

Minutes of a Regular Session of the
Board of Commissioners of the Lemont Park District
Held on August 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Centennial Community Center, 16028 127th Street, Lemont, IL 60439

CALL TO ORDER – President McAdam called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Commissioner Richmond, Commissioner Scarlati, Commissioner Wagner, Commissioner Mescher, President McAdam. Also in attendance were Executive Director Louise Egofske, and staff Jason Khuen, Anthony Morelli, Carrie Dellamano, Christine Aguirre, Josephine Wimunc, Greg Hooper, Lisa Dian, Liz Pacyga, Joe Loburgio, Marie Piotrowski and Carlene Dickman as recording secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by President McAdam

CHANGE TO AGENDA – None

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – Carl Buck was in attendance. No visitors to address the board.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

VALUES IN ACTION, DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT AWARDS – Lisa Dian presented the Values in Action Award to Joe Loburgio and Liz Pacyga. Joe and Liz were recognized by Lemont Lightning Representative Lee Russell. He expressed his great admiration and heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the team for their tireless efforts in ensuring the success of the 2023 Quarry Challenge softball tournament on July 8th and 9th. Lee Russell acknowledged the tireless work of Joe Loburgio. His unwavering commitment and countless hours spent preparing the fields after the downpour were absolutely critical to ensure that the tournament could proceed as planned. Joseph's exceptional skills and determination were evident in the impeccable condition of the fields and his contributions were nothing short of remarkable. Lee Russell also recognized Liz Pacyga for her meticulous attention to detail in coordinating the tournament. Her genuine interest in the success of the event was truly inspiring, and her efforts played a vital role in making the Quarry Challenge a seamless and enjoyable experience for all participants and spectators. Liz's dedication and passion were instrumental in the overall success of the tournament. Working with individuals like Joseph and Liz exemplifies the true spirit of "We are Lemont." Their professionalism, hard work and genuine care for the Lemont community were evident in every step of the tournament.

Executive Director Louise Egofske recognized Carl Buck, the District's attorney, who is leaving and taking a job with the Village of Mokena. We had the pleasure of working with Carl for the last 10 plus years. He has given us great attention to detail and his support for the district. Carl had a special relationship with the staff and board. Carl has always given us the greatest advice, attention to detail and support – he has been the best and we are going to miss him. Carl Buck mentioned that he has enjoyed working with us over the years and we are his most favorite district, and that we have a tremendous organization. It has been an honor and privilege working with us.

CONSENT AGENDA – The following items were presented to the board as consent:

- C.1 – Approval of Minutes – July 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- C.2 – Approval of July 2023 Treasurer's Report

C.3 – Approval of August 2023 Payables in the amount of \$273,110.74

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, with a second by Commissioner Mescher.

Roll Call – Ayes – Commissioners Wagner, Mescher, Richmond, Scarlati, McAdam
Nays – None

BOARD BUSINESS –

President’s Comments – President McAdam thanked Carl Buck for all he has done for the district and it was nice having him as part of the team. President McAdam also thanked staff for a great summer full of programs and events.

Commissioners Comments – Commissioner Richmond commented about how great the outdoor pool was this summer. He and his family spent a lot of time there and really enjoyed it. Commissioner Wagner commented about how his children really enjoyed camp this summer. There is a whole group of kids that love going to camp and that says a lot about the staff and the activities offered. Thanks for a great summer.

ACTION ITEMS –

E.1 – Approval of Surplus Ordinance #2023-3

Commissioner Mescher made a motion to approve Surplus Ordinance #2023-3 , with a second by Commissioner Scarlati.

Roll Call – Ayes – Commissioners Mescher, Scarlati, Richmond, Wagner, McAdam
Nays – None

E.2 – Approval of Resolution #2023-5 Authorizing the Submission of LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) Grant Application

Commissioner Richmond made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-5 Authorizing the Submission of LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) Grant Application, with a second by Commissioner Wagner.

Executive Director Louise Egofske and Jason Khuen gave background information regarding this grant application. Jason mentioned that he received the information from IAPD that this application process was open and all applications were due by the end of September. All documents were put together and going to submit the application for the 2.5 acres on 127th Street. This LWCF Grant is similar to the OSLAD Grand except this if for land. Commissioner Scarlati asked if we had spoken to the landowner and Lousie said no, we have not. We did apply for this grant last year but did not receive it. After the task force meetings, it would be nice to use this for the tennis courts, expand the walking path and give more open space. We are working with Todd Stanton for a new rendering for this possible project. If we are awarded and cannot purchase the land, then we do not accept the grant as it cannot be used for anything else. This is a multiple step process, asking for approval to apply for the grant is the first step. President McAdam mentioned about moving pickleball courts to the interior of Centennial Park due to noise.

Roll Call – Ayes – Commissioners Richmond, Wagner, Mescher, Scarlati, McAdam

Nays – None

E.3 – Approval of Resolution #2023-6 Authorizing the Execution and Submission of an Annexation Application to the Village of Lemont for Bambrick Park

Commissioner Richmond made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-6 Authorizing the Execution and Submission of an Annexation Application to the Village of Lemont for Bambrick Park, with a second by Commissioner Scarlati.

Louise is for the portion of the part we own. Citgo has annexed in the part we lease from them.

Roll Call – Ayes – Commissioners Richmond, Scarlati, Mescher, Wagner, McAdam
Nays - None

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS –

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Executive Director Louise Egofske wanted to echo board comments on what a great summer the district had. Staff did a phenomenal job on events and programs. We are kicking off a very busy fall already and registration numbers are better than last fall at this time. Tomorrow is our final page turn of the Athens Park plan and we are getting ready to go out to bid. The Army Corp of Engineers review period for our permit for Athens Park has ended and we have not heard anything. Louise is preparing an RFP for distribution to find a new attorney and asked the board if they would like to be involved in the interviews with her. President McAdam said to set up a committee, including a few board members, and then bring the recommendation to the board meeting to meet the full board of commissioners. We have a busy September... Carlene is posting a meeting notice for the ADA Transition Plan Community Engagement meeting taking place on Wednesday, September 6th, the COW Meeting will be held on September 12th and we are trying to have a local efficiency meeting that day as well. We will also be holding a public meeting for the LWCF. The Connemara Park Make Your Park planning meeting is on September 19th, 6 p.m. at The CORE and the September board meeting will be held on September 24th. Louise and Jason had a follow-up meeting with Jim Belden regarding the solar power opportunities for the district and would like to pursue – more information to come on September 12th. Josephine is working on the budget and capital plans have been solidified for 2024.

RISK MANAGEMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT – Nothing to add.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Nothing to add.

MARKETING AND RECREATION REPORT – Carrie Dellamano introduced Greg Hooper, the new Superintendent of Recreation. Greg has been very helpful in launching our fall rec soccer league and we are up to about 290 players for the season. The fall rec soccer league had a great opening day thanks to Greg and our new soccer coordinator Lauren Royer. The annual Recreation Summit is taking place on Monday, August 28th and staff will be discussing 2024 events and programming. Regarding the Preschool segment of board report, we will be brainstorming ideas and getting the word out and coming up with a long-term strategy for promoting our preschool. Commissioner Richmond mentioned that his son attended the Lemont Park District preschool and loved it as do other families. Would it be possible to get some testimonials from other customers? Louise mentioned the same thing. Carrie said yes, they are going to do that. Commissioner Wagner also suggested cross-checking enrollment with other programs for that age group. We may just be experiencing a dip in that age group at this time as it does happen. President McAdam suggested that we reach out to see if Happy Hands preschool enrollment numbers are down as well. Carrie said we will reach out and find out more information.

Greg Hooper said that he is super excited to be joining this organization and team. Everyone, from residents to staff, have been very welcoming. He has hit the ground running and we'll be hiring a new Athletic Supervisor soon. Greg is excited to be here and contribute to the district.

FACILITIES REPORT – Anthony Morelli spoke about what a great job the maintenance team did on the north and east field improvements. Anthony reiterated what Mr. Russell said about Liz and Joe and that they always give their all. Planet Fitness has opened and he is working with Carrie on more marketing for The CORE. This Saturday is the CORE-Fit Fest which will showcase our CORE-Fit offerings. Anthony could not say enough about aquatics and all they did this summer and that the financials and daily admissions along with swim lessons show that. We are still recruiting swim lesson instructors for fall. Anthony mentioned that he is looking at opportunities to partner with Lemont High School and their complex at 131st and Bell Road.

Commissioner Mescher asked about the credit card company change and how this will affect our membership base if people do not update their card or don't use the facility very often. Anthony mentioned that we are currently working on a campaign now through the end of the year to capture as many members as possible. The back end is almost complete with Finance and the Registration software, we will be ready by Labor Day. Our goal is to have 30 credit card updates per day. We believe this will be more of a manual process. The desk staff is reaching out to our members as they visit our facility. Carrie and Colleen worked on a comprehensive plan and we have a soft launch going on right now. Beginning in September, we will have an email going out the first Monday of each month, social media post on the first Thursday of each month, text message the second week of the month, another social media post the third week of the month and CORE app communications during the fourth week of the month. Colleen will be monitoring the numbers weekly as to how many have updated their credit card information. We will also be speaking with the fitness instructors to have them remind the members to stop at The CORE Service Desk to update their information. We have spoken about putting up a table in The CORE lobby and give everyone something if they update their information, such as a guest pass. Or maybe we'll have a special raffle for those who update their information. The Service Desk will have phone sheets that they can use to contact members in their downtime. Josephine mentioned that since the email went out to over 1,600 members, over 800 have viewed the email. We will have staff visiting the SilverSneakers and Aqua classes to make things easier for the seniors.

FITNESS REPORT – Nothing to add.

AQUATICS REPORT – Nothing to add.

MAINTENANCE REPORT – Jason Khuen mentioned that he sent out for RFP for Connemara playground. The new CORE boiler has arrived and will be installed at the end of August. We are working on a few punch list items for Copper Ridge Park. The park looks great as you enter the Copper Ridge subdivision. Jason mentioned that he and Louise reviewed the Miracle Field plans and we are getting closer to going out for bid. Gleneagles Park is coming along. The footings have been poured for the playground and some asphalt work has been done as well. The concrete pad has also been poured. Play equipment has arrived and will be put in soon. It should take at least 4-5 years for the subdivision to be finished, maybe more. Commissioner Richmond asked about Mayfair Park and if there is anything we can do to help with the vandalism and there was a discussion regarding what is currently being done and what the next steps could be such as adding cameras. Commissioner Mescher mentioned that she saw that we put in a proposal for the January conference to present at a session regarding communication boards. Jason said that the committee working on the sessions have asked if it could be a one-hour presentation and waiting on final confirmation of being accepted for conference session along with a day and time. There was also discussion regarding submitting for a collaboration award with Lewis University for next year. Athens Park will be the first park with the communication boards and then Centennial Park and Hilltop Park will be next.

FINANCE REPORT – Nothing to add.

POLICY & PROCEDURE – Christine Aguirre mentioned she is working with PowerDMS , policy management software, and the policy module implementation work is continuing. We are looking at policies that need updating in 2024. Policies that refer to other policies will be linked in PowerDMS , which is a great feature.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Jason Khuen mentioned that the Marble Landing subdivision property is in the process of being sold to a different vendor/builder. There was discussion regarding the opportunities for a park to serve the area of Marble Landing, Ashbury Woods and Krystyna Crossing if a land donation was available. We would not build a park here for at least five years due to our current park buildout schedule. Louise met with the Village Administrator and the land donation would be more lucrative instead of receiving impact fees.

NEW BUSINESS – None

President McAdam stated that the next Lemont Park District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 6 p.m., at the Lemont Park District Safety Village, 55 Stephen Street, Lemont.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Mescher made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Wagner. All Ayes, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



President



Secretary