

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
August 25, 2021**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, and online due to President Miller's 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 Miller presided over the meeting. The twelve 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/89438812005?pwd=bIVFTkVyKzVOcHk4bkhOS3hFK3N3dz09> 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 Miller 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, August 25, 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: President Kevin J. Miller, Vice President Craig W. Hays, Commissioner Jane L. Solon, Attorney Guy C. Hall, Treasurer Brenda Timmons, Joseph C. DeLuce, Executive Director, and Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary and Assistant to the Executive Director.

Present electronically: Commissioner Barbara J. Kuhl.

Absent: Commissioner Timothy P. McMahon

Staff present in person: Andrew Weiss, Director of Planning, and Tammy Hoggatt, Director of HR, Risk and IT.

Staff present electronically: Jameel Jones, Director of Recreation and Jimmy Gleason, Director of Revenue Facilities.

Visitors present in person: Jayne DeLuce of Visit Champaign County and Barbara Suggs-Mason and Angela Rivers of the Champaign County African American Cultural & Heritage Trail initiative.

Jean Flood of the League of Women's Voters were also electronically in attendance.

Call to Order

Vice President Hays called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. President Miller arrived momentarily thereafter.

Presentation

Jayne DeLuce from Visit Champaign County introduced Barbara Suggs-Mason and Angela Rivers from the Champaign County African American Culture & Heritage Trail initiative.

Ms. Suggs-Mason and Ms. Rivers outlined plans to develop a free and accessible African American Culture and Heritage trail with related bus tour, school curriculum, and traveling exhibit. The Champaign Rotary Club, Scott Burge from Farnsworth Group, Preston Jackson, a sculptor, Ms. Suggs-Mason, and Ms. Rivers have discussed conceptual designs for a Skelton Park trail segment to honor African-American musicians from Champaign. Ms. Suggs-Mason and Ms. Rivers anticipate that the installation of the trail will coincide with City improvements to the Boneyard Creek at Skelton Park.

Discussion and clarifications ensued related to the request for support from the Park District for the initiative.

Comments from the Public

None.

New Business

1. Approval of Underground Electrical Easement for Ameren Illinois at the Martens Center and Human Kinetics Park

Mr Weiss reported that Ameren Illinois had requested an underground electrical easement at the Martens Center and Human Kinetics Park property to supply power to the Martens Center. He stated that Park District staff corresponded with staff from the National Park Service (NPS) and would be in touch with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administration to seek their approval for the easement for land that had been purchased with funding support from the Land, Water, and Conservation Fund (LWCF). Discussion and clarification about future maintenance obligations ensued.

Attorney Hall stated that he had recommended revisions to the terms of the easement to reduce the length of the agreement to ninety-nine (99) years according to Park District Ordinance 459. He noted that the IDNR is amenable to the easement, but it prefers utilizing a license agreement or other form of agreement with an express duration.

Mr. Weiss clarified that no work would be completed by Ameren Illinois until an easement is finalized.

Commissioner Solon requested more information to clarify the easement's timeline. Mr. Weiss responded that he expected to receive approval from the IDNR within one week.

Commissioner Hays made a motion to approve entering into an underground electrical easement with Ameren Illinois at the Martens Center and Human Kinetics Park subject to the consent of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Kuhl – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; President Miller – yes; and Vice President Hays – yes. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of Apply for an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant for a Pickleball Complex

Mr. DeLuce presented the report. He noted that the Park District continues to engage with the IDNR about the terms of a previous OSLAD grant award. The OSLAD grant applications has a September 1, 2021 deadline. Staff is preparing an application. Mr. DeLuce presented the pickleball project for Board for consideration. He stated staff had selected a pickleball complex at the Seaman Field location of Centennial Park as the highest priority option for the \$400,000 matching grant program. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kuhl requested more information about the project's cost estimates and budget. Mr. DeLuce responded that the estimates had been vetted by Architectural Expressions with several contractors.

Mr. Gleason reported that staff had visited several pickleball complexes in central Illinois and their managers had recommended a minimum of twelve (12) courts. He also stated that staff visited a 280-player pickleball tournament in Springfield. The tournament had received more interest, but it was determined that 280 players would be the maximum they could accommodate for an eight (8) court three-day weekend tournament.

Discussion ensued about the terms of a grant award acceptance, obligations, compliance and timeline; the pickleball complex's potential site location in relation to maintenance and operations buildings in

consideration of future expansion, off-street parking, site soil conditions, site drainage, and its location within Champaign.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve proceeding with \$400,000 OSLAD grant as shown in attachment 1, and authorization and signature of *Grant Program Resolution of Authorization* due to IDNR by September 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by President Miller. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Vice President Hays – no; Commissioner Solon – no; Commissioner Kuhl – yes; and President Miller – yes. The motion was defeated 2-2.

Discussion

1. Parker Glen Development

Mr. Weiss presented the report. The developer is building multi-family units in the Parker Glen subdivision and per the 2011 Trail Plan jointly established by the City of Champaign and the Champaign Park District, the developer will be required to install a trail that connects with the North Champaign Trail. Mr. Weiss noted that the Board will be presented with a request from the City of Champaign at a future Board meeting for an easement in which the Park District would agree to maintain the new trail segment.

Discussion and clarifications ensued about the type of development, the new trail's location and specifications, the Park District's trail maintenance requirements and expenses, development obligations, and the trail plan's priorities.

Commissioners Solon and Kuhl requested the review of the 2011 Trail Plan during a future study session. Mr. DeLuce noted that staff had reviewed the 2011 Trail Plan with City personnel and discussed updating the joint plan. President Miller requested that staff move forward with presenting this trail development for consideration at a future Board Meeting.

Comments from Commissioners

President Miller had received a letter from a citizen thanking the horticulture staff for addressing the flowers in a memorial garden at 4th and Washington St. He noted that the citizen was pleased with the work and is considering donating a memorial bench at the same location.

Executive Session

Commissioner Solon moved pursuant to the basis set forth below to convene into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Vice President Hays. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: President Miller – yes; Commissioner Kuhl – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; and Commissioner Solon – yes. The motion passed 4-0. The Board convened into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

Return to Regular Meeting

Following the adjournment of the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in open meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President Hays made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: President Miller – yes; Commissioner Kuhl – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; and Commissioner Solon - yes. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Approved

Kevin J. Miller, President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary