

**GRAYSLAKE COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT
PARK BOARD MEETING**

March 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Vice President Rodas. Upon roll call the following were:

PRESENT: Commissioners Deal, Kennedy, Larson, Rodas, Toth. (Absent: Anderson, Ryan). Staff: Splitt, Regnier, Van Zant. Board Recording Secretary Shari Raven.

MOTION: by Kennedy that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the March 20, 2024 Park Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Second by Deal. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

MOTION: by Larson that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Consent Agenda to include:

- The Payment of Bills and Payroll from 02-29-24 thru 03-20-24 in the amount of \$447,758.41
- Approval of the February 28, 2024 Park Board Meeting Minutes

Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Crystal Den (Owner: Elana Richter) is requesting permission to use Central Park behind the Middle School and Woods for a Hearts in Connection Raised Vibration event. Crystal Den is a business in Grayslake.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, July 28th from 4:00-6:00pm. However, the actual Raised Vibration Ceremony only lasts about 20 minutes. They are anticipating approximately 1000 people in attendance. Parking will be available at Grayslake Middle School and Grayslake High School.

MOTION: by Larson to approve the permit request by Crystal Den for the use of Central Park for the Hearts in Connection Raised Vibration Event on Sunday, July 28th from 4-6p.m. pending the receipt of the certificate of insurance as well as receipt of permission from the schools for the use of their parking lots. Second by Toth. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Each year the district is required to hold a public hearing to review its annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance outside of a regular scheduled board meeting. The district traditionally holds the hearing at 6:45p.m. just before its May Board Meeting. The board must first establish the day and time in order to comply with publication requirements of the hearing.

MOTION: by Kennedy to establish a public hearing for the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for May 15, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. at the Park District Administrative Building. Second by Larson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

VanZant is proposing to update the current Fund Balance Policy regarding lowering the minimum balance required in certain funds. There are certain financial trends and potential risks that necessitate this update of our existing policy.

MOTION: by Toth to approve the updated Fund Balance Policy as presented. Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

The board reviewed the report of the Executive Director.

Splitt stated that staff is actively working on the FY 2024/2025 Budget. The district has not received the updated tax extensions/EAV from the county yet. Once we receive them, staff will review those and implement the tax amounts into our budget. The first draft of the budget should be presented at the April board meeting.

The Jones Island Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 5th at 6:00pm. The district will be marketing it as Jones Island “Popsicles at the Playground Ribbon Cutting” celebration. The timeline for the event is as follows: 5:00-6:00pm come and play 6:00pm ceremony and ribbon cutting and then popsicles and refreshments afterwards. Staff will be sending out invites to all of our donors and key community members who contributed to making the inclusive playground addition a reality.

Splitt finished filling out the DCEO Grant application for the \$80,000 grant from the State of Illinois that Representative Faver Dias helped secure for the Jones Island Playground project.

The Grays Lake Management Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, March 27 at 6:00pm. Commissioners Kennedy is our Park District representative on this committee.

Splitt and VanZant have been researching with other districts and working on creating 2 new policies and hope to present a draft of each to the board at the April 17, 2024 board meeting. One being the Opt out of Health Insurance Incentive. This policy would provide a financial incentive for those employees who choose to opt out of taking health insurance coverage with the district. Thereby saving the district a lot of money. The second policy is a retirement date incentive policy. This policy would provide a financial incentive for those employees who are preparing for retirement. It would provide a certain set incentive for those who set a definite date of retirement and stick to that date.

The IAPD's annual Legislative Conference will be held May 7 & 8 in Springfield. Tuesday, May 7th is the Parks Day at the Capitol followed by the Legislative Reception. Wednesday, May 8th is the conference at the Crowne Plaza. The IAPD Legislative Conference is designed to provide commissioners, directors and professionals with firsthand, up-to-date information on the association's Legislative Advocacy Program and all pending legislation affecting IAPD's membership. State legislators, state administrative officials and other recognized authorities present the latest techniques and material to assist commissioners and directors with the tools they need to successfully meet and talk with legislators and be more effective in the legislative arena. Commissioners should let Splitt know if they would like to attend.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Recreation.

Both Feeder and In-House Basketball has now wrapped up the season and program evaluations have been sent. With spring comes the need to play soccer and so Alleghany Park will become very busy in a few more weeks with our Little Soccer League games and soccer affiliates. Spring volleyball will start in the month of April and softball practices will slowly move outdoors when the temperatures regulate.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 23 at 1:00pm at Grayslake Central High School Football Stadium with the Fieldhouse as a rain location. Flashlight Egg Hunt will be held at the Aquatic Football Field and sold out quite quickly, the event will be held at 7pm on Thursday, March 21.

Staff have returned to the Golf Course and are training on G1 since software updates have happened over the winter months. Opening day is Friday, March 15 if the weather agrees. The course will launch the Snow Bird Special to run March 20-23 for 10% off a season pass.

The board reviewed the report of the Assistant Superintendent of Parks.

Over the summer, the blue cannon at the splash pad was vandalized to the point where there was no choice but to replace the feature completely. Staff had also determined that, while cutting into the concrete of the pad, they might as well replace the other cannon at the same time. Staff has also begun to look at some options to replace the three-bucket feature and floor sprays. This will not be completed until after the season.

Maintenance has recently completed the delivery and spreading of roughly 160 yards of playground mulch from The Mulch Center. They covered Jaycee Park, Hunters Cove Park and Creekside Park.

Staff has completed the renovation of some of the tee boxes at the golf course. The Men's Tee on 2 & 9 were totally stripped of the sod where they had become elevated during the years and re-leveled using root sand from Thelen Material.

The board reviewed the report of the Business Manager.

VanZant stated the district is waiting for the final extension from Lake County which is anticipated at the beginning of April. Upon receipt of these amounts staff can finalize the budget for FY 25. The district is performing extremely well as it heads into the final two months of the year and predicts will finish the year with a surplus in the General and Recreation funds which will be transferred to the Capital Funds for capital asset needs for the FY25.

Rodas mentioned the April 17, 2024 Park Board Meeting will be at 7:00pm.

MOTION: by Kennedy to adjourn at 7:28pm. Second by Deal. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Adjourned 7:28pm.

Ray Larson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners