

CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
April 24, 2024

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Study Session on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. Vice President McMahon presided over the meeting.

Present in-person: Vice President Timothy P. McMahon, 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 C. Hall.

President Craig W. Hays, and Treasurer Donna Lawson were absent and excused from attending the study session.

Staff present in-person: Jeannie Robinson, Director of Recreation and Dan Olson, Director of Operations and Planning.

Call to Order

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

Comments from the Public

None.

Discussion Items

1. Board Meeting Format

Mr. Scheunemann presented the report. Staff were requested to investigate retention requirements and potential expenses related to recording and uploading Park Board meetings.

Mr. Scheunemann noted that anticipated expenses would be negligible, and the Board is not required to record open meetings, only audio record executive sessions. The Park District's current application for authority to dispose of local records provides the following recommendation for audio and video recordings of open Board meetings: "Retain audio recordings for sixty (60) days after adoption of minutes, then dispose of. Retain video recordings for thirty (30) days after last airing, then dispose of."

Commissioner Solon was not in favor of uploading recordings of the Board meetings due to potential manipulation of video content through artificial intelligence or other means.

Commissioner Somers believed it would be beneficial to have uploaded video recordings to review at a later date.

Commissioner Kuhl observed that recording and posting Board meeting videos may increase interest, engagement, and input. She noted that residents may have limited time to participate and this option would allow them to view the meetings at a later time.

Vice President McMahon concurred with Commissioners Kuhl and Somers and requested staff prepare a policy to consider for a trial period to be determined with a recommended limit for the number of days the videos would remain online.

2. Easement Request – Dodds Park

Mr. Olson reported that the City of Champaign has requested an easement in the northeast corner of Dodds Park to connect underground storm water infrastructure with the Hedge water detention and park development. He noted that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has imposed restrictive covenants within Dodds Park related to the Greenbelt Bikeway which require IDNR's approval for easement requests.

Discussion and clarifications ensued regarding the projects impacts to Park District storm water detention within the Copper Slough and Heritage Park as well as grant encumbrances.

The Board came to consensus requesting Attorney Hall prepare easement documents for approval at the next Regular Board meeting.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Somers attended the CUSR Awards Banquet and commended staff and participants for a wonderful event and year.

Vice President McMahon thanked the Board, Park District, and staff for their support in the passing of his mother.

Ms. Sandquist reminded the Board to consider attending Mr. Burge's retirement party on May 3rd. Mr. Burge was recognized for twenty-three (23) years of exemplary service to the Park District.

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 6:02 p.m.

Approved:

Timothy P. McMahon, Vice President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary