

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

**June 26, 2024**

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, which commenced at 5:30 p.m. 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 in person: President Craig W. Hays, Vice President Timothy P. McMahon, Commissioners Jane L. Solon, Barbara J. Kuhl, and Michael R. Somers, Sarah Sandquist, Executive Director, Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary and Deputy Executive Director, Attorney Guy C. Hall, and Treasurer Donna Lawson.

Staff present in person: Courtney Kouzmanoff, Director of Finance, Dan Olson, Director of Operations and Planning, Heather Miller, Director of Human Resources, Jeannie Robinson, Director of Recreation, Jimmy Gleason, Director of Facilities and Technology, and Joe Kearfott, Assistant Director of Facilities and Technology.

**Call to Order**

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

**Comments from the Public**

None.

**New Business**

1. Approval of Agreement with Experience Champaign-Urbana for Douglass Park Basketball Court Mural

Ms. Sandquist presented the report. She reported that Experience Champaign-Urbana (ECU) previously presented to the Board regarding a Illinois State Tourism grant they had received to support the installation of five murals throughout the area. The Douglass Park campus has been selected as a location. ECU received ninety submissions for its request for proposal and selected an artist from the group to paint murals on the Douglass Park basketball courts. Ms. Sandquist shared durability and safety related research about other basketball court murals. The total cost of \$70,000.00 will be entirely covered by the state tourism grant.

Discussion and clarification ensued related to maintenance responsibilities, durability, concrete cracking concerns, integrity of the sport court's lines, liability concerns, and the length of time needed to review schematic drawings.

Commissioner Somers made a motion to approve the agreement between ECU and Champaign Park District for installation of a murals on the Douglass Park basketball courts with an amendment to increase the duration of schematic drawings review to thirty (30) days. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Approval of Agreement with Experience Champaign-Urbana for Use of the Park District Bus for African American Heritage Trail Tours

Ms. Sandquist reported that ECU has been working with the African American Heritage Trail committee to develop the trail. The Park District's bus has been wrapped with a mural to honor Fredrick Douglass' legacy and the legacy of Douglass Park. ECU has requested to use the bus and Park District drivers for future African American Heritage Trail tours.

Commissioner Solon recommended clarification of the agreement's terms to specify the ability to use other Park District vehicles during circumstances when the bus may not be available or requires maintenance.

Commissioner Kuhl inquired about the rider capacity for the bus. Ms. Robinson responded that it can transport thirty-eight (38) individuals.

Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to approve an agreement with Experience-Champaign Urbana (ECU) for usage of the Park District MTD bus for the purpose of providing tours of the African American Heritage Trail with amendments to clarify vehicle substitution for the bus based on availability and maintenance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solon and was unanimously passed.

3. Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Clark Dietz for Engineering Related to the Reconstruction of Parkland Way

Mr. Olson presented the report. This agreement is to complete a phase one (1) engineering study for a pathway along Parkland Way in Dodds Park. This step will allow the Park District to apply for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funding to support trail construction. Phase two (2) of engineering will complete construction documents for the entire Parkland Way roadway.

Ms. Sandquist added that the reconstruction of Parkland Way is not just about a roadway repair but has the potential to connect the Garden Hills neighborhood with the Worknet center. The Illinois Department of Transportation, City of Champaign, and Regional Planning Commission are working with the railroad regarding on Mattis Ave to extend bike lanes to connect more residents to Dodds Park and potentially, the new pathway. U.S. Representative Nikki Budzinski has shown interest in the project and may provide budgetary funding to support the engineering or construction.

President Hays requested staff to discuss cost sharing with Parkland College and to determine their financial commitment to restoring Parkland Way.

Commissioner Kuhl asked staff to request a commitment from the City of Champaign to accept management and maintenance of Parkland Way after its restoration has been completed. She stated that road management and maintenance are not part of the Park District's mission.

Discussion ensued regarding the results from a recent traffic study, the potential benefits of an ITEP grant supported pathway, desired financial commitment from potential partners, and approximate estimates for pathway expenses.

The Commissioners came to consensus that they need more information regarding the Park District's potential partners commitments before proceeding, specifically from the City, Parkland College, and Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to table approval of a professional services agreement with Clark Dietz for engineering related to the reconstruction of Parkland Way. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers and unanimously approved.

4. Approval of a Resolution to Purchase Property

Staff recommends approving a resolution to purchase property from the Zahnd family as well as authorizing the executive director to enter into the contract for sale of property for the total amount of \$800,000.00.

The Commissioners were informed that a phase one (1) environmental assessment has been completed. They also clarified that the Zahnd family may be interested in removing some of the structures to relocate them for their personal use at another location.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve a resolution to purchase property from the Zahnd family as well as authorize the executive director to enter into the contract for sale of property for a total amount of \$800,000.00. Vice President McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

5. Approval of Bid for Davidson Park Playground Replacement

Mr. Olson reported that staff recommends approval of the purchase and installation of the Davidson Park Playground, pour-in-place surfacing, and concrete improvements from All Inclusive Recreation through Sourcewell in the amount of \$162,119.50 and to authorize the Executive Director enter into an agreement.

Commissioner Solon requested more information about the installation and whether the contract terms would include language to require scrapping the no longer useful playground equipment. Mr. Olson responded that the contractor would install the equipment.

Attorney Hall recommended several revisions to the contract and requested the Board allow him to review prior to execution by the executive director.

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of the Davidson Park Playground, pour-in-place surfacing, and concrete improvements from All Inclusive Recreation through Sourcewell in the amount of \$162,119.50 and to authorize the Executive Director enter into an agreement pending legal counsel review. Commissioner Somers seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

**Comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Solon requested more notification for times when the Board meeting schedule may require adjustments. She added that Larry Kanfer may be interested in offering photography classes at the Martens Center.

Vice President McMahon noted improvements to the garden plots at the Martens Center and that he had been working with Ms. Sandquist regarding plans to enhance programming in the Martens Center kitchen.

President Hays shared resident appreciation for the Sholem Aquatic Center walk the river program.

The Board welcomed Courtney Kouzmanoff, the Park District's new Director of Finance.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President McMahon 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 6:20 p.m.

Approved

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Craig W. Hays, President

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Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary