

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CLARENDON HILLS PARK DISTRICT BOARD
COMMUNITY CENTER – 325 CHICAGO AVENUE
January 23, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. by President Austin.

The roll call was as follows:

Present: Austin, Barcelos, Callan, Draudt, and Fetzer
Absent: None

Other Officials Present: Donald Scheltens, Executive Director
Lee Howard, Treasurer
Kathleen Forzley, Secretary
Valerie Louthan, Superintendent of Recreation and
Facilities
Mike Fletcher, Superintendent of Parks

Addresses from the Audience – None

Approval of consent agenda

President Austin asked the Board if they had any questions or comments. There being none, President Austin requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Whereupon, on motion by Commissioner Draudt, seconded by Commissioner Callan, the consent agenda was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Draudt, Callan, Fetzer, Barcelos, and Austin
Nays: None
Absent: None

President's Report

President Austin asked John Dzarnowski, FGM Architects to present (on the projector) a concept with all the amenities that had been discussed by the Board previously. This concept would incorporate the existing pool and dive well. After reviewing the concept plan and approximate costs, Commissioner Callan questioned Mr. Dzarnowski that should the Board move forward with this plan, how long the life span of the main pool could be extended. Mr. Dzarnowski believed that other than replacing pumps, motors, sand filter tanks, other mechanics, and existing underground waterlines, the pool could last approximately another 30-40 years. The Board also questioned the time frame of construction from start to finish. Mr. Dzarnowski said that if the pool shuts down on August 15th, the construction should be completed by Memorial Day of the following year, for the pool opening, if weather permits. There being no further questions, President Austin thanked him for his presentation. FGM Architects exited the meeting at 7:30p.m.

Committee Reports

Aquatics Committee

Commissioner Callan informed the Board that Director Scheltens and Treasurer Lee Howard are currently working on the final pool budget. Executive Director Scheltens informed the Board that the Park District operated the pool facility at a loss in each of the last two pool seasons between capital repairs and operating expenses. Based on these losses and the upcoming needed increases in staff, utilities, and repair expenses, he was recommending an increase in family season passes and daily admissions for both residents and non-residents for the 2023 pool season. He reminded the Board that the two sand filter tanks may still need to be replaced before the end of the 2023 pool season, and that this season will be a challenge to remain open with the current sand filter tanks.

Recreation Committee

Commissioner Fetzer informed the Board that registrations had begun for the Winter-Spring season, and the Summer Brochure was currently being completed, with Resident registration beginning on March 7th. Executive Director Scheltens informed the Board that the staff would be attending the IPRA Conference this week.

Little Learners preschool will be hosting an Open House on January 25th, to encourage community interest.

Commissioner Fetzer asked Director Scheltens if the Park District would consider mailing out physical brochures for the Fall/Winter session to Clarendon Hills families to generate more interest. Director Scheltens informed the Board that fall income was up 66% with online only and walk-in registration. He said that he would look at the cost of a fall brochure and we would discuss adding the cost into the budget, if the budget would allow for next year.

Maintenance/Safety Committee

Commissioner Barcelos informed the Board that Superintendent Fletcher was having a difficult time finding a qualified candidate to fill the Park Maintenance Laborer position. He had advertised on Indeed and was hoping to begin interviewing possible candidates. The snow hills have been well used as well as the ice rinks, weather permitting, during the below zero temperatures. Commissioner Barcelos asked Superintendent Fletcher if something could be done to lengthen the ice rink season. Superintendent Fletcher said the cost to purchase an industrial refrigeration system would be too expensive.

Superintendent Fletcher and Superintendent Louthan exited the meeting at 7:52p.m.

Finance/Personnel Committee

Treasurer Lee Howard discussed with the Board some financial alternatives if the Board decided to pursue a referendum to renovate the pool facility. Due to the current bond payment obligations, the Park District would need to go to the taxpayers and pass a referendum to build this new pool facility. Should the referendum be successful, this would be an increase on tax bills for homeowners as well as putting off many planned Capital projects for the parks for many years.

Executive Director Scheltens informed the Board that the majority of residents do not use the pool, so this would require many residents who do not use the pool to vote yes for the referendum. This would be very difficult to pass.

Commissioner Fetzer reminded the Board that the Mission Statement included financial responsibility, and a referendum would tie the hands of the Park District to complete other projects from the master plan.

The Board agreed that community input was absolutely necessary before considering a referendum and agreed that a pool survey should be created and sent to all residents. The Board also agreed to put all plans with FGM Architects on hold until community input had been received.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was, motion by Commissioner Callan, seconded by Commissioner Barcelos, adjourned at 9:05 p.m. by voice vote.

.

Park Board Secretary
