

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

**April 26, 2023**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 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. Citizens were given the opportunity to participate in the teleconference at the web address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89438812005?pwd=b1VFTkVyKzVOcHk4bkhOS3hFK3N3dz09> 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, April 26, 2023 to the Executive Director of the Park District at: [sarah.sandquist@champaignparks.org](mailto:sarah.sandquist@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, Timothy P. McMahon; Attorney Guy C. Hall, Sarah Sandquist, Executive Director, and Jarrod Scheunemann, Director of Administrative Services / Secretary.

Present electronically: Commissioner Barbara J. Kuhl

Treasurer Brenda Timmons was excused as absent with prior notice duly given.

Staff present in-person: Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Andrew Weiss, Director of Planning, Heather Miller, Director of Human Resources, and Bret Johnson, Assistant Director of Operations.

Staff present electronically: Rachel Voss, Marketing Manager, Ryan Musgrove, Grounds Worker, and Will Schoell, Special Events Coordinator.

Scott Burge and Anthony Jansen from Farnsworth Group were also present in-person.

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

**Call to Order**

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

**Presentation**

Messrs. Burge and Jansen reported to the Park Board about the scope of the City's Boneyard Creek improvements project. They provided an overview as well as details about how the Skelton Park phase of the project fits within the design. Mr. Jansen highlighted improvements within Skelton Park and identified which entities have been asked to financially support each improvement.

Discussion and clarifications ensued regarding the Boneyard Creek improvements project timeline, which is currently on hold until the City completes the Garden Hills water detention project, improvements to the Washington Street underpass, water detention within an underground basin to the north of Skelton Park, and disposal of soil that is excavated from the project area.

The Commissioners thanked Messrs. Burge and Jansen for their update.

**Comments from the Public**

None.

## **Old Business**

### 1. Approval of Ordinance No. 667: Budget and Appropriations Ordinance

Ms. Wallace reported that staff recommend the Board approve adoption of Ordinance No. 667 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for FY24 in the amount of \$23,608,993.

Vice President Hays made a motion to approve adoption of Ordinance No. 667 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for FY24 in the amount of \$23,608,993. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; Commissioner McMahon – yes; President Miller – yes; and Commissioner Kuhl - yes. The motion passed 5-0.

### 2. Approval of FY2024 Budget Book

Ms. Wallace reported that staff recommend approval of the FY24 Budget Book.

Vice President Hays made a motion to approve the FY24 Budget Book. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: President Miller – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; Commissioner McMahon – yes; and Commissioner Kuhl - yes. The motion passed 5-0.

## **Discussion**

### 1. Morrissey Park Lighting

Mr. Johnson reported that staff have been contacted by neighbors and the homeowners association of a neighborhood adjacent to Morrissey Park who have requested that the Park District add a centrally located light to the park. Mr. Johnson highlighted staff's efforts to work with Ameren to identify solutions and approximate costs. He presented options and cost estimates for a single light, solar, and also pathway lighting. Mr. Johnson reported that sixteen (16) park sites currently have some type of lighting. Staff requested the Board provide direction about how to proceed regarding the light request.

Discussion and clarifications ensued about how the closing time of Morrissey Park will change to 11:00 p.m. if a light is added and the impact of this change and the advantages and disadvantages of various lighting options.

Commissioner Solon said she was not in favor of a light being added as the Park's hours are such that it closes at dusk.

Commissioner Kuhl commented that she is in favor of adding a light to Morrissey Park as well as lighting Porter Park as an enhanced safety measure and deterrent to nighttime activities. Discussion ensued.

The Commissioners directed staff to continue to investigate options and to further engage with Morrissey Park residents regarding the advantages and disadvantages of lighting the park.

## **Comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Kuhl commented that she has been in contact with Mike Seibold (retired Park District Finance Director) about serving as the Park District's Treasurer.

Vice President Hays noted that he has made several inquiries about the Treasurer position as well.

## **Executive Session**

Vice President Hays moved pursuant to the basis set forth below to convene into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Kuhl – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; Commissioner McMahon – yes; President Miller – yes; and Vice President Hays - yes. The motion passed 5-0. The Board convened into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS

120/2(c)(1) for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body

**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, Commissioner Solon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: President Miller – yes; Vice President Hays – yes; Commissioner McMahon – yes; Commissioner Kuhl – yes; and Commissioner Solon – yes. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Approved

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Craig W. Hays, President

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Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary