

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
October 9, 2024**

PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to published notice duly given. President Hays presided over the hearing.

Present in-person: President Craig W. Hays, Vice President Timothy P. McMahon, Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl, Jane L. Solon, and Michael R. Somers, Secretary and Deputy Executive Director, Jarrod Scheunemann, and Attorney, Guy Hall. Treasurer, Donna Lawson was absent and excused.

Staff present in-person: Courtney Kouzmanoff, Director of Finance, Heather Miller, Director of Human Resources, Dan Olson, Director of Operations & Planning, Bret Johnson, Assistant Director of Operations & Planning, Jimmy Gleason, Director of Facilities & Technology, Steven Bentz, Director of the Virginia Theatre, Jeannie Robinson, Director of Recreation, Joe Kearfott, Assistant Director of Facilities & Technology, and Marguerite Bailey, Administrative Project Manager.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

C. INTENT TO SELL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

The Public Hearing was to discuss and receive public comments on the intent to issue \$1,335,000 in General Obligation Bonds. A Notice of Public Hearing was published in The News-Gazette on the 19th day of September 2024. There were no public comments regarding the bond issue.

D. CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Solon moved to adjourn the public hearing, her motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers and was unanimously approved. The hearing was adjourned.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Hays called the regular board meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

B. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. TREASURER'S REPORT

President Criag Hays, being an officer, acted as the temporary Park District Treasurer. President Hays reported in the absence of the Treasurer and informed the board that the district's finances had been reviewed with Courtney Kouzmanoff, Director of Finance, and were found to be in appropriate order. Commissioner Solon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2024. The motion was seconded by Vice President McMahon. The motion passed unanimously.

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Executive Director, Jarrod Scheunemann gave a brief update of upcoming events and reported on various staff achievements. The events noted included the Champaign Urbana Special Recreation (CUSR) dinner scheduled for October 26, 2024, Westside Arts Festival on September 15, 2024, Flannel Fest on October 12, 2024, and Comedian Brad Williams performing at the Virginia Theatre on October 10, 2024. Mr. Scheunemann commended the special events team and director for their efforts preparing for Flannel Fest. It was noted that volunteers are still needed for the Brad Williams event. Additionally, there is a joint board meeting at CUSR scheduled for December 5, 2024.

Mr. Scheunemann provided information for potential board commissioners that the filing dates for petitions for candidates are November 12, 2024, through November 18, 2024. To date three (3) packets have been picked up.

The Park District is the recipient of two (2) grants. The Illinois American Water Charitable Foundation has awarded the Park District \$ 25,000 for a STEM project for youth that was submitted by Chelsea Norton, Director of Marketing & Development, and Jeannie Robinson, Director of Recreation. The second award is from the Lumpkin Grant. Jean Burridge, Park District Arborist, applied and secured for the third time a Lumpkin Grant. The Park District received positive community feedback from various entities, including the Champaign School District Unit 4 and the Champaign Police Department for the ambassador's program.

Due to a change in state legislation effective in 2025, fifteen (15) year old staff must be supervised by staff twenty-one (21) years or older. This change will have an impact on seasonal pool staff, specifically lifeguards. Mr. Scheunemann indicated that while this may be a challenge, the staff is aware of the change and will be able to meet the requirements.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Scheunemann reported to the board that the Ties and Tennies was attended by 250 guests and that the final raised funds totaled \$ 108,000.00 for scholarships. The Champaign Park District Foundation Board will be conducting their annual fundraising and are seeking a project at this time.

G. REPORT OF OFFICERS

1. Attorney's Report:

Mr. Hall reported that he continues to work on normal routine business, various contract review, and easements. He noted projects that included Timberline Valley Park, Kaufmann Lake, and continued communication with various parties to complete the Marathon Pipeline process.

2. President's Report:

President Hays was pleased to have a pie chart added back to the finance report. There has been communication from a different developer with regard to the Country Fair shopping area. The feasibility study remains in process.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

President Hays stated that all items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and shall be acted upon by one motion, and if discussion is desired, that item shall be removed and discussed separately. Vice President McMahon moved to approve all items on the consent agenda, Commissioner Kuhl seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, September 11, 2024.
2. Approval of Ordinance #679 – Annexation

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Disbursements

Vice President McMahon made a motion to approve the list of disbursements for the period beginning September 12, 2024, and ending October 9, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Somers. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Kuhl – yes, Commissioner Solon – yes, President Hays – yes, Commissioner Somers – yes, and Vice President McMahon - yes; the motion passed 5-0.

2. Approval to Solicit Bids for the 2024 General Obligation Bond Issue

Ms. Kouzmanoff provided an overview of the general obligation bond process to the board. Commissioner Kuhl addressed the use of a third-party agent. Ms. Kouzmanoff responded that the proposed agent Baird Public Finance would contact seventeen (17) local banks in Champaign, as well as regional and national banks, broadening the pool of entities. In 2023, seventeen (17) banks were solicited and the Park District received three (3) responses. A placement agent can negotiate and assist the Park District to secure favorable terms. The cost of the services of the placement agent would be paid from bond proceeds. A brief discussion ensued. Commissioner Kuhl moved to authorize the Treasurer and Director of Finance to solicit bids for the issuance of \$1,335,000 in General Obligation Bonds without the use of Baird. Commissioner Solon seconded the motion, and the resulting vote was 2 ayes, and 3 nays. The motion did not pass. Vice President McMahon then moved to approve the solicitation of bids for the 2024 General Obligation Bond Issuance as presented, Commissioner Somers seconded. The motion was passed 3 ayes to 2 nays.

3. Approval of Agreement with Davis-Houk Mechanical Inc. for Sholem Aquatic Center

Mr. Olson reported to the board that the current Sholem Aquatic Center lap pool filter is over forty (40) years old and has functioned longer than its life expectancy. It needs to be replaced. Commissioner Solon moved to approve the bid to the low, responsive bidder, Davis-Houk Mechanical Inc, in the amount of \$228,000 and authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for the replacement of the Sholem Aquatic Center lap/activity pool filter. Commissioner Somers seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Agreement with TC Furlong for the Virginia Theatre Stage Monitor System

Mr. Bentz reported to the board how a stage monitor system is used on regular basis for different events. The Park District currently rents a unit. Vice President McMahon inquired about the life expectancy of the system. Mr. Bentz indicated to the board that the bid for the

most current model would have an estimated life expectancy of ten (10) years. Commissioner Solon moved to approve the bid and authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the low, responsible bidder, TC Furlong, Inc. of Lake Forest, Illinois, in the amount of \$46,355.57. It is anticipated the amount will be paid from the Champaign Parks Foundation's Virginia Theatre Restoration Fund. Commissioner Somers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Meeting Dates for 2025

Staff provided two options for 2025 Board Meeting dates. After reviewing the options, the Board agreed to approve Option A, provided in the board packet. Commissioner Kuhl moved to approve Option A meeting schedule; Vice President McMahon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Agreement with 40 North for Temporary Display of Public Art

Mr. Scheunemann reported to the board regarding the fifteen (15) year relationship with 40 North, formally the Public Art League. The current agreement is ready for renewal with no other changes to the terms. Commissioner Kuhl moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with 40 North for temporary display of public art at various locations throughout the Champaign Park District locations for the term of three (3) years that would be through October 2027. Vice President McMahon seconded, and the motion passes unanimously.

I. DISCUSSION

Review of 2024 Tax Levy

Ms. Kouzmanoff gave a brief overview of the tax levy estimate process to the board. Staff provided two (2) options in the board packet for review. The options illustrated anticipated revenue that could be received based on statutory limits that a taxing body can levy. A brief discussion was held. President Hays requested a third option be calculated that would provide financial data and a calculation between the provided options, and a ten (10) year trend for analysis. The board thanked Ms. Kouzmanoff for her efforts and the data.

J. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice President McMahon commended the staff for their efforts at the Douglass Park ribbon cutting held Saturday, October 5, 2024. President Hays shared his experience in Indiana where fake swans have been placed to detour Canada Geese path use.

K. ADJOURN

Commissioner Somers moved to adjourn the meeting, Vice President McMahon seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 6:24 pm.

Approved:

Craig W. Hays, President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary