

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

October 27, 2021

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 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 nine 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, October 27, 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, Joseph DeLuce, Executive Director, and Jarrod Scheunemann, Assistant to the Executive Director / Secretary.

Present electronically: Commissioner Timothy P. McMahon and Attorney Guy C. Hall.

Commissioner Barbara J. Kuhl and Treasurer Brenda Timmons were absent with excused prior notice.

Staff present in person: Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Dan Olson, Director of Operations, Jimmy Gleason, Director of Revenue Facilities, and Tammy Hoggatt, Director of HR, Risk and IT.

Staff present electronically: Steven Bentz, Director of the Virginia Theatre

Jean Flood from the League of Women's Voters also attended the meeting electronically.

Call to Order

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

Comments from the Public

None.

New Business

1. Approval of Bid to Add Backstop Overhangs at Dodds Park 4-plex

Mr. Olsen presented the report. He reported that the fencing at Dodds Park 4-plex ballfields had been examined by a fencing company. It recommended the Park District install backstop overhangs as an added safety feature for baseball programming and tournaments. Mr. Gleason added that the Park District has booked seven (7) baseball tournaments for 2022 and that the bid also includes the installation of a sunscreen on field number six (6) to protect pitchers from sunlight glare.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve awarding the bid to Main Street Construction in the amount of \$28,960.00 and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the work. The motion was seconded by Vice President Hays. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner McMahon – yes; President Miller – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; and Vice President Hays - yes. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of Bid for Robeson Park Playground Installation and ADA Compliant Sidewalk

Mr. Olson reported that key staff members who were qualified to install playgrounds had recently found other employment. He also noted that the Operations Department is short-staffed as a whole. The Board approved the purchase of the Robeson Park Playground equipment at its Regular Board meeting on April 14, 2021 and the playground equipment had been purchased and placed in Park District storage. Mr. Olson added that this bid does not include the installation of weed resistant fabric and fibar playground surfacing, finishing work, and inspection by the Park District's certified playground safety inspector.

Discussion and clarifications ensued regarding the Robeson Park playground renovation budget, cost comparatives between contracting for the playground's installation or completing the installation in-house with Park District staff, and future playground installation approval and bidding expectations.

Vice President Hays made a motion to approve awarding the bid to install the Robeson Park playground and ADA compliant sidewalk to Duce Construction Company in the amount of \$71,800.00, authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for the work, and requiring Park District staff to install the Zahnd Park playground equipment when appropriate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon – yes; President Miller – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; and Commissioner McMahan – yes. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Approval of a Resolution Estimating Taxes to be Levied for FY22-23

Ms. Wallace presented the report. She stated that property tax appeals had increased by 56% from the previous year. She estimated that the maximum Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) would be \$2.048 billion. However, when calculating the appeals, Ms. Wallace estimated the EAV to be closer to \$2.013 billion. Ms. Wallace recommended capturing the limiting rate and the new growth of 5% to set the tax rate at 0.7279.

Mr. DeLuce added that if the Park District does not capture the new growth at this time, it will not be able to capture it in the future. Discussion and clarifications ensued.

President Miller requested clarification about the tax rate's implications for all property tax. Discussion ensued.

Vice President Hays asked if the Park District could set a not to exceed levy dollar amount due to potential appeals and possible delays in the final EAV calculation. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner McMahan supported scenarios two (S2) and three (S3) as described below:

- S2 - Based on estimated limited rate calculated by staff which allows for some the new growth added in current RY for new construction, enterprise zone or TIF's.
- S3 - Based on the new estimated EAV using the prior year tax rate. This does not maximize the benefit of the new construction EAV added in current year.

However, Commissioner McMahan was in favor of keeping the tax rate steady and was not in favor of consistent annual increases.

Vice President Hays and Commissioner Solon supported scenario two (S2) and scenario three (S3) with a not to exceed for the tax rate at 0.7279 and a not to exceed total amount of \$14,656,987.

Vice President Hays made a motion to approve the proposed Resolution determining the amount, exclusive of election costs, estimated to be necessary to be raised by taxes via the tax levy for fiscal year beginning May 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023 with a tax rate not to exceed 0.7297 and a total levy amount not to exceed \$14,656,987, or an amount authorized by law, and schedule a public hearing on the Tax Levy Ordinance for Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. as required by the Truth in

Taxation Act. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; President Miller – yes; and Commissioner McMahon – yes. The motion passed 4 -0.

Comments from Commissioners

Vice President Hays commented that he had received communications from the Robeson Family about the potential donation of a sculpture for Robeson Park and that family was pleased with their related correspondence with Park District staff. He requested notification on similar requests in the future.

Mr. DeLuce asked the Board to consider recommendations for honorary commissioner candidates for the awards ceremony at the December 8, 2021 Regular Board 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: Commissioner McMahon – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; President Miller – yes; and Commissioner Solon – yes. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Approved

Kevin J. Miller, President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary