

**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 FOURTH DAY OF MAY 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.**

- I. The President called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and directed Crista Altergott, Administrative Assistant/Risk Management to call the roll. Upon the roll being called, the following Commissioners answered present: Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem and Ed Rechner. Nancy Parra and Robert Hoban III were absent. Also present were Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of Finance and HR David Oswald, Superintendent of Recreation Patti Mitchell, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powels and Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley.
- II. Visitors Present: Melissa Ackerman and Tom Pope
- III. The Agenda for May 4, 2023 was submitted for approval. Commissioner Rechner 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 April 6, 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 March 2023. Superintendent Oswald led discussion on the report. Director Fahnstrom added that in comparisons of 2023 expenses versus 2022, 2023 is tracking higher than usual at 23%. This is still less than the budgeted target of 25%. Annually, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter expenses are typically lower. July and August 2023 may go over target, however, Director Fahnstrom anticipates overall annual expenses to drop down by the end of the year. Following discussion, Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rechner. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:  
  

AYE:	Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Ed Rechner
NAY:	None
ABSENT:	Nancy Parra and Robert Hoban III
- VI. Approval of Voucher List of Bills for March 11 – April 28, 2023. Commissioner Rechner noted the prevalence of reissuing checks. Superintendent Oswald spoke to the fact that the District was trying to clear up old checks. Oswald also spoke to a new policy of asking employees to set up direct deposit to minimize the need to reissue checks and therefore reduce fees. Following discussion, Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Voucher List of Bills for March 11 – April 28, 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rechner. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:  
  

AYE:	Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Ed Rechner
NAY:	None
ABSENT:	Nancy Parra and Robert Hoban III



**VII. 2023 Election**

- a. Official Results of the Consolidated Elections held on April 4, 2023. Congratulations to Commissioners Parra, Lussem and Ackerman for being officially elected Commissioners for the River Trails Park District. Commissioners Parra and Ackerman's terms are for the full 6 years and Commissioner Lussem is to finish out the remaining 2 years of her full term. Commissioner Lussem moved to accept the results of the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rechner and approved by common consent.
- b. Oath of Office Leah Lussem. Commissioner Rezek presented Commissioner Lussem with her Oath of Office. Commissioner Lussem read the declaration and was sworn into office at 7:12pm
- c. Oath of Office Nancy Parra. Due to absence, Commissioner Rechner motioned to table Commissioner Parra's Oath of Office until a convenient time when Commissioner Parra is available. Commissioner Lussem seconded the motion and approved by common consent.
- d. Oath of Office Melissa Ackerman. Commissioner Rezek presented Commissioner Ackerman with her Oath of Office. Commissioner Ackerman read the declaration and was sworn into office at 7:14pm

**VIII.** Proclamation for Ed Rechner. Commissioner Rezek read and presented Commissioner Rechner with a Proclamation to honor his tireless dedication as a Commissioner of the River Trails Park District. Visitor Tom Pope spoke of his friendship with Commissioner Rechner and how he aspires to be like Commissioner Rechner. Director Fahnstrom thanked Commissioner Rechner for all that he has done for the district; continually making decisions based upon what is in the best interest of the district, being the accountability watchdog, driving Board decisions, taking the helm when needed and helping to train others. Commissioners Rezek and Lussem expressed their enjoyment of serving on the Board with Commissioner Rezek; being a pleasure to work with and a mentor to all. Commissioner Rechner remarked that he believed his main responsibility as a River Trails Park District Commissioner is to represent the residents; not for personal gratification but for the community gain. Commissioner Rechner noted the significant positive changes he has seen within the district noting that Tom Pope had much involvement. Commissioner Rechner stated that he has seen much improved development over the years and credits Director Fahnstrom as a driving force behind many of these improvements. Commissioner Rechner stated that although he has enjoyed his 14 years serving as a Commissioner on the Board that there is a time one must say goodbye, however, he will continue to frequent the parks and services of the River Trails Park District.

**IX. Communications**

- a. Staff Report: Park Department. Superintendent Mike Hanley gave an update on Capital Projects. Administration and Zone office improvements, Weiss sidewalk repair and asphalt resurfacing have been completed as are the electrical improvements to the Rob Roy kitchen, playground safety audits and playground repairs. Parks work has been underway and to date includes; planting 20 trees at various park and facility areas, spring soccer field preparation, baseball field repairs, stump ground removal of over 70 trees, community garden preparation and water tank installation as well as the numerous routine park maintenance of the vast parks, playgrounds, athletic areas and general areas of service within the River Trails Park District. Superintendent Hanley reported the inspection, improvements and maintenance of the Rob Roy Gold Course which is receiving positive feedback from players. Commissioner Rezek requested an update on Woodland Trails Pool. Superintendent Hanley expects the pool to be on target for internal timelines and open as scheduled. Commissioners Ackerman, Lussem and Rezek, and Visitor Ed Rechner all commented on the marked improvements. Superintendent Hanley credited his team, particularly Jeremy Rolf and Jeremy Hakala on their superior leadership and training.



- b. IPRA/IAPD Upcoming Events. Commissioner Ackerman will attend the IPRA Virtual Boot Camp on June 13, 2023. Director Fahnstrom invited other Commissioners to attend the virtual boot camp or register for one of the many in person IPRA boot camps if desired. The NRPA Annual Conference will be held in Dallas, TX on October 10-12, 2023. Commissioners Parrah and Lussem had expressed interest, however, if commissioner Ackerman would like to attend, Commissioner Lussem will drop out. The IAPD Legal Symposium will be on November 2, 2023 in Oak Brook. Typically, only RTPD Staff attend but Director Fahnstrom invited Commissioners to attend if desired. Important dates to note for 2024 are January 25 and 26, for the IAPD/IPRA State Conference at the Hyatt in Chicago.
- c. Miscellaneous Communications. Director Fahnstrom presented 2 upcoming events on June 21, 2023 to be held at Evergreen Park at 3:30pm and the other on July 26, 2023 to be held at Aspen Trails Park at 3:30pm. The Story Time in the Park events are a partnership with the Mount Prospect Public Library by their new Youth Outreach Librarian Esli Avalos, featuring a book reading in English and Spanish.

**X. Old Business**

- a. None

**XI. New Business**

- a. Resolution NO. 23.05.04 Resolution to Establish a Decennial Committee. Director Fahnstrom presented information regarding what constitutes a Decennial Committee: an evaluation of efficiencies as a singular government agency and with the cooperation of other government agencies to be executed every ten years. Must include two residents of the community and two RTPD staff and meet a minimum of three times. Following discussion, Commissioner Lussem moved to approve Resolution NO. 23.05.04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Melissa Ackerman  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Nancy Parrah and Robert Hoban III

- b. Resolution NO. 23.05.04A Resolution to Approve Appointment of Committee Members to serve on the Decennial Committee. Committee members were selected as follows: Director Fahnstrom, Superintendent Oswald, Eric Raz and Loren LoPresti. Following discussion, Commissioner Ackerman moved to approve Resolution NO. 23.05.04A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Melissa Ackerman  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Nancy Parra and Robert Hoban III

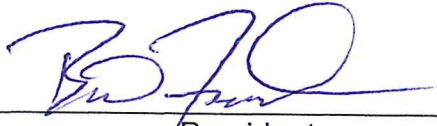
- c. Call for a Special Meeting on June 1, 2023 at 6pm. Director Fahnstrom presented the details of the suggested Special Meeting to be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The Special Meeting will include a short Board Meeting to be held at Weiss Community Center @ 6pm and will include a park tour including Evergreen Trails Park, Sycamore Trails Park and The Zone. Following discussion, Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman and approved by common consent.

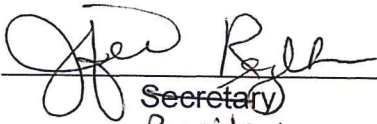
XII. Commissioner Comments. None

XIII. Executive Session. None

XIV. Action as a Result of the Executive Session. None

XV. Adjournment. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Ackerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem and approved by common consent.

  
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President  
Secretary

  
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Secretary  
President