

FRANKFORT PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR  
MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020  
140 OAK STREET, FRANKFORT, IL 60423

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Barz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Barz

Commissioner Ruvoli

Commissioner Bickett

Commissioner Schedin

Commissioner Ponton

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Executive Director, Gina Hassett; Stacey Proper, Supt of Recreation; Lisa Slattery, Business Manager; Edward Newton, Supt. Building & Grounds; ; and Mary Strand, Recording Secretary.

GUESTS: Residents: Belinda Olszewski, Susan Eisenbrandt, Sean McNamee, Peg Marks, Karyn Reczek, Shannon Visser, Tessa & Mike Quinlan, Jayme Rybka, Kristin Palumbo, Carl Hillman, and Justin Hillman.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Approved as presented.

5. CONSENT AGENDA – Items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a board member so requests in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately. President Barz asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

**A. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2020**

***Commissioner Schedin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and motion seconded by Commissioner Ruvoli. A roll call vote was taken.***

Aye: (5) Ruvoli, Ponton, Schedin, Bickett, Barz

Nay: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

***Motion approved***

6. APPROVAL OF BILLS (financial reports attached) –.President Barz asked for a motion to approve the **Jun 30, 2020 Accounts Payable and Payroll in the amount of \$147,005.36 - which includes travel and Lodging expenses.** Lisa told the Board that there was nothing out of the ordinary. The payment for the Park Inspection Software and pavement in Commissioners Park are on the list. We started to receive Real Estate taxes. It is about \$15,000 less than last year. Payroll and lawn mower payment were discussed.

***Commissioner Ruvoli made a motion to approve the June 30, 2020 Accounts Payables and Payroll in the amount of \$147,005.36 as presented. Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.***

Aye: (5) Ponton, Schedin, Bickett, Ruvoli, Barz

Nay: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

***Motion approved***

10. Committee Report –

C. The Recreation Report was moved to accommodate Stacy's schedule.

- Summer programs have started in the middle of June.
- Day Camp Session II began on July 6 but the number of participants is low.
- Splash Park opened July 6<sup>th</sup> with a limit of 50 guests. Rentals will be for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- July's Party in the Park was held at Lincoln Meadow and had a low turnout.
- The Long Run Marathon is a virtual race that 192 people signed up for.
- Staff is preparing the Fall Brochure.
- There is not access to the High School gyms for programming.
- Virtual programming is ongoing.
- Cancellation of Pre-school for 2 and under is being considered. Families have been surveyed. There is a mixed bag of comments both for and against enrolling children in the programs.
- Dance, fitness and golf programs are up and running.

7. CITIZENS COMMENTS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE – The residents attending Frankfort Park District meeting were voicing concerns regarding LWSRA of which FPD is a contributing district and occupies a seat on the LWSRA Board.

Emails were read from Adele Garza, Gail Strum and Diane Ruklic. All three voiced opinions and support that a recent LWSRA Board Meeting addressed concerns and allegations of wrong doing. They stated that they were confident that processes have been revamped to avoid a repeat. And all three support the LWSRA Executive Director and Board.

Belinda Olszewski discussed recent meetings she attended and information regarding LWSRA. Her concerns were about resources being used for non-residential participants. She also expressed her desire to have all activities paid in full after paying the program fee.

Susan Eisenbrandt said that LWSRA is very important to her family and felt some of the funds had been misspent. She is concerned about the adaptive program having out of district people participating in sponsored programs.

Tessa & Mike Quinlan told the Board that they felt that the LWSRA Board has addressed the issues and want everyone to move on. They support the changes that were implemented. They are in full support of the Adaptive Program.

Carol Hillman expressed her support of the Adaptive Program and credited LWSRA Executive Director with successes small and large for her son. She was dismayed that some were continuing to keep bringing up a matter that had been addressed and changes made.

Justin Hillman is a participant of the Adaptive Program at LWSRA for 5 years. He is very active in the fund raising that must be done for each of the outings. He also has to pay when the fund raising doesn't cover all of the expenses. He stated that he was very angry that he had to come to this meeting to defend himself and the program. He wanted everyone to get together to work things out.

Jaime Rybka told the Board that her child has been in the program since 5 years old. Keith Wallace, Executive Director, has gone above and beyond with support provided to her family. LWSRA is the only place they can turn to for this level of support.

Peggy Marks said she was happy that someone brought attention to the problems and is happy that someone is watching over how money is appropriated. She also said that when her child goes to State they must pay extra for it.

Sean McNamee stated that he was adamantly against having a 5 year audit done as had been suggested. LWSRA is audited on an annual basis.

Karyn Reczek stated that she is not the person that went to the newspaper. She is a former employee of LWSRA and she acquired financials through FOIA. She pays for her child when the programs and fund raising do not cover the expenses. She wants what is fair and transparent.

President Barz thanked everyone for their interest and comments. Commissioner Bickett asked Ms. Reczek if there was an allegation against the LWSRA Executive Director. She replied no, but she wants accountability.

Gina Hassett, Executive Director, FPD, sits on the LWSRA Board and told those in attendance that she previously shared the situation with FPD. She also stated that she had addressed Karyn Reczek's concerns in a letter that was read at the last LWSRA meeting.

#### 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Barz thanked the staff for all their hard work on adjusting for Covid-19/
- Fort Frankfort got a face lift on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT –

- Gina learned, through PDRMA, that the District does not have to reimburse the State for any unemployment paid out on the District's behalf. The insurance through PDRMA picks up half and the District would pay the other half. Gina will monitor to make sure that the information is accurate and report back to the Board.
- Gina received a phone call from Borg Warner asking if the District is interested in their building that they plan to vacate and what would the District be using it for. Borg Warner indicated that the District would be the first on their list when time for the sale is made public.

#### 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- A. Special Recreation – Executive Director Hassett told the Board that the LWSRA playground is now under construction. It is a collaboration with the New Lenox Park District because they own the land. LWSRA held fund raisers and solicited for donations to help defray the costs. They have raised over \$200,000 to date. Also Gina is no longer the President of LWSRA Board, a position that is held for 2 years only.
- B. Building and Grounds Report
  - Ed stated that he is very proud of his staff who have been very flexible in carrying out their duties. They are staying safe and abiding by social distancing and wearing masks.
  - The parks are open and the bathrooms are also open. Staff is sanitizing 7 days a week. Most of the bathrooms now have touchless faucets and Ed is waiting on orders for more.
  - Softball fields are being maintained and set up now that they are in use again.
  - The Pickleball Court is being worked on with the contractor. Drainage issues at Commissioners is also being worked on.
  - The asphalt has been repaired in several spots.
  - The recently hired supervisor is doing great.
  - More senior employees have been using the new mower and it is great.
  - Discussion of the infield weeds was addressed.
- C. Recreation Report – Moved above after the Payment of Bills. Stacy had to attend the Drive-In Movie event.
- D. Public Relations – Deb Gorchos has been handling social media very well.
  - The report showed printed articles, website info and e-newsletters.
  - A Hootsuite report was in the Board's packets. It shows analysis of interactions on social media comparing May to June
- E. Planning Report – Gina informed the Board that that The Park District was awarded a grant of \$6,000 from ComEd Openland program. The application is to restore the northern portion of Heritage Knolls to native plantings with trees. It will naturalize a ¾ acre area along the existing trail.

#### 11. ATTORNEYS REPORT – None

#### 12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

## 13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- Commissioner Barz would like Ed to assess the feasibility to relocate trees from the Laraway property to some of the other parks.
- Commissioner Ponton expressed his thanks to the entire staff.
- Commissioner Bickett thanked all that came to the meeting to express their views.
- Commissioner Schedin said that the staff keeps working in the right direction and staying safe. He appreciated everyone who attended the meeting and spoke.
- Commissioner Ruvoli echoed the comments and said it was good to hear from both sides. He extended his thanks to the staff. He commended the staff on their virtual programming and social outreach. He told all that two new benches were dedicated at Heritage Knolls Park and donated a tree in a memorial to Michael Guzy. He informed the Board that he had a representative from Will County Conservation to assess his grounds for drainage and other issues. They could also conduct an evaluation of the parks as well and advise on a Rain Garden. He thanked Lisa and Gina for all the work on the budget and offered his help.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION – ***President Barz asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Ruvoli moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real estate 5 ILCS 120/(2)(5); Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); imminent or pending litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(2)(c)(1); and finances. Commissioner Schedin seconded the motion. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote at 7:57p.m.***

15. OPEN SESSION – With nothing further to discuss, President Barz asked for a motion to return to open session. ***Commissioner Ruvoli moved to end the Executive Session and return to the Regular Meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Schedin. Motion passed by a voice vote.***

16. ADJOURNMENT — ***President Barz asked for a motion to adjourn the Frankfort Park District Board of Commissioners Regular monthly meeting of July 14, 2020 at 8:06 p.m. Commissioner Ruvoli so moved and Commissioner Schedin seconded the motion. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote.***

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Strand  
Board Minutes Secretary