

**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 FIFTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.**

- I. The President called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra and Melissa Ackerman. Commissioner Robert Hoban III was absent. Also present were Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of HR and Finance David Oswald, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powles and Rob Roy Golf General Manager Louis Eckenbrecht.
- II. Visitors Present
 - a. None
- III. The Agenda for February 15, 2024 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 February 1, 2024. Commissioner Ackerman moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parra and approved by common consent.
- V. Approval of Paid Invoices List Bills for January 13, 2024 – February 9, 2024. Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Paid Invoices List Bills for January 13, 2024 – February 9, 2024 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE:	Jennifer Rezek, Nancy Parra, Leah Lussem, Melissa Ackerman
NAY:	None
ABSENT:	Robert Hoban III
- VI. Communications
 - a. Staff Report: Parks Department – Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom
 - Director Fahnstrom presented the Parks Report on behalf of Superintendent of Parks, Mike Hanley. Updates included rewired ADA Bollard at Burning Bush Community Center, Weiss Fitness Center deep cleaning and reorganization, #7 bunker removal at Rob Roy Golf Course and an update on the progress of Woodland Trails Park.
 - Commissioners Parra and Ackerman inquired about the purpose of the Woodland Trails Park updates. Upon discussion, the group consensus was that the buckthorn removal and gathering area will be a better use of space for camps and patrons.
 - Discussion progressed to other areas of land development. Commissioner Parra asked about the stumps located near the skate park and if we are replacing trees that are being removed. Commissioner Ackerman is also receiving questions about trees. Director Fahnstrom will look into the stumps with possible use and briefly outlined the district's tree planting programs. Commissioner Ackerman requested ready to share communication be sent to Commissioners.

- b. Annual Rob Roy Operations Report – Rob Roy Golf General Manager Louis Eckenbrecht
- Golf General Manager Louis Eckenbrecht reported that the second year of River Trails operating the Rob Roy Golf Course concluded with \$712,280 gross revenue.
 - The pro-shop performed exceptionally well with a net profit of \$542,345 to an operational profit of \$146,152 and 24,091 rounds played in 2023. The mini golf course fell somewhat short of expectations, but the driving range experienced its busiest summer in years.
 - Commissioner Rezek asked about the golf cart repairs since new carts were recently purchased. Eckenbrecht outlined some of the unexpected maintenance costs of the current fleet of carts.
 - Commissioner Ackerman asked about timing for the golf cart storage. Director Fahnstrom anticipates the storage area to be ready by the end of the 2024 season.
 - Commissioner Parra congratulated the district on the decision to go solo at Rob Roy and Parra, Commissioner Rezek and Director Fahnstrom all congratulated the continued efforts by Golf General Manager Eckenbrecht, Golf Superintendent Jeremy Rolf and the team of Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley.

c. Parliamentary Questions – Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom

- Director Fahnstrom presented information requested by Commissioner Nancy Parra on a request for clarification between voting abstain vs. present. Fahnstrom reached out to corporate counsel and attended a session at conference with Commissioner Lussem by Christina Emmert, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian.
- Fahnstrom presented the information as provided by the 2 sources on the topic of voting abstain vs. present:

Voting “present” is the same as voting “I abstain.” Abstentions are not counted as either affirmative or negative votes. However, in a situation where the rules require a majority or two-thirds of the members present, an abstention can have the effect of a “no” vote. However, an abstention is not a vote and should not be counted unless you are determining whether a quorum is present.

- There was also a request to clarify voting remotely which Fahnstrom reported as:

*Section 7(a) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7(a)) provides that a member may attend a meeting by video or audio conference because of: (1) personal illness or disability; (2) employment purposes or the business of the public body; (3) a family or other emergency; or (4) unexpected childcare obligations. In order for that member to attend virtually, a quorum of the members of the public body must be physically present **and** a majority of the public body **votes** to allow such member to attend virtually.*

- Further discussion outlined the process for a Board Member attending a Board Meeting virtually. Commissioner Parra outlined the process as presented; Board Members may attend virtually if the reason is one of the four OMA reasons. The Board Members in attendance must Motion and Vote to allow the virtual attendee to be an active Board Member, however, the virtual attendee will not be included in the quorum. If the request for virtual attendance is not one of the four OMA reasons, the virtual attendee may attend the Board Meeting as a Visitor, without the ability to vote and comments restricted during Visitor’s Comments.

- d. Miscellaneous Communications – Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom
 - Director Fahnstrom presented the 2024 IAPD Calendar of Events. Commissioners Lussem and Parra plan to attend the Legislative Breakfast on February 29th.
 - Fahnstrom plans to attend the Legislative events in Springfield which includes the Parks Day on the Capitol, dinner and conference.
 - Cook Country Commissioner Britton is sponsoring an amendment to the Paid Leave Act to exclude Park Districts as the financial impact is unlike a typical business structure without the ability for significant financial adjustments.

VII. Old Business
a. None

VIII. New Business

- a. Ordinance No 24-02-15, 2024 Budget and Appropriations. Director Fahnstrom stated there have been no significant changes to the tentative budget previously presented. There are three additional changes since the last draft version was viewed by the Board. These changes were additions to computer software and the need for additional staffing. Following discussion, Commissioner Lussem moved to adopt the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 24-02-15 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman and upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

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

IX. Commissioner Comments
a. None

X. Executive Session
a. None. Director Fahnstrom requested an Executive Session for the next meeting.

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

XII. Adjournment. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

President

Secretary