

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 11, 2023**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, December 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Martens Center, 1515 N. Market St., Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Hays presided over the meeting.

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

Vice President Timothy P. McMahon, Attorney Guy C. Hall, and Treasurer Donna Lawson were absent and excused from attending the study session.

Chris Nunes from Broken Compass also attended the meeting to facilitate a strategic planning workshop.

**Call to Order**

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

**Comments from the Public**

None.

**Discussion Items**

1. Strategic Planning Workshop – Broken Compass, Chris Nunes

Ms. Sandquist introduced Mr. Nunes from Broken Compass and gave an overview of what to expect from the proposed workshop. Staff had previously reviewed the Park District's mission, vision, and values, communication, and new opportunities.

Commissioner Kuhl asked for more information about the staff who had participated in the previous session. Ms. Sandquist responded that approximately 20 staff had participated in the workshop, including employees from the recreation, facilities, finance, human resources, operations and planning, marketing, and administrative services departments.

Mr. Nunes reviewed communication with the Board. This process included determination of who the Board communicates with, their methodology for communication, and why it is important. The Board shared it values an array of interested parties, local hospitals, donors, and other key stakeholders. The Board values accurate, transparent, and timely communication through in-person and online opportunities as required by law and best practices. Communication is important to the Board to continue the Park District's excellent reputation, complete its fiduciary responsibilities, and provide parks, recreation, and cultural arts for all. Discussion ensued.

The Board analyzed what has changed in the last 10 years. It is focused on local demographics, types of recreation, youth physical activity, the rise of gaming and esports, challenges in safety and human behavior, and other evolving factors. Discussion ensued.

The Board then reviewed and affirmed the Park District's mission, vision, and values statements. Discussion ensued.

The workshop concluded with a discussion about current recreation trends and potential capital improvements. The Board highlighted pickleball, flingo, leisure activities (i.e., bocce, cornhole), and adventure playground as recent trends. Pottery, the Innovation Center, gardens, and business/financial literacy are viewed as current amenities and programs that the Park District can leverage for future growth. Discussion ensued.

Several other local communities have developed or are in the process of developing regional artificial turf sport complexes. The Board is unsure if this is the direction it should consider for the Park District's ballfields. A field house or natatorium with indoor artificial turf may be a unique, alternative opportunity. Alternative energy sources were also considered and discussed.

The Board discussed a plan for the Park District's reserve fund and an analysis of the Park District's facilities and complexes to determine if they are meeting the residents' needs and desires. Discussion ensued.

**Comments from Commissioners**

None.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kuhl 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 8:19 p.m.

Approved:

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Craig W. Hays, President

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Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary