

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS STUDY SESSION
August 23, 2023**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Hays presided over the meeting.

Present: President Craig W. Hays, Vice President Timothy P. McMahon, Commissioners Jane L. Solon and Michael R. Somers, Sarah Sandquist, Executive Director, Jarrod Scheunemann, Director of Administrative Services/Board Secretary, and Attorney Guy Hall.

Commissioner Barbara J. Kuhl was absent with prior notice duly given.

Staff Present: Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Chelsea Norton, Director of Marketing and Development, and Jimmy Gleason, Director of Revenue Facilities.

Terry Townsend also attended the meeting.

Call to Order

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

Comments from the Public

Mr. Townsend addressed the Board about several items. He thanked the Park District for partnering with him in the past to host a special event. Mr. Townsend shared about the limited warm water pool options within the community and requested the Park District pursue a Silver Sneakers program at Sholem Aquatic Center to increase citizen access. Mr. Townsend asked the Park District to evaluate and address its hiring and programming practices at Douglass Park and facilities to mirror the neighborhood's needs and desires. Mr. Townsend requested the focus of CU Days to center on families and family reunions. He also asked the Park District to consider eliminating the membership fee for the Douglass Annex.

President Hays thanked Mr. Townsend for his comments and asked staff to follow up with him regarding his requests.

Discussion Items

1. FY25 Facility Fee Schedule

Mr. Gleason and Ms. Sandquist presented the report. He notified the Board about several updates to the facility fee schedule including standardized percentage increases to fees, reduced permit fees for government and non-profit organizations, the elimination of a damage deposit for rentals, new rental options such as, pickleball courts and the disc golf course, setting goals to achieve parity in recreation center fees, and extending the Sholem Aquatic Center season in 2024.

Discussion and clarifications ensued regarding the elimination of damage deposits, collecting fees for litter and damages caused by renters, pickleball court rentals and onsite signage highlighting new rental options, Martens Center memberships and postponing membership fee increases to encourage use and support the surrounding neighborhoods were discussed. Sholem Aquatic Center statistics, staffing, wildlife impacts, and reduced amenities concerns

during a longer pool season, and the lack of increased fees for the Showmobile were also addressed.

After discussion, the Board came to consensus to postpone an increase to Martens Center membership fees and to extend the Sholem Aquatic Center's season in 2024.

2. Champaign Parks Foundation – 1st Quarter Financial Update

Ms. Wallace presented the report. She reported about revenues and expenses. Ms. Wallace stated that the Parks Foundation's current balance is \$1,905,077. The Parks Foundation has supported several purchases throughout the Park District, including bariatric seating for the Virginia Theatre, dog park agility equipment, and several memorials.

Discussion ensued regarding the current interest rates of several certificates of deposits. Ms. Wallace responded that staff are pursuing options for the Parks Foundation to address this concern.

3. Champaign Park District – 1st Quarter Financial Update

Ms. Wallace reported that first quarter revenues total nearly \$9,450,000 after receiving two property tax distributions. Expenses for the quarter totaled roughly \$5,760,000, which is 11% less than projected due to staff shortages and delays in capital projects. Scholarship requests for the summer 2023 totaled over \$60,000, which is 25% higher than the previous year.

Commissioner Solon asked for more information about the age range of scholarship recipients. Ms. Wallace responded that most scholarship funds are allocated to support children's day camp and afterschool participants.

President Hays verified that quarterly expenses are lower than expected due to capital plan project delays. Also addressed was whether the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) owed remaining grant payments. Ms. Wallace stated that staff will inquire with IDNR about the status of remaining payments and report back to the Board.

Attorney Hall inquired whether Experience Champaign Urbana had submitted payment for the Skelton Park Improvements Project. Ms. Wallace confirmed that payment has not been received.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner McMahon stated that he attended CU Days and was impressed with attendance.

President Hays encouraged the Board to attend and promote the upcoming Ties and Tennies Gala hosted by the Parks Foundation.

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 Somers. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Approved:

Craig W. Hays, President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary