

FRANKFORT PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023
140 OAK STREET, FRANKFORT, IL 60423

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT Commissioner Barz
Commissioner Ruvoli
Commissioner McCarey
Commissioner Gentry
Commissioner Ponton

ABSENT

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

GUESTS: Residents Corey Nellis, Julia Labuda, Lana Jogannathan, Ashley Quinn, Bridget & Adam Borrelli

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. Commissioner Gentry said he did not get the copy of the Executive Minutes of August 8, 2023. President McCarey will forward a copy to commissioners, and it will be on the October Agenda.

- A. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023**
- B. Approval of the Special Committee Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023**
- C. Approval of the Executive Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023**

Commissioner Gentry made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Barz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: (5) Commissioners Ponton, Barz, Ruvoli, Gentry, McCarey

Nay: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion approved

6. Finance Report- APPROVAL OF BILLS (financial reports attached) – President McCarey asked for a motion to approve the September 30, 2023, Accounts Payable and Payroll in the amount of \$367,807.56 which includes travel and Lodging expenses. Lisa provided a detailed memo highlighting the major items. She pointed out the large expense for the new truck, playground equipment for Windy Hill and some Capital expenses including AC unit for the gym. Commissioner Ruvoli questioned the HOA fees and Verizon credit. Lisa said the HOA

fees were reflected on the credit card and the Verizon credit was reimbursement for fraudulent charges from September.

Commissioner Barz made a motion to approve the September 30, 2023 Accounts Payables and Payroll in the amount of \$367,807.56 as presented and Commissioner Gentry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: (5) Barz, Ruvoli, Gentry, Ponton, McCarey

Nay: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion approved

7. CITIZENS COMMENTS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE –

A. Comments – Bridget Borrelli, President of Frankfort Girls Softball (FGS), stated that there was an unfortunate incident Sunday, October 22nd, stemming from a communication snafu. FGS was having an event that was delayed from Saturday. A former member of the FGS Board, and now member of a new organization, Frankfort Freedom, was given a permit for the field use, but due to miscommunication that was not known to FGS. FGS does not want to share the field. The individual made a scene and was very aggressive. FGS Board members were very concerned with his behavior and for the safety of the children. She wanted to make sure moving forward in a more positive manner and that better communication is established.

Corey Nellis was threatened verbally by the individual and was stacked in front of the crowd including extended family and friends. She wants to know how to avoid this type of situation in the future. The police were called and those in attendance were alarmed. She said she doesn't feel safe doing some field maintenance by herself. She wants a better understanding of the FGS Agreement and procedure to rent the fields.

Lana Jogannathan, Board member FGS, explained that the Halloween event was rescheduled from the 14th to the 22nd. She was unaware that she should check in with FPD administration to reschedule. The offending individual did not know that FGS was going to be using the field, but the situation could have been worked out without his aggressive behavior. It was embarrassing.

Julia Labuda, Treasurer of FGS, was approached by a mom that was very upset about the situation. The individual from Frankfort Freedom, who was verbally abusing the FGS Board members, knew on October 21st that FGS had planned to use the field the next day for an event. Julia felt that his actions were very deliberate and intentional.

Gina Hassett explained that if she knew the FGS event was rescheduled to October 22nd, she would have pulled the permit from the abusive individual. However, there is no excuse for the behavior he exhibited. Commissioner Gentry told FGS that their agreement states that they have the 'right of first refusal'. If they do not refuse to rent the field, FPD can authorize an organization to rent it and notify them. He gave an example of how it worked in the past. President McCarey stated that the FPD Board has known for a long time that the organization agreements need to be updated, but the organizations' office change frequently and it is hard to accomplish. Gina clarified how the rental to Frankfort Freedom happened and the subsequent breakdown of communications with the FGS Vice President occurred. Gina reiterated FPD's willingness to work with organizations and once they discuss the events of October 22nd, they will get back to FGS on any actions taken and how to move forward. Julia stated that tryouts will be happening on Sundays, and she will share the dates with Gina. Gina also informed FGS that it is not only the actual fields that must be taken into consideration, but also garbage disposal and bathrooms to manage. If FPD doesn't know an organization is using the field, bathrooms will be locked, and adequate garbage disposal would not be handled. Gina also

told FGS that FPD maintenance department will remove the sponsor signs for them. FPD will be addressing the individual's aggressive behavior. Commissioner Ruvoli apologized to the members of FGS and they expressed gratitude to the Board for giving them an opportunity to discuss the situation. *(all the residents exited the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)*

B. Correspondence - None

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President McCarey said that Pours for Parks was an outstanding event. Everyone agreed it was great. The net proceeds are approximately \$12,500. Gina said that someone in attendance actually expressed interest in joining Operation Playground.
- He said that the conference in Dallas was great and he thanked Gina and Stacey for all of their help.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT.

- Five Oaks will be discussed at the Executive Meeting with FPD's attorney later tonight.
- Gina noted that the NRPA gave an opportunity to attend and network with peers from around the country. There were new vendors and a number of workshops that staff attended.
- The contractor has been on location to deliver materials and intend to start tomorrow, October 25th. Gina will keep the Board updated on their progress.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Special Recreation – Gina sent a link of the LWSRA Board packet in the commissioners' information packets.

B. Building and Grounds Report

- Ed reported that the new truck has been delivered. Some of the options had to be installed post-delivery and the registration is not complete yet.
- Commissioner Ruvoli thanked Ed for introducing Tyler to the Board and Ed said that he was a good addition to the staff.

C. Recreation Report – Stacey Proper

- The Winter/Spring brochure proof is being reviewed and will go to the printer November 27th.
- The Halloween event, Thriller at Main Park was held indoors at the Founders Center. There were 2 sessions and approximately 300 attended. Local students from the community were on hand to help.
- The Halloween event for the dogs was rescheduled for October 30th at the Founders Center.
- Fall Soccer ended October 7th.
- Indoor Flag Football began October 9th at ROMA Sports Club with 138 participants.
- The Fall Craft & Vendor Show will be held November 11th.

- a. Community Outreach – Julie did a fantastic job getting the beer and wine vendors and sponsors for Pours for Parks. She is getting the thank yous prepared along with a 'Save The Date' notices for next year's event. She has put the sponsorship packets together. The sponsors page on the website was discussed.

D. Public Relations – Debs report was included in the Board's packets. Commissioner Ruvoli asked for the report on the social media comparison from month to month. Some additional analytics were included.

E. Planning Report – None

11. ATTORNEYS REPORT – None

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Commissioner Ponton asked what the approach will be on the

Athletic Agreements was. Gina will send out a draft to start the process to renegotiate them.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Commissioner Ruvoli thanked Gina, Lisa, Stacey, Ed, Julie and the whole staff on all of their work on Pours for Parks. He thanked Gina for letting him attend the Best of the Best event.

Commissioner Gentry Pours for Parks was great. It was nice to the improvisation to accommodate the event.

Commissioner Ponton said it was a great time at Pours for Parks.

Commissioner Barz thanked all for Pours for Parks and said it was a good feeling to know that all present were part of FPD as is shined.

President McCarey thanked everyone again.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

15. ADJOURNMENT — President McCarey asked for a motion to adjourn the Frankfort Park District Board of Commissioners Regular monthly meeting of October 24, 2023, at 7:22 p.m. ***Commissioner Gentry so moved, and Commissioner Barz seconded the motion. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote.***

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Strand
Board Minutes Secretary