

**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 SEVENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.**

- I. The President 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 Commissioners answered present: Jennifer Rezek, Nancy Parra, Leah Lussem, Robert Hoban III and Melissa Ackerman. Also present were Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of Finance and HR David Oswald, Superintendent of Recreation Patti Mitchell, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powles and Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley.
- II. Visitors Present: none
- III. The Agenda for September 7, 2023 was submitted for approval. Commissioner Hoban moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parra and approved by common consent.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting of August 17, 2022. Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman and approved by common consent. Commissioner Parra abstained.
- V. Approval of Treasurer's Report for July 2023. Superintendent Oswald provided an updated copy of the Treasurer's Report for July 2023 after finding a calculation error on the report previously distributed. Following the report presentation by Superintendent Oswald and subsequent discussion, Commissioner Parra moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2022 as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra, Robert Hoban III,
Melissa Ackerman

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

VI. Communications

- a. Director's Report. Upcoming Calendar. Director Fahnstrom noted the following event coming up on October 7th – The Trails Challenge Youth 2K OCR (Obstacle Course Race). There are also significant projects underway at Willow Trails Park, redesign in progress for Woodlands Trails Park and continuous parks and facility ADA updates. A list of other committee meetings was provided as well.

- b. IAPD/IPRA State Conference Interest. Director Fahnstrom presented information regarding the upcoming conference and asked Board Members to provide intent to attend. The NRPA 2024 conference was discussed as was the upcoming 2023 NRPA Conference in Dallas. Attending this year will be Commissioner Parra, Director Fahnstrom, Superintendent of Recreation Mitchell and Manager of Facilities and Athletics Vance Violante.
- c. Draft Schedule for the 2023 Levy and 2024 Budget. The calendar includes tentative projected dates staff plan to bring levy and budget topics in front of the Board. Director Fahnstrom noted that each Fund will have at least 2 meetings to review and discuss. Commissioner Rezek inquired about a potential buffer of timing to complete by the end of the quarter. Director Fahnstrom has taken this into account by moving each topic up by one week which satisfies the requirement of a public viewing at least 30 days prior to action as well as allows the Board to be consistent with the schedule.
- d. Miscellaneous.
Rechner Statue Unveiling at Burning Bush on Saturday, September 16th at 1pm. There will be a short ceremony to unveil a newly dedicated statue in honor of the 44 years of combined service of Bernie and Ed Rechner to River Trails Park District. Director Fahnstrom encouraged all Board Members to attend if able.

VII. Old Business

- a. None

VIII. New Business

- a. Approval of Willow Trail Park Change Orders 1-3.
 - Change Order #1: Two culverts were added; one near the futsal court and the other near the shelter. Commissioner Hoban inquired about the need to do this now rather than wait and if this was on the original design. Director Fahnstrom replied that it was a functional oversight that could cause water buildup and additional costs would be incurred.
 - Change Order #2: Asphalt and Fencing Changes. Superintendent Hanley explained that the original plan left about a 6in strip of land which was not identified due to grass creep over 30 years which could cause ground issues over time. Commissioner Rezek agreed that if we are spending money to improve the area it does not make sense to leave a small strip of land unattended.
 - Change Order #3: Upgrade the short path between the path and the futsal courts from asphalt to cement. Superintendent Hanley informed the Board that the original intention was asphalt but over time, asphalt requires more maintenance. He believes cement will be the more cost effective option in the long run.

Commissioner Ackerman asked for slight revisions to be made to the report; updating the word great to greater in Change Order #2 and updating the # symbols to \$ symbols. Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Willow Trails Park Change Orders 1-3 as discussed. The motioned was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

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

IX. Commissioner Comments

a. Commissioner Parra

- Additional trash cans by the pickle ball courts at Burning Bush. This area seems to have a large accumulation of trash. Superintendent Hanley asked for an exact desired location.
- Add a 34-inch line to the pickle-ball board at Burning Bush and at to the handball boards at Weiss. Superintendent Hanley will look into both options and will add the lines if it does not interfere with the intended uses of each board.
- Inquired if there is a garbage can at the end of the path by the soccer field at Aspen Trails Park. If not, Superintendent Hanley responded one can be added.
- Requested a paper copy of the What's Happening calendar.
- Informed attendees that Rob Roy Golf Course came up in conversation with out of town friends and pleased to report that we have a positive image.

b. Commissioner Ackerman

- Not available to attend the Board Meeting on October 5th, 2023.
- Applauded Director Fahnstrom for his efforts in community involvement and inquired about feedback on the plans/survey of Woodland Trails Park given out at the Last Splash Bash. 62 surveys were received and an email survey is planned to go out to capture additional responses.
- Received feedback that some individuals were disappointed that the Labor Day Picnic was changed to become the Last Splash Bash the week prior to Labor Day. Requested that we advertise to a broader audience including local HOA's for future events. Superintendent Mitchell informed the group that the change was noted in the Summer brochure, RTPD participant email blasts, social media outlets and signage.

c. Commissioner Hoban

- Inquired about the ongoing input about Woodland Trails Park. Director Fahnstrom has received community input at a Public Committee Meeting in January and surveys at the Last Splash Bash as well as staff input. The final design will be voted on by the Board after the design is completed based on community input.

d. Commissioner Rezek

- Received positive feedback about the special event yoga programs and congratulated Superintendent Mitchell and her team on the ongoing success of creative programs.
- Inquired about suspected gang activity in the area of Evergreen Trails Parks. Director Fahnstrom has replied the police has the situation well in hand and have been given the authority to remove and/or arrest an individual located on River Trails Park District property. Discussion ensued about placing cameras on the Willow Trails property.

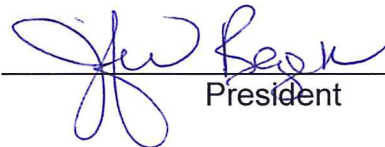
e. Commissioner Lussem

- Inquired if RTPD was informed of the recent 505K running through Sycamore Trails Park. Director Fahnstrom was not made aware prior to the event and is working with the police department to understand any other events that might use River Trails Park District parks. Superintendent thanked Commissioner Lussem. Due to her heads up, his team was able to do a sweep prior to the event so that the park was in excellent condition for the days' event.
- Suggested that we do a silver dollar dive in the deep well at the 2024 Last Splash Bash and volunteered to donate 5 silver dollars if sponsorship does not come through.

X. Executive Session None

XI. Action as a Result of the Executive Session None

XII. Adjournment. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Parra made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem and approved by common consent.



President



Secretary