

**MINUTES OF THE DECENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
RIVER TRAILS PARK DISTRICT,
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD
AT 401 E. CAMP MCDONALD ROAD IN SAID DISTRICT
ON THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.**

- I. Director Fahnstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and directed Crista Altergott, Administrative Assistant/Risk Management to call the roll. Upon the roll being called, the following Decennial Committee Members answered present: Commissioners Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Nancy Para and Robert Hoban III. Melissa Ackerman was absent. Also present were Community/Committee members Eric Raz and Loren LoPresti as well as Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of Recreation Patti Mitchell, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powels and Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley. No other community visitors were present.
- II. Introduction of Decennial Committee Members: Director Fahnstrom gave a brief introduction of all individuals present at the meeting.
- III. Committee Requirement:
 - a. Committee Members: Director Fahnstrom explained that the minimum number (2) of committee members has been met. However, we can appoint more if desired.
 - b. Resolutions Establishing Committee & Committee Members: Director Fahnstrom recounted the resolutions that were approved at the Regular Meeting on May 4, 2023. Resolution NO. 23.05.04; Resolution to Establish a Decennial Committee. Resolution NO. 23.0504A; Resolution to Approve Appointment of Committee Members to Serve on the Decennial Committee.
 - c. Meet a minimum of three (3) times: Director Fahnstrom explained that today's meeting and the wrap up meeting count as two of the three meetings required. The committee may choose to meet as often as desired but the three meeting minimum must be in person with a majority of the Committee.
 - d. Prepare a written report to submit to county within 18 months: The River Trails Park District Decennial Committee was officially formed on May 4, 2023 and therefore a written report must be submitted on or before November 4, 2024.
- IV. Committee Chair (Board President or appointee): Board President Rezek nominated Board Vice President Lussem to be the RTPD Decennial Chair. Commissioner Parra motioned to vote on Board Vice President Lussem as the RTPD Decennial Chair. The motion was seconded by Board President Rezek and approved by common consent.
- V. Definition of purpose of the committee (why we are here)
 - a. To study local government efficiencies. Discussion ensued about the meaning of government efficiencies to include but not limited to: internal sources, external sources, working relationships, duplicate services. Director Fahnstrom provided an example of how RTPD is currently working with school districts 26 and 21. We may increase efficiencies by also starting a relationship with school district 23.
 - b. Increasing governmental accountability. A brief discussion included key points of understanding what is hurting the community and how are we going green. Suggested talking points concerning water mitigation (VoMP, CPH) and what other sustainabilities the District has in place or are starting.

Discussion ensued about the meaning of government efficiencies and government accountability. Commissioner Parra pointed out that item VI.a is the purpose of Director Fahnstrom and the RTPD Board. Commissioner Rezek replied that VI.a holds Director Fahnstrom and the Board accountable to the community.

- VI.** What are some of the specific items we believe the committee is supposed to be evaluating?
- a. Governing statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, powers
 - b. Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA), organizational interrelationships, shared services
- VII.** What would the committee like to see the staff prepare? What can we improve in the next 10 years? Director Fahnstrom let the committee know that IAPD has a template that we can reference for structure and ideas but ultimately the content and scale is up to the committee. Committee Member LoPresti would like to see the template and compare findings with other park districts. Director Fahnstrom and Chairperson Lussem will review the template and provide the relevant information at the next meeting. Additional documents requested:
- Efficiencies
- Review all active and expired IGA's; to include but not limited to – programs, resident rate, villages, vendor contracts, churches, Pure Elite, WeFitU, SuerHero Parkour Academy, Chess Scholars and Art.
 - Review all other contractors and services
 - RTPD relationship with NWSRA and a comparison of the NWSRA model
- Accountabilities
- Review RTPD Strategic Plan
 - Review RTPD Master Plan
 - Review RTPD Capital Improvement Plan
 - Review RTPD Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
 - RTPD Sustainability Measures; current actions to consider include but not limited to – reusable eggs in annual egg hunt, new park, retention pond, LED systems, No Mow May, partnership with village to mitigate flooding
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 - Comparison of working relationships surrounding Park Districts
 - How does RTPD define “User” manual ordinances with a focus on RTPD day to day operations
 - Policy Manuals to be posted to website as PDF's; which policy manuals to be decided
 - RTPD Ordinances and Resolutions to be posted to website in a list form in an electronic catalog. Provide number and title. Content to be determined but Commissioner Hoban III suggested a table of contents at a minimum. Director Fahnstrom reported that RTPD has 58 years of RTPD ordinances and resolutions. How far back to review will be determined at a later meeting.
- VIII.** Desired deadlines to review
- a. Electronic or In-Person. Chairperson Lussem and Commissioner Para suggested that we split the workload as it is unnecessary for every committee member to review every document. They also do not want to put too much work on RTPD as it is the busy season. Director Fahnstrom will come up with a list of items requested and distribute to appropriate RTPD and determine return timing.

- b. Electronic Communications & Open Meeting Act. Director Fahnstrom asked that this committee be mindful of OMA whereas during electronic communication it is a violation of OMA to reply all and/or communicate as one group. He suggested that questions or comments that arise during electronic communication be directly sent to him and he can reply to the entire committee.

IX. Post-Meeting Community Input None

X. Next Meeting (TBD) Commissioner Rezek and Committee person Raz would like to potentially meet in person every 3 months or so for review and touchpoints.

XI. Adjournment. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Hoban III made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Lussem and approved by common consent.

Chair

Secretary