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

**October 24, 2024  
Sullivan Community Center  
635 N. Aspen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Commissioners Robbins, Giraldo, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Absent: Commissioner Jacobs.

Staff: Jeff Fougerousse, Mark Fleishman, Lacy Marinenko, Cheryl Baron, Jessica Mitchell, Amy Darling.

Guests: Senator Adriane Johnson, Representative Daniel Didech, Village Manager Kevin Timony, Village Trustee Thom Koch, IPRA Executive Director Suzi Wirtz, Lions Club President Gary Zabilka, D73 Superintendent Pete Hannigan, D73 School Board Vice President Wes Polen, Matt Beran of Lauterbach and Amen, LLP and SRACLC Executive Director, John Buckner.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Doerhoefer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. 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 September 26, 2024

B. Payables & Payroll through October 24, 2024 in the amount of \$1,381,522.10.

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

Motion by Commissioner Robbins.

Second by Commissioner Giraldo.

Discussion: None.



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Ayes: Commissioner Giraldo, Robbins, Sente, Doerhoefer.  
Nays: None. Motion Carries.

**5. Financial Reports for the Period Ending September 30, 2024**

President Doerhoefer asked Superintendent Mitchell if there any changes to the financial reports on file for the period ending September 30, 2024. No changes were reported.

**6. Welcome to Visitors and Guests - Public Comment Period**

- A. Senator Adriane Johnson congratulated Executive Director Jeff Fougousse on his retirement and thanked him for his years of service and partnership. Senator Johnson presented Jeff a Certificate of Recognition, a Proclamation and a copy of the Senate Resolution to be passed in Veto Session.
- B. Representative Daniel Didech thanked Executive Director Jeff Fougousse for his contributions to the well being and happiness to thousands of residents over his tenure. He read aloud the House Resolution that has been filed and will be passed when the House reconvenes.
- C. Village of Vernon Hills Manager Kevin Timony and Village Trustee Thom Koch presented Executive Director Fougousse with a Proclamation and thanked him for his collaboration and commitment to the residents of Vernon Hills.

At this time, Hawthorn D73 School Board Vice President Wes Polen and Superintendent Pete Hannigan presented Executive Director Jeff Fougousse with a Hawthorn Brick and thanked him for his leadership and dedication to the community over the past 15 years.

At this time Gary Zabilka from the Lions Club presented a \$1000 donation from the Lions Club to the Vernon Hills Park District Family Scholarship Fund in honor of Executive Director Jeff Fougousse. Gary recognized Jeff for his support and service to the Lions Club and for the partnership the Lions have enjoyed with the park district.

- D. IPRA Executive Director Suzi Wirtz thanked Executive Director Jeff Fougousse for his leadership, volunteerism and dedication to the field of parks and recreation. She acknowledged the many roles Jeff has held within IPRA and shared accolades from many other industry colleagues. A lifetime membership to IPRA was presented to Jeff in appreciation of his service.





**E. Lauterbach and Amen, LLP**

President Doerhoefer invited Matt Beran to the podium for a review of the audit. Matt reviewed the audit report and management letter prepared by Lauterbach & Amen. Matt reported that the audit would be submitted for the GFOA recognition and that the highest level of opinion by the auditors was once again given to the district for its financial management. The management letter contained no areas of concern. Commissioner Robbins reported to the board that he reviewed the audit in its entirety and had no additional comments.

- F. SRCLC Executive Director John Buckner-** John thanked Jeff for his guidance and support of SRCLC over the last 15 years. He was instrumental in the transition to their new office space and for that the staff is especially grateful. John reported that SRCLC participation and inclusion numbers are strong and have almost returned to pre-COVID status. The adult program will have a fourth site in Lake Zurich. Recently SRCLC took over the Veterans program from Mundelein Park District that has been very successful. The program has grown from 6 participants to 34. John thanked the park district for fostering the new relationship with British Swim School for participants to have access to a swimming program. There were no questions from the board.

**7. Unfinished Business – none.**

**8. New Business**

**A. 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report**

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve the 2024 ACFR.

Motion by Commissioner Giraldo.  
Second by Commissioner Robbins.  
Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Robbins, Giraldo, Sente, Doerhoefer.  
Nays: None. Motion Carries.

**B. 2025 Park Board Meeting Schedule**

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to approve the 2025 Park Board Meeting Schedule.

Motion by Commissioner Robbins.  
Second by Commissioner Sente.





Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Giraldo, Robbins, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

C. Turtle Creek Water Park Lazy River/Filter Bid Award

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to award the 2024 TCW Lazy River Pump and Filtration Replacement bid to Stuckey Construction Company for the amount of \$445,900.00.

Motion by Commissioner Sente.

Second by Commissioner Giraldo.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Robbins, Giraldo, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

D. 2025 IAPD Annual Business Meeting Credentials

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to designate himself as the Park District delegate and Vice President Sente as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate for the IAPD Annual Business meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

Motion by Commissioner Giraldo.

Second by Commissioner Robbins.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Giraldo, Robbins, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

E. Board Officer Appointment- Secretary

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to appoint incoming Executive Director Matthew LaPorte as the Board Secretary, effective November 1, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Sente.

Second by Commissioner Giraldo.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Robbins, Giraldo, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.



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## 9. Reports and Communication

- A. Marketing & Communications Manager- Cheryl Buhmann- report delivered and attached.
- B. Facility Manager- Lacy Marinenko- report delivered and attached.
- C. Parks Superintendent- Mark Fleishman – report delivered and attached.
- D. Recreation Superintendent- Tom Ritter – report attached.
- E. Finance and HR Superintendent – Jessica Mitchell – report delivered and attached.
- F. Executive Director- Jeff Fougousse – report delivered and attached. In addition, Jeff commented that in his career he has attended over 1200 board meetings. In doing so, his family has had to be patient and supportive. He thanked them both for being so understanding and flexible. He encourages the board to continue their professional development as elected officials and strive to be one of only two park districts with all sitting board members holding Master Board Level status within the IAPD Board Development Program. He encouraged the board to continue to foster communication with one another and to continue to work as one voice to represent the residents of the community. Thank you to the members of this board and prior board members he has worked with over his time here. Jeff commented that it has been in honor to work along the staff at this district. He reminded staff that kindness matters and by continuing the practice of kindness, the organization will continue to prosper.
- G. Commissioner/Committee Reports and Communications- none.
- H. Board Correspondence- President Doerhoefer read aloud a letter to the board from Senator Adriane Johnson. Senator Johnson congratulated the district on being recognized as an IAPD Best of the Best Friend of Business- large business category for their relationship with Rust-Oleum Corporation.

## 10. Commissioner Comments

- A. Commissioner Robbins – Commissioner Robbins expressed his gratitude, respect and sincere thanks for Jeff's leadership as Executive Director. He thanked Jeff for his many years of friendship and wished him well in his retirement.
- B. Commissioner Sente- Commissioner Sente noted that 15 years ago, the district needed a bridge builder and a mentor. He has been both of those things and more. Under Jeff's stewardship the district has expanded and kept up numerous facilities and beautiful parks. She hopes that Jeff takes pride on his success and the imprint he has left on the parks and recreation field locally and statewide. She thanks him for his many years of friendship and he will truly be missed. Commissioner Sente thanked Linda and Steven Fougousse for sharing Jeff and supporting him as he lifted up the district. She presented Linda with a bouquet of flowers.
- C. Commissioner Giraldo – Commissioner Giraldo noted that in addition to the many accomplishments mentioned this evening, she recognized the trust he has fostered in the many relationships he has built over the years. He has made an indelible impression on the community and leaves a legacy of work that she hopes make him proud.
- D. Commissioner Jacobs – absent.



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E. Commissioner Doerhoefer – Commissioner Doerhoefer thanked Linda and Steven for their sacrifice as Jeff has led the district to the success it has achieved. He reminded staff that by continuing to work hard and get the district to the next level, they will honor Jeff. Personally, he thanked Jeff and expressed how much their friendship means to him. He wishes him nothing but the best and will be forever grateful.

**11. Adjournment**

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

David Doerhoefer, Park Board President

Matthew LaPorte, Park Board Secretary



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