**SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026**
**FRANKFORT, IL – FOUNDERS COMMUNITY CENTER**
**6:30 p.m.**

I. Call Committee to Order – President McCarey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Attendance: Commissioners McCarey, Ponton, Ruvoli, and Gentry.
Also Present: Gina Hassett, Executive Director.
Absent: Barz
Guest: Tod Staton, Design Perspectives, Inc.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment –None

IV. Parks
A. Mowing Bid – The bid packet was updated to have the mowing schedule at the passive parks to every other week mows and with active parks remain on a weekly schedule. Using an outside contractor allows staff to manage other park projects and daily maintenance of park facilities. It also reduces the amount of equipment needed for mowing along with fuel and equipment maintenance costs. Park District staff continue to mow numerous park locations and District 157C school locations. Staff recommend awarding the landscaping and mow contract to Ramiro Guzman Landscaping Inc. that includes Contract A 1-3, B and C for a total cost of $74,200 for a period of one year. If year one is successful, there is an option to hold the pricing and renew for up to two additional years. Approval will be on the agenda for February 24, 2026 Regular Board meeting.

B. Herbicide Treatment – Gina met with an individual who has made suggestions to the Board in previous meetings for treatments. He submitted a proposal that was within the budget, and Gina sent out a request for proposals from other vendors.

V. Facility & Property Update –
A. Five Oaks Parcel – Since many residents did not receive their ballots in a timely manner, the HOA Board extended the deadline to January 31st. Gina will follow up with the HOA to find out the results of the vote.
B. Land Exchange – Old Stone – There is no update.

C. Indoor Recreation Center – Gina was in discussion with Williams Architects to get an estimated cost of the projects that would be proposed for a referendum. There will be three options. Option one would be to purchase an existing facility and completely renovate the Founders Center. Option two would be to purchase the existing facility and put a full addition on it to meet the District's needs. Option three would to purchase the existing facility, put a partial addition on it and then renovate the Founders Center. Frank will get the proposal to Gina. Gina is also getting an appraisal done on the existing facility that is being considered for purchase.

D. DCEO Funding Planning Update – A slideshow exhibiting showing what a Master Plan could include. The slides have been updated from what the Board saw on January 13th and are budgeted for $6.95 million. Contingencies are included in the amount. The changes made were based on the feedback received from the Board. At Commissioners Park a new 2nd entrance would be added. The ball diamonds will remain the same with the center hub access and drainage corrected. One scenario would add a new field and would be a high-end adult ball field. No lights would be included. The size of the field was discussed. A 2nd parking lot would be added. Another scenario would be to improve the existing fields and light one. The Dog Park would be moved to another park because it needs to be replaced anyway. Lighting the pickle ball fields was discussed. The walking path improvements would have to be an alternate. The topographic map is not finished. If the majority of the money is used at Commissioners Park, additional improvements to other parks could be done with any left over money.
There is $350,000 for parking at Lincoln Meadows and Windy Hill. The stairs at Jackson Park and a new dog park at Michelle Bingham can be done with Capital Funds. The cost of some of the other projects at other parks might be funded by additional grants. Tod will get the updates back to Gina in the next few weeks and months. He gave the Board an estimated timeline for the start of the project. Some communication to sports organizations to let them know what is or isn't being done will need to be passed on once it is finalized. Discussion was held.

***(Tod left the meeting at 7:41)***

VI. Recreation –

VII. Miscellaneous –

A. The Park District promoted an internal candidate to the Foreperson position. Gina announced that Tyler Byrd, is the

new parks foreperson. Staff posted Tyler's positions which is Park Maintenance II position and have had quality response. The qualifications for this position are that the individual has 2-5 years' experience related to the job and a licensed pesticide applicator.

B. Lisa Abbot resigned recently and a post went out for her replacement. Teresa Kara has been hired for the part-time position.
C. February Board Meeting will be held on February 24th. March-April-May meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m.
D. The IAPD conference cards were given to the commissioners.
E. Gina received an email with the Fort Frankfort parts list. The big structure is almost complete. The small structure, the landscaping, entry walkway and arched pillar are the three things that need to be finished. Discussion was held.

VIII. Executive Session – None

IX. Adjournment – With nothing further to discuss, President McCarey asked for a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting. ***Commissioner Gentry so moved, and Commissioner Ruvoli seconded the motion. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote at 8:10 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Strand
Board Minutes Secretary