

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
RIVER TRAILS PARK DISTRICT,  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD  
AT 401 E. CAMP MCDONALD ROAD IN SAID DISTRICT  
ON THE SIXTH OF APRIL 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.**

- I. The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and directed Carole Dohse, Accounting and Administrative Assistant to call the roll. Upon the roll being called, the following Commissioners answered present: Jennifer Rezek, Edward Rechner, Nancy Parra, and Leah Lussem. Commissioner Robert Hoban III was absent. Also present were Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley, Superintendent of Recreation Patti Mitchell, Superintendent of Finance David Oswald, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powles, Manager of Athletics Vance Violante, and Administrative Assistant Crista Altergott.
- II. Visitors Present: Melissa Ackerman Prospective Board Member
- III. The Agenda for April 6, 2023 was submitted for approval. Commissioner Parra moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem and approved by common consent.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2023. Commissioner Rechner moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem and approved by common consent.
- V. Approval of Treasurer's Report for February 2023. Following the report presentation by Superintendent Oswald and subsequent discussion, Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parra and approved by common consent.
- VI. Communications
  - a. IAPD Legislative Updates. Director Fahnstrom circulated the list and highlighted bills including solar energy use in Park Districts, protection of OSLAD grant funding, and bans of electronic smoking devices where smoking is prohibited. The HB 3852 bill to increase the Lifeguard Minimum Wage to \$22.50/hour is unlikely to move forward.
  - b. Annual Fitness and Facilities Report. Manager of Athletics Vance Violante said that Athletic Field Permits surpassed previous highs set in revenue, net profit, and total hours rented. Facility Room Rentals had the 2<sup>nd</sup> best year ever from a revenue and net revenue standpoint, down slightly from 2021. Burning Bush and the Zone rentals continue to be robust. Fitness Club net profit was the highest since 2016 as a result of a staffing model with PureElite Fitness. There will be an effort to promote Silver Sneakers and Active Net members.
  - c. Upcoming Board Calendar. Director Fahnstrom distributed an outline of upcoming scheduled meetings. Tentative election results should be available at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Annual meeting and Appointments will be at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting along with the retirement of Commissioner Rechner. The first Decennial Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Park Tour June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Audit Acceptance June 15<sup>th</sup>. The calendar will be adjusted as needed.

- d. Decennial Committee. The State of Illinois mandated the creation of Decennial Committees every 10 years to study and report on local government efficiencies. Members will include the Board, Executive Director, and at least two residents. Director Fahnstrom and Commissioner Parra each have potential community members in mind. The committee must first meet before June 10, 2023 and must meet three times before December 2024. IAPD will assist in preparing tools for the committee to use to prepare reports for submittal to the county. May 18 is tentatively scheduled to be the first meeting.
- e. Miscellaneous Communications.
  - i. Statement of Economic Interest Filing reminder. Director Fahnstrom reminded the group that it is time to file their Economic Interest Statements. Deadline is May 1, 2023.
  - ii. Director Fahnstrom informed the Board of the unofficial votes that Commissioner Lussem, Commissioner Parra, and Melissa Ackerman received in the April 4<sup>th</sup> election.

**VII. Old Business**

- a. None

**VIII. New Business**

- a. Call For a Special Meeting (if necessary). This topic will be deferred to a future Board Meeting to determine a Park Tour date (tentatively June 1<sup>st</sup>).

**IX. Commissioner Comments**

- a. Commissioner Lussem said that the Rob Roy Friday night Fish Fry was really good.
- b. Commissioner Rechner commented on the expectation of a lot of car parking by Burning Bush Park on Easter weekend.

**X. Executive Session      None**

**XI. Action as a Result of the Executive Session                  None**

**XII. Adjournment.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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President

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Secretary