

**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 SECOND DAY OF NOVEMBER 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 and Melisa Ackerman. Commissioner Robert Hoban III was present initially via Zoom and arrived in person at 7:20pm. Also present were Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of Finance David Oswald, Superintendent of Recreation Patti Mitchel and Golf General Manager, Louis Eckenbrecht. Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley also attended via Zoom.
- II. Visitors Present: None
- III. The Agenda for November 2, 2023 was submitted for approval. Commissioner Lussem moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman and approved by common consent.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2023. Commissioner Parra moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem and approved by common consent. Commissioners Rezek and Hoban III abstained.
- V. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September 2023. Superintendent of Finance David Oswald reviewed the highlights which include expected tax revenues, a lower than anticipated Year to Date Handicap Fund expenses of only 37% and Fund 40 Capital Improvements. Both of the lower expenses were due to projects not completed in 2023. Following the report presentation by Superintendent Oswald, Commissioner Lussem asked if future reports can track the fund balance as related to the annual budget. After subsequent discussion, Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parra and approved by common consent.
- VI. Communications
 - a. Rob Roy Golf Q#3 Report
 - Golf General Manager, Louis Eckenbrecht, presented the Quarter 3 Golf Revenue Report which includes details from January to September, 2023. July and August experienced a record amount of golfers with a total revenue for FY ending Quarter 3 at \$635,596. A \$100,655 increase over Quarter 3 in 2022.
 - Eckenbrecht credits the success to favorable weather conditions, increase of first time golfers, a 91.8/100 Golfpass rating and increased marketing efforts generating interest.

- Commissioner Parra inquired about the newly purchased golf carts and whether they include a warranty, in which Eckenbrecht informed the group of the 100-day maximum warranty at time of purchase.
 - Commissioner Ackerman would like to see new markers on the driving range. This was planned for 2024 and the Parks team will begin working on new distance markers in the Spring.
- b. 2024 NRPA Conference & IPRA Conference Interest.
- Director Fahnstrom circulated an interest sheet to the Board members for the 2024 NRPA Conference to be held in Atlanta, GA on October 8-10, 2024. Commissioner Melissa Ackerman expressed interest in attending, leaving one spot potential open for a Board Member.
 - 2024 IPRA Conference will be held in Chicago January 25-27, 2024. In years past, staff has attended all days of the conference with Board Members finding the most relevant information on either Friday or Saturday. Commissioner Parra would like to see a schedule prior to making a decision. Crista Altergott will collect the interest forms from the Board members for both opportunities.
- c. Miscellaneous Communications.
- Director Fahnstrom circulated a copy of The Journal where the Monster's Bash was featured, front page, of the latest issue on November 1st, 2023. Despite the weather conditions, the event was resounding success with over 800 people in attendance.

VII. Old Business

- a. None

VIII. New Business

a. Resolution #23-11-02 Truth in Taxation

- This is the second viewing of Resolution 23-11-02. This Resolution was first introduced and ready for Commissioner Comments at the prior regularly scheduled Board Meeting on October 19, 2023.
- After the first viewing, Commissioner Parra requested additional information regarding the estimated tax increase broken out by home value. Superintendent Oswald worked with PMA Financial to provide the requested information.
- Commissioner Hoban has questions concerning the requested numbers. Hoban will work with Superintendent Oswald and Director Fahnstrom after the Board Meeting to review concerns and will present any other concerns for Board Member consideration prior to the next meeting on November 16, 2023.
- Following additional discussion, Commissioner Parra made a motion to approve the Resolution #23-11-02 Truth in Taxation as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

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

- Keys dates to note include;
 - Notice of Truth in Taxation Hearing on the Levy published in the newspaper – November 24, 2023
 - Truth in Taxation Hearing and 2023 Levy Ordinance – December 7th Board Meeting
 - Levy Ordinance provided to the Cook County Clerk – December 26, 2023
- b. Rob Roy Rough Mower Purchase
 - Superintendent of Parks, Mike Hanley presented a golf course mower for purchase. This mower was included in the budget for 2024 but a used mower has become available at approximately a 15% discount. Golf General Manager Louis Eckenbrecht seconded the need for new equipment as the popularity of Rob Roy continues to increase.
 - Hanley sites inefficiencies such as mechanical issues, inability to mow all terrains, excessive labor costs and deteriorating quality as reasons to replace the current mower. A prime example; the current time to mow the rough is approximately 4 days, while it is estimated that the new mower will take approximately 2 days. Commissioner Parra requested if data can be collecting to verify the shortened work time over a series of uses.
 - Following discussion, Commissioner Ackerman made a motion to approve the Rob Roy Rough Mower Purchase as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parra. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE:	Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra, Melissa Ackerman, Robert Hoban III
NAY:	None
- c. 2024 DRAFT Board Meeting Schedule
 - Director Fahnstrom presented the 2024 DRAFT Board Meeting Schedule and reviewed possible conflicts. The meeting scheduled for January 4, 2024 may present an issue due to holiday scheduling. The decision to keep or cancel will be discussed at the December Board Meetings.
 - After discussion, the 2024 DRAFT Board Meeting Scheduled is tabled until the next Board Meeting scheduled on November 16, 2023.

IX. Commissioner Comments

- a. Commissioner Hoban had voiced concerns that were relayed to him by parents at the previous meeting. Hoban acknowledged the hard work put in by Recreation Supervisor of Athletics, Josh Mulholland, and his predecessor, Justin Slade. Director Fahnstrom admitted that all programs, including volleyball, see a yearly struggle to find coaches. While we have a budget for paid positions, we typically rely on parent volunteers and RTPD Staff to fill empty coaching positions.
- b. After discussion on how to recruit more paid and volunteer coaches, Commissioner Rezek suggested reaching out to the Hersey Volunteers Club and other local high schools.

c. Commissioner Lussem will be baking cookies for staff.

X. Executive Session. None

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

XII. Adjournment. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Lussem made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman and approved by common consent.

President

Secretary