SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
FRANKFORT, IL – FOUNDERS COMMUNITY CENTER

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; and Mary Strand, Recording Secretary.
Absent: Barz
Guest: Steve Rotondi

II. Public Comment –None

III. Facility & Property Update –
A. Indoor Recreation Center Planning.- Discussed at Executive Meeting September 22, 2026.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – ***President McCarey asked for a motion to enter Executive* Session *for the purpose of discussing* the purchase or lease of real estate 5 ILCS 120/(2)(5); Personnel ILCS 120/2(c)(1); imminent or pending litigation5 ILCS120/2(2)(c)(1); and finances. Commissioner Gentry so moved and Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote at 6:31 p.m.***

V. OPEN SESSION - With nothing further to discuss, President McCarey asked for a motion to end the Executive Session and return to the Open Session of the Committee Meeting. ***Commissioner Ponton so moved, and Commissioner Ruvoli seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote at 7:17 p.m.***

B. Dog Park Discussion – Commissioner Gentry received an invoice for $7,800 from the contractor for outstanding costs to cancel the contract. It was not itemized so Gina sent it to Tod with a request for itemization.
Gina included the Bark Park Membership Summary in the Board's packets. It showed resident and non-resident participation since 2007. Non-residents participants outnumbered residents for 10 years. Currently there are only 53 residents enrolled. This is the lowest number since the pandemic at 31 and the first year at 14. Now that many other communities also have dog parks the non-residents have dwindled to 40 for the current year. The current acreage is approximately 3 acres. Gina has asked Tod to rework the Commissioners Park renovation to allocate an approximate one acre parcel for a Bark Park renovation. The soccer field would need to be cut in half. Commissioner Gentry doesn't like it because it would reduce the athletic field, but questions what the alternative location for

the Dog Park could be. Gina exhibited a different site that the Village tried to give to FPD several years ago near their water treatment plant. It is close to three acres, and the parking would be only street parking. An idea would be to limit a dog park pass to residents only as other districts do, which would then reduce the number of individuals who would use the street parking. The Village has said it has to evaluate the site for the current utilities and what equipment would be installed by FPD. There is no sidewalks.

The website now shows that the Bark Park will remain where it is and it's renovation is under discussion.

A FOIA request regarding the Bark Park relocation has been withdrawn. Gina did reply to all the emails that were sent prior to the September 8th meeting.

C. E-Bike Law – The governor has signed a new law, and Gina is reviewing the language.

VI. Budget/Finance –

A. Tax Levy – The new employee, Karen LaPont, and Gina will be working on the Tax Levy which has to be completed by the end of the year.

B. Tax Objections – Gina told the Board that the objections against the General Fund has been going on for at least two and a half years. FPD's attorney sent Gina a letter requesting more information. She gave him the information that the excessive funds were due to stoppages of several projects during the Covid years. The plaintiff did not really agree but withdrew the two objections, so FPD won!

VII. Recreation –

A. District 157C Programming Space – Gina has a letter prepared to send and wanted feedback on who to send it to. Should it go to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and President of the Board? Commissioner Gentry suggested to send to the whole Board. The letter focuses on working together to help not raise taxes. A large portion of Chelsea school is not being used and many people are unaware that it lays empty but could be used for FPD programming.

VIII. Miscellaneous –

- Gina received the information that PDRMA approved reimbursement for the $186,000 for emergency roof repairs of the Founders Center as storm damage.
- FPD will have two Commissioner spots on the April 2027 ballot. Commissioner Gentry will not be running. Commissioner Barz

intends to run again. Gina asked the commissioners to ask around and encourage a qualified person to run with Tom Barz. There are more signatures required for getting on the ballot this year. Gina will send the commissioners the important deadlines for filing.

IX. Adjournment – With nothing further to discuss, President McCarey asked for a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting. ***Commissioner Gentry so moved, and Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote at 7:43 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Strand
Board Minutes Secretary