

**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 JANUARY 2024 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 roll being called, the following Commissioners answered present: Jennifer Rezek, Robert Hoban III and Melissa Ackerman. Leah Lussem, and Nancy Parra were absent. Also present were Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of HR and Finance David Oswald, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powles and Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley.
- II. Visitors Present: None
- III. The Agenda for January 4, 2024 was submitted for approval. Commissioner Ackerman moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoban and approved by common consent.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the Public Meeting of December 21, 2023. Commissioner Hoban asked for minutes to be amended regarding Capital Transfer Request. After discussion, Director Fahnstrom asked Commissioner Hoban to provide wording and notes can be cross referenced. Approval of the minutes for the Public Meeting of December 21, 2023 has been tabled.
- V. Communications
 - a. Director's Report: Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom
 - IPRA Conference is coming up on January 25-27, 2024. Most full time staff is attending. Board Members are invited to attend as well. To date, Leah Lussem has been registered.
 - The Family Valentine's Dance is right around the corner on February 2nd, 2024. Held at Rob Roy Golf Course Clubhouse, this event is always a family favorite.
 - River Trails Park and Recreation Foundation has announced a new fundraising event; Pizza Puzzle Palooza. This event will take place on March 2nd at Rob Roy Golf Course Clubhouse.
 - Director Fahnstrom announced upcoming committee meetings. Commissioner Hoban inquired about the next Safety Committee meeting and Superintendent Powles announced a new group set to meet – Customer Service.
 - b. Miscellaneous Communications: Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom
 - none
- VI. Old Business
 - a. DRAFT 2024 Budget Full Draft Budget
 - Superintendent of HR and Finance David Oswald proceeded to go over key points including changes and discussion over the course of three meetings. There have not been any updates to any of the budget requests in any funds since the last Board Meeting.
 - Commissioner Ackerman had sent Executive Director Fahnstrom a list of questions prior to the Board Meeting. Fahnstrom and Oswald will review the questions and respond quickly if able. Otherwise, Commissioner Rezek offered to have questions addressed at the next Board Meeting.

- Commissioner Hoban asked to confirm that the vote for the 2024 Budget will be held on February 15th, 2024. Director Fahnstrom confirmed. Due to process we must provide the public 30 days to view the tentative budget. Hoban inquired about the difference between the 2023 Budget and the 2024 Appropriated amounts and provided an example. Fahnstrom provided additional details to clarify.

VII. New Business

a. Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance

- Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom led the Board through a new unfunded mandate; Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance, which will apply to our Park District and must comply by February 1st, 2024.
- Commissioner Hoban and Director Fahnstrom led a discussion about potential impact to the Park District.
- Park Districts used to be exempt and our legal counsel has reached out to the County's administration for guidance. Counsel has advised not to take action for policy change at this time.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

a. None

IX. Executive Session

- a. Commissioner Hoban made a motion at 7:30pm that the Board go into closed Executive Session to consider information regarding appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of an officer, an employee or employees pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(2) of the Open Meetings Act. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rezek, Robert Hoban III, Melissa Ackerman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra

X. Action as a Result of the Executive Session

- a. Approval of the 2024 Merit Increase Pool. Commissioner Ackerman made a motion to increase the 2024 Merit Increase Pool to 4.5% for a total of \$64,754 as discussed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoban. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rezek, Robert Hoban III, Melissa Ackerman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra

- b. Close Session exited at 7:52pm

XI. Adjournment. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Ackerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoban and approved by common consent.

President

Secretary