second by Commissioner Robbins.
Discussion: None
Vote to approve Resolution 8-20.
Ayes: Robbins, Meline, Sente, Kessler, Doerhoefer.
Nays: None. Motion Carries





C. Conduct Ordinance Recommendations

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve revisions to the district conduct ordinance under sections: 2.25 Protection of Property and 2.29 Restrictions Applicable to Specific Recreational Activities, as recommended by staff.

Motion by Commissioner Meline.

Second by Commissioner Robbins.

Discussion: Commissioner Robbins inquired as to how these updates would be communicated to park visitors. Executive Director Fougousse stated that signage will be posted and police will be enforcing the ordinance. Commissioner Sente asked for clarification on how the unauthorized paths were being created. Executive Director Fougousse stated that use of dirt bikes and other off road type recreation was causing these paths.

Vote to approve revisions to the district conduct ordinance under sections 2.25 and 2.29.

Ayes: Sente, Meline, Kessler, Robbins, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries

11. Commissioner Comments

A. Commissioner Meline – stay safe and healthy.

B. Commissioner Robbins – welcome Carol to the board, congratulations to Commissioner Kessler on her new position and to Commissioner Doerhoefer for his 15 years of service.

C. Commissioner Kessler – so glad to have Carol on the board and congratulations to David.

D. Commissioner Sente- looks forward to learning from everyone; thank you to the staff and board.

E. Commissioner Doerhoefer- welcome back Commissioner Sente; thank you to the residents and have a safe happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

12. Adjournment

Upon proper motion and second the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

David Doerhoefer, Park Board President

Jeff Fougousse, Park Board Secretary



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