

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CLARENDON HILLS PARK DISTRICT BOARD
COMMUNITY CENTER – 325 CHICAGO AVENUE
August 28, 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, Callan, Draudt, and Fetzer

Absent: Barcelos***

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

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 Callan, seconded by Commissioner Draudt, the consent agenda was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Callan, Draudt, Fetzer, and Austin

Nays: None

Absent: Barcelos***

***Commissioner Barcelos entered the meeting at 7:07pm.

Committee Reports

Finance/Personnel Committee

Commissioner Draudt informed the Board that Treasurer Lee Howard would be presenting the Audit at the September Board meeting. The Audit will be filed with the DuPage County Clerk and will be available for residents to view.

Aquatics Committee

Commissioner Callan informed the Board that the end of the year pool report would be presented at the September meeting as end of the season invoices were still coming in. He informed the Board that the concrete wall which separates the slide from the main pool would need to be repaired at a cost of \$28,500 and the pool would need to be repainted at the end of the 2024 pool season at a cost of approximately \$70,000. The sand filters worked better and were able to finish the pool season.

Recreation Committee

Commissioner Fetzner informed the Board that the summer programs were winding down, and both main camps were very successful. Upcoming fall programs will begin after Labor Day. Fall Ball, which is very popular, has four teams with 15 players on each team as well as two volunteers.

Commissioner Fetzner informed the Board that preschool teacher, Gretchen Wells, has taken another position, and Michelle Koegel has hired new teachers for the 3's and 4's classes. Little Learners has added an additional class for the 2's due to a higher enrollment.

The full-time staff has completed an emergency response in-service training, and the preschool staff will be completing this in-service before the start of preschool.

Maintenance Committee

Superintendent of Parks, Mike Fletcher, informed the Board that the Maintenance staff was busy with the grass cutting and weed management. Pizzo has been maintaining the Natural Restoration Project at Hosek Park and taking care of the weed control. He told the Commissioners that the new position for the full-time maintenance worker has been re-posted.

Commissioner Barcelos discussed a landscape plan to soften the view of the newly located porta-john near the Hudson parking lot. Landscaping would be planted by the maintenance staff. Commissioner Barcelos informed the Board that the plants and materials would cost approximately \$2,000. The Board agreed to move forward with the planting.

Addresses from the Audience

Commissioner Barcelos gave an update on the Kielty property by Hosek Park. If the Board would agree to allow Mr. Kielty to connect to the Park District catch basin, Mr. Kielty will install four 55-gallon drums underground in his back yard. This would collect the majority of the water on his property before emptying into the Park District's catch basin. He would also add additional plantings if needed. The Kielty's had received a packet from the Park District staff which they have submitted to their attorney for review regarding connecting to the Park District's catch basin. Director Scheltens told the Board that if the Kielty's agree, the Park District attorney has drawn up a legal agreement acknowledging that the Park District would not be responsible for any backflow, or any costs incurred. The property owner would be required to install a backflow meter at his expense. Commissioner Barcelos stated that while the water should be held on the owner's property, the water is currently emptying into the Village basin which flows into the Park District's catch basin.

President's Report

President Austin informed the Board that they needed to adopt a Resolution solidifying a policy for non-resident recreational programs and team fees.

President Austin requested a motion to approve Resolution R-2023-03, a Resolution Approving the Clarendon Hills Park District Non-Resident Registration Fee Policy. Whereupon, on motion by Commissioner Draudt, seconded by Commissioner Callan, the Resolution was approved. The roll call was as follows:

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

President Austin asked Commissioner Fetzer to present the findings of the Lion's Park Pool Survey. Commissioner Fetzer informed the Board that a survey postcard was sent out during the pool season to approximately 3,000 resident households and two constant contact e-mails were sent out afterwards too. Of these, approximately three hundred residents responded. Fifty-two percent were season pass holders, thirty three percent were daily pass users, and fifteen percent were non-pool users. Most of the respondents viewed the Parks and Playgrounds as very important and Pools, followed by Aquatics and then Recreation Programs.

When asked to rank their interest in building new pool amenities, water slides rank first by far than any other pool amenity, with spray pads ranked second. The Vortex Pool and Flow Rider both ranked very low with the residents.

On the question of whether you would support a referendum, the responses were:

155 – yes

136 – no

The more the respondents use the pool, they are more likely to support a referendum.

Other comments that were submitted included extending the pool season, bathroom and locker room upgrades, lower pricing, and bringing the swim team back.

The Board discussed the results of this pool survey. Commissioner Draudt found it concerning that more residents did not support the referendum. Commissioner Barcelos believed that the Clarendon Hills residents do not understand the significance of the pool shutting down without a referendum.

The Board agreed that they should move forward in the coming months with researching all areas for a possible referendum for next March. Director Scheltens will begin researching marketing companies as well as working with the attorney. Treasurer Lee Howard will begin working with financial companies to obtain needed financial information.

Any future information that comes from the Park District should clearly state the pool has not been sustainable over the past three years and will continue to lose money each season it is open. If the referendum fails, the pool will no longer be managed by the Park District and will be given back to the owners of the pool immediately (Lions Club/Community Service Corporation).

The Board also agreed that the Clarendon Hills residents should be made aware that the Park District has incurred an approximate loss of \$300,000 over the past three years for pool operations and capital expenses to keep the pool operational. Because the Park District has spent its capital monies over the past few years for pool expenses, it has not kept up with many other capital projects in its park system.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was, motion by Commissioner Barcelos, seconded by Commissioner Draudt, adjourned at 8:17pm by voice vote.

Park Board Secretary
