

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, following the Decennial Committee Meeting at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to published notice duly given. President Craig W. Hays presided over the meeting.

Present: President Craig W. Hays, Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl, Jane L. Solon, and Michael R. Somers, Sarah Sandquist, Executive Director, Jarrod Scheunemann, Deputy Executive Director/Board Secretary, and Attorney Guy Hall.

Excused with prior notice duly given: Vice President Timothy P. McMahon

Staff Present: Andrea Wallace, Director of Finance, Dan Olson, Director of Operations and Planning, Heather Miller, Director of Human Resources, and Jimmy Gleason, Director of Facilities.

Jayne DeLuce and Tim Oravec from Experience Champaign-Urbana, Kelly White from 40North, Michael Comet and Gannon Ellett from Pepsi-Cola Champaign-Urbana Bottling Company, Clara Bright, Jeanette Donaldson, and three additional online attendees also joined the meeting.

Call to Order

President Hays called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Presentations

Mr. Michael Comet and Mr. Gannon Ellett presented an annual report about the Pepsi-Cola Champaign-Urbana Bottling Company's agreement with the Park District. Highlights included total sales as well as financial and product sponsorships.

President Hays thanked Messrs. Comet and Ellett for their presentation and partnership.

Ms. Jayne DeLuce, Ms. Kelly White, and Mr. Tim Oravec presented on behalf of the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail (CCAAHT) and their partnering organizations: Experience Champaign-Urbana and 40North. An Illinois Tourism Attractions and Festival Grant was recently awarded in support of five (5) wall or free-standing murals. The Board is requested to consider the installation of murals at three (3) locations in support of the CCAAHT at Wesley Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Trail, and Bridgewater Park. Mural examples were shared. The process will include a call for artists, contracting, wall preparation, mural creation, and celebratory unveiling to be completed by December 31, 2024.

Discussion and clarifications ensued regarding the longevity and durability of the murals, two (2) additional potential mural locations, and the possibility of rotating the locations of the murals. Ms. White stated that the murals are expected to last for twenty-five (25) years, will be coated to resist vandalism, and are intended to be permanent. Mr. Oravec added that two (2) additional Urbana locations are being considered for the two (2) additional mural installations.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. DeLuce, Ms. White, and Mr. Oravec for their presentation.

Public Comments

Ms. Jeanette Donaldson commented about a recent Douglass senior citizen meeting. She expressed her concerns about providing feedback on agendas and requested more information about reflection and prayer by group members.

President Hays thanked Ms. Donaldson for her comments and reiterated his previous response during the Committee meeting public comment.

Communications

None.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lawson presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2023 and informed the Board of the status of real estate taxes received and interest rates. There being no questions or comments from the Board, Commissioner Solon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Kuhl – yes; Commissioner Solon – yes; President Hays – yes; and Commissioner Somers – yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Executive Director's Report

General Announcements

Ms. Sandquist reported about several upcoming noteworthy events including: Veterans Day holiday closures on November 10; ribbon cutting for the election box recently relocated from Douglass Park to the Martens Center on November 14; the Joint Distinguished Agency Accreditation meeting to approve the Park District's re-accreditation on November 20; potential Board visioning dates with Broken Compass; the Champaign Urbana Special Recreation joint board meeting on December 7; the all-staff holiday luncheon on December 15; the IPRA/IAPD conference award luncheon on January 25; and the IPRA/IAPD conference staff dinner on January 26.

Ms. Sandquist reminded the Board to complete the required online training by the end of November.

Ms. Sandquist highlighted a recent grant award that had been received for \$9,000 to support the purchase of trees for Johnston Park.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Champaign Parks Foundation

Mr. Scheunemann reported about the Foundation's hot cocoa giveaway at the Park District's Winter Nights program at Prairie Farm and a popcorn fundraiser for the Champaign Urbana Special Recreation scholarship fund.

Report of Officers

Attorney's Report

Mr. Hall reported that he has been working on several routine matters for the Park District including several easements and contracts.

President's Report

President Hays reported about his recent visit with Ms. Sandquist to the National Guard's surplus armory. He did not recommend the Park District consider purchasing the facility.

President Hays encouraged everyone to support Veterans throughout the year by honoring their service to our country.

Consent Agenda

President Hays stated that all items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and shall be acted upon by one motion. If discussion is desired regarding any item, that item shall be removed

and discussed separately.

1. Approval of Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting, October 11, 2023.
2. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, October 25, 2023.
3. Approval of Inserting Michael R. Somers as Delegate, Sarah Sandquist as 1st Alternate, Jarrod Scheunemann as 2nd Alternate and Jeannie Robinson as 3rd Alternate to serve as delegates to the Annual Business Meeting of the Illinois Association of Park Districts to be held on January 27, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.
4. Approval of payment of the 2022 bond issue in the amount of \$1,295,379.63 due by November 30, 2023.
5. Approval of the low bid from CIBM Bank of 4.40% for the \$1,295,700 bond issue and to act as the bond registrar at no additional fee.

New Business

1. Approval of Disbursements

Commissioner Somers made a motion to approve the list of disbursements for the period beginning October 12, 2023, and ending November 8, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon – yes; President Hays – yes; Commissioner Somers – yes; and Commissioner Kuhl - yes. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of a Resolution Estimating Taxes to be Levied for FY24-25

Ms. Wallace presented the report. She stated that the consumer price index (CPI) is currently at 6.5% and the Park District has new growth to capture, however it is tax capped at 5%. Ms. Wallace prepared several scenarios for the Board's consideration because several property tax appeals are still in progress and the outcome of these appeals will impact the tax levy. She also highlighted updates to specific funds as well as historical tax rates of other units of local government.

Discussion and clarifications ensued about current appeals, the appeal process, and the tax levy resolution, public hearing, and ordinance process.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve the proposed resolution setting the tax levy for fiscal year beginning May 1, 2024, and ending April 30, 2025 at \$16,802,269, or an amount authorized by law, and schedule a public hearing on the Tax Levy Ordinance for Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. as required by the Truth in Taxation Act. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Approval of Adoption of Ordinance No. 673: Bond Ordinance

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve adoption Ordinance No. 673: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX PARK BONDS, SERIES 2023, OF THE CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AN ANNUAL TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS AS THEY BECOME DUE; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. Commissioner Kuhl seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Kuhl – yes; President Hays – yes; Commissioner Somers – yes; and Commissioner Solon – yes. The motion passed 4-0.

4. Approval of Meeting Dates for 2024

Ms. Sandquist recommended the Board consider updating its regular meeting times. Discussion ensued regarding the merits of meeting start times that best allow for public, Board, and staff attendance. The Board also reviewed meeting start times for other local government entities.

Commissioner Somers made a motion to approve the 2024 meeting dates, location, and times as well as updating the regular meeting start times to 5:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. The motion passed 4-0.

5. Approval of Lease Agreement with Illinois Central Railroad for the Greenbelt Bikeway Trail
Staff recommends approval and Board President signature of lease agreement with Illinois Central Railroad for the Greenbelt Bikeway Trail. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Illinois Central Railroad for the Greenbelt Bikeway Trail subject to requested changes to sections 15(b) and 15(c). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers. The motion passed 4-0.

6. Approval of Bids for 2024 Bedding Plants
Mr. Olson recommended accepting the bids and authorizing the Executive Director to execute contracts to purchase 2024 bedding plants for each order to the respective lowest responsible bidders as follows: Park Flower Program Order with 1,834 flats to Ropp's Flower Factory for a total of \$48,995 and Flower Island Order with 1,567 flats to Connie's Country Greenhouse for a total of \$49,409. The total cost of the two recommended orders for 2024 will be \$98,404 with funds allocated in the FY24-25 operating budget.

Discussion ensued about raising fees to match inflation, outreach to plant providers to support future bids, and diversification of bid awards based on capacity of the bidders.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve the bedding plant bids and authorize the Executive Director to execute contracts to purchase 2024 bedding plants for each order to the respective lowest responsible bidders as follows: Park Flower Program Order with 1,834 flats to Ropp's Flower Factory for a total of \$48,995 and Flower Island Order with 1,567 flats to Connie's Country Greenhouse for a total of \$49,409. The total cost of the two recommended orders for 2024 will be \$98,404 with funds allocated in the FY24-25 operating budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon and thereafter unanimously passed.

Discussion

1. FY25 Capital Budget and the 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Plan
Ms. Sandquist and Mr. Olson's report focused on the FY25 capital budget. General maintenance objectives include roof replacement, improvements to Clark Park, resurfacing of tennis courts, and West Side Park pathway improvements. Mr. Olson also addressed the John Street pickleball complex and Dexter Field lighting projects.

Commissioner Kuhl addressed the Morrissey Park tennis and pickleball courts.

Commissioner Solon requested more information about the scope of work for the Clark Park improvements project. Mr. Olson responded that staff tentatively plan for the Board to consider ADA improvements, a new playground, basketball court resurfacing, lighting, sand play updates, and Fraker Fountain maintenance items.

Discussion and clarifications ensued regarding the need to include Sholem Aquatic Center's filters and boilers in the capital improvement plan as well as clarification about whether Unit 4 will share expenses for Spalding Park ballfield safety nets to protect patrons who use the nearby tennis courts and skate park. The Commissioners also requested a visual representation for the percentage of reserve funds that could be considered for capital improvements.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Kuhl commented about the earlier mural presentation and expressed her support for placement within Bridgewater Park and Martin Luther King Jr. Trail.

Commissioner Solon added her support for the mural project and requested mural maintenance responsibilities to be specified within the final agreement.

Executive Session

Commissioner Kuhl moved pursuant to the bases set forth below to convene into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers. The motion passed 4-0. The Board convened into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) regarding the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

Return to Regular Meeting

Following the adjournment of the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in an 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 Somers. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Approved:

Craig W. Hays, President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary