

**GRAYSLAKE COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT
PARK BOARD MEETING**

April 17, 2024

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

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

MOTION: by Rodas that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the April 17, 2024 Park Board Meeting Agenda as amended. Under New Business add Economic Development Discussion. Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

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

- The Payment of Bills and Payroll from 03-21-24 thru 04-17-24 in the amount of \$301,747.42
- Approval of the March 20, 2024 Park Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the IAPD Legislative Conference Travel & Training Expense Summary

Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Commissioner Deal serves on the Village's Elected Officials Economic Development Commission. At their last meeting the elected officials discussed drafting an agreement for cooperation regarding economic incentives for developments and new businesses by offering tax abatement incentives to build in town. It was then brought up that each taxing district should give the authority of negotiating these incentives to their staff.

Consensus among board members was to give the Executive Director the authority to negotiate and to approve the abatements if they fell within a certain range. This will be discussed more at the May 1, 2024 COW Meeting.

Board Members reviewed the quote and top layout of a proposed shaded picnic area to be installed adjacent to the inclusive playground at Jones Island Park. This will consist of a concrete pad, concrete sidewalk and ADA ramp, a 24' X 20' fabric shade structure and 3 picnic tables. 2 of the picnic tables are ADA inclusive tables which will provide an open space for a wheelchair/mobility device to be pushed up to the table.

This playground addition was spearheaded by the Szymczak family who recently reached out to the district and wanted to raise funds to add something at the Jones Island inclusive playground in memory of their son. It was decided to pursue this shaded picnic area that can not only provide a nice area for families to picnic in a shaded area but to also provide a shaded area to park wheelchairs/mobility devices while those children played.

The cost of the project is \$44,583.44. Through memorial donations for their son Brayden, they have raised over \$17,500. Splitt budgeted \$15,000 from the Park District out of the Special Rec Fund and the family is going to contribute the remaining \$14,500 to cover the project. The district will be creating a sign/plaque that will be installed near the picnic area in memory of their son Brayden.

MOTION: by Kennedy to approve the Jones Island Playground Picnic Area Addition Project with Game Time/Cunningham Recreation in the amount of \$44,583.44. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Board Members reviewed the District’s Anti-Nepotism Policy which states that No immediate family of any elected, appointed or management personnel may be employed for any position in the Park District.

Commissioner Larson is requesting an exception that would allow his son, Andrew to work in the Parks Department for the summer while he is home from college, Mid-May to Mid-August. Andrew has already gone through the proper steps of filling out an application and being interviewed. Superintendent Vocke would like to hire him for the summer pending board approval.

Splitt believes exceptions to this policy can be made on a case by case basis with consideration of all factors involved.

MOTION: by Deal to allow Andrew Larson to work in the Parks Department for this summer from Mid-May to Mid –August 2024 as an exception to the Districts Anti-Nepotism Policy. Second by Rodas. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Board Members reviewed the preliminary development plan proposal slate for the vacant property to the south and southwest of the Washington Street Metra Train Station, off of Washington St. across from Haryan Farms.

The current proposal is for 19 single family homes they originally proposed 29 homes but there is a lot of wetland/flood mitigation that is required for this property, so the overall development of the site is limited. Once the developer looked into the required mitigation and detention for the site, they determined that 19 is the max they could fit.

The Village is in the early stages of the planning process with the developer and would like to know if the Park District would like a land or cash donation from the developer or a combination of both.

Consensus among staff and board members is a cash donation.

Board Members reviewed the draft of the meeting schedule from June, 2024 through May, 2025.

Splitt would like to propose to keep the meeting schedule the same as this past fiscal year. The board would hold their regular monthly board meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (excluding December) and would schedule 2 Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings in November (tax levy discussion) and May (budget discussion). If additional COW meetings are needed throughout the year, the board can decide to schedule them on an as needed basis through a public notice.

After board discussion and proposed changes, an updated copy will be brought back to the board meeting in May for board approval.

Board Members reviewed the 1st draft of the proposed FY 2024/2025 Budget along with a short highlight sheet.

The budget went on public display April 15th at the Administration front office. As per the law, the budget does need to be on public display for 30 days prior to the Budget and Appropriation Hearing which is scheduled for 6:45p.m. on May 15th.

Board Members should review the budget and let Splitt or VanZant know if there are any questions. A more detailed fund by fund report will be provided for the May COW meeting where the budget will be discussed in more detail.

The board reviewed the report of the Executive Director.

Splitt and Regnier recently met with a new resident who is very interested in becoming more involved with the Parks Foundation. Nathan Hintz moved into Grayslake from Waukegan last summer. Nathan served as President of the Waukegan Parks Foundation for many years and has been heavily involved with fundraising and projects directly benefiting the Park District. The Grayslake Parks Foundation, run by Denny Salmonson has only been involved with the memorial tree program and has not run a fundraiser in over 10 years. Denny has expressed he would like to be removed from the foundation when and if we were able to find someone or a group of residents to revitalize it. Staff will be meeting with Denny and Nathan on April 19th to begin those discussions. Splitt will keep the board updated going forward.

The IAPD Legislative Conference & Reception will be held May 7 & 8 in Springfield. The district will be sending 2 staff and 4 Commissioners.

The Cambridge Park Tennis/Basketball Court Renovation project is moving along should be ready to go to bid on May 20th. The timing of this project may not be completed until late summer/early fall. Splitt will bring this back to the June 19, 2024 Park Board Meeting.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Recreation.

Regnier stated that this year marks the 65th year of the Grayslake Park District. Staff thought it would be a great time to thank our patrons. We are finalizing the festivities but are planning to celebrate the week of May 6-10 here at the Administration building. Each day will have a theme and time frame in which the public can come to the building and participate. Some activities will be a children's coloring contest, spin the wheel, popcorn and donuts. Staff are in the process of working on securing a possible food truck for one of the days.

The golf course opened for the start of the 2024 golf season on Friday March 15. Golfers completed 243 rounds for the month.

Golf Course staff have been working together to make sure the course is running smoothly and efficiently and that golfers enjoy their time at the course. Interviews have taken place for the Manager position and a decision will happen by May. Staff have also discussed Mike Perez's birthday of May 8 being a "Celebration of Golf" in honor of Mikes birthday-golf for \$8. A memorial bench on hole 8 where Mike shot a Hole in One has been discussed and residents are willing to fundraise to cover costs.

Upcoming Events:

- George Weinert Fishing Derby: Saturday, June 8 from 8-10am at Jones Island Park
- Bourbon & Wine Golf Outing at Grayslake Golf Course: Friday, May 17, Tee Times 1pm&4pm
- Summer Kick-Off Dance: Wednesday, June 19 from 12-2 at Jones Island
- Taste of Grayslake: Saturday, June 29 from 3-10 pm at Central Park.

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

The parks department has been working on the following activities:

- Dragging ballfields
- Window replacement at the Preschool building
- HVAC seasonal check up
- Bike path sign completion
- Playground Mulch added to Yogi Bear Park

The board reviewed the report of the Business Manager.

VanZant stated Property Casualty insurance are slightly under budget due to the unbudgeted multi policy discount given to the district for having health coverage from PDRMA in addition to the casualty insurance.

The Finance Department is finalizing candidates for the two front office positions. Meetings with payroll Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) vendors has been put on hold until these positions are up and running.

MOTION: by Kennedy to go into Executive Session at 7:56pm for the purpose of Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes as per Section 206 of 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(21). Second by Rodas. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed

Executive Session 7:56pm.

MOTION: by Kennedy to go into Open Session at 7:58pm. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

MOTION: by Rodas to release the October 18, 2023 closed session minutes. All other minutes on file will remain closed and all audio recordings older than 18 months can be destroyed. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Ryan announced the May 1, 2024 Committee of the Whole will be at 7:00pm. The May 15, 2024 Annual Park Board Meeting will be at 7:00pm. preceded by the Budget and Appropriation Hearing at 6:45pm.

MOTION: by Toth to adjourn at 7:59pm. Second by Deal. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Adjourned 7:59pm.

Ray Larson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners