

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

March 10, 2021

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, and online due to President Hays' determination that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act was not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 disaster. The Special Board Meeting occurred pursuant to published notice duly given.

President Hays presided over the meeting. The three individuals identified below were physically present at the meeting with appropriate social distancing. Citizens were given the opportunity to participate in the teleconference at the web address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85482935175?pwd=YS9tcGIEWjNvK1IPZIBOeEsxNE03Zz09> or by calling 312-626-6799. Citizens were also offered the opportunity to submit comments or questions by email prior to the meeting. Those comments were to be announced by President Hays during the public comment portion of the meeting. Email submissions were solicited from the public through a notice of intent to speak or comment to be submitted by noon on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 to the Executive Director of the Park District at: joe.deluce@champaignparks.org. There were no email comments or questions submitted by citizens for consideration by the Board.

Present in-person: Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, and Jarrod Scheunemann, Assistant to the Executive Director / Secretary.

Present electronically: President Craig W. Hays, Vice President Kevin J. Miller, and Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl, Jane L. Solon, and Timothy P. McMahon.

Staff present in-person: Tammy Hoggatt, Director of HR, Risk, and IT.

Staff present electronically: Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Andrew Weiss, Director of Planning, Chelsea Norton, Director of Marketing and Communication, Dan Olson, Director of Operations, Jameel Jones, Director of Recreation, Jimmy Gleason, Director of Revenue Facilities, and Steven Bentz, Director of the Virginia Theatre.

John Wilson, Jonelle Bailey, Oralethea Davenport, and Tracey Crawford from the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Diversity Committee also attended the meeting electronically.

Call to Order

President Hays called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Comments from the Public

None.

Training

Mr. Scheunemann was asked to provide background information about two recent Park District trainings that had been facilitated by the IPRA Diversity Committee. He explained that Safe Zone Conversation trainings had been offered to all full-time staff related to the topic of racism. He stated that the Executive Director and Department Heads had discussed the outcomes of the two trainings and recommended the training to the Commissioners as well.

Ms. Bailey introduced herself and the three additional facilitators from the IPRA Diversity Committee. She began the training by setting guidelines for the discussion. Ms. Bailey asked each participant to introduce themselves and answer a grounding question related to witnessing or experiencing the effects of racism. Introductions and discussion ensued.

Ms. Bailey identified micro-aggression as the definition for many of the racist behaviors that the participants had either witnessed or experienced. She asked Ms. Crawford to define micro-aggressions. Ms. Crawford presented the definition and case study examples about micro-aggressions. Participants were asked to determine how micro-aggressions affect each of them. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Bailey and Ms. Davenport highlighted examples of staff members experiencing racism and asked participants to discuss this topic. Discussion and clarifications ensued.

Mr. Wilson presented examples from his past experience as the Executive Director of the Lan-Oak Park District and service through IPRA about how to encourage trust and communication. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Davenport concluded the training by informing participants that the facilitators would send diversity, equity, and inclusion resources, as well as suggestions for next steps.

President Hays thanked IPRA and the facilitators for their time and efforts.

Comments from Commissioners

None.

Adjourn

There being no further training for the Board, President Hays adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. to allow Commissioners, staff, and members of the public time to virtually log-in to the Regular Board Meeting to follow immediately.

Approved

Craig W. Hays, President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary