

## GRAYSLAKE COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT PARK BOARD MEETING

November 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Ryan. Upon roll call the following were:

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Anderson, Deal, Kennedy, Larson, Rodas, Ryan, Toth. Staff: Splitt, Regnier, VanZant. Guests: John Buckner, Jordan Cleaves, Matt Jens, and Tyler Weidman. Board Recording Secretary Shari Raven.

**MOTION:** by Deal that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Park Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Second by Larson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** by Rodas that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Consent Agenda to include:

- The Payment of Bills and Payroll from 10-19-23 thru 11-15-23 in the amount of \$310,479.08
- Approval of the October 18, 2023 Park Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of but not public release of October 18, 2023 Closed Session Minutes
- Approval of November 1, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Each year the district nominates a community member, community group, volunteer or employee who has provided outstanding service or volunteer work for the district/community for the annual prestigious friends of the park award. The recipient for the 2023 Friends of the Park Award is The Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County. John Buckner, Executive Director for SRACLC accepted the award from President Ryan.

The Park District has been working with SRACLC for over the past 2 years on designing and fundraising for an inclusive playground addition to Jones Island Park. Together, we have raised over \$250,000 for this playground addition. If it were not for the partnership with SRACLC and their vision, this inclusive playground would not have become a reality.

The project is just a very small portion of the importance of SRACLC to our district and to our community. They work tirelessly every day to provide community based recreational opportunities to individuals with disabilities. In addition, they provide our district and staff with the support and guidance needed to be able to welcome

participants with disabilities or special needs into our programs. We would personally like to congratulate and thank John and the entire staff at SRACLC for their outstanding service, vision and leadership in making a difference in our Park District as well as in our community.

Board Members reviewed the 2023 tax levy ordinance to receive property taxes from Lake County for next year. The district is proposing the full 5% increase as restricted by PTELL for our 2023 levy for taxes paid in 2024. The proposed increase is necessary to ensure the continued well-being of our parks and the satisfaction of our community members.

**MOTION:** by Larson that the Park Board of Commissioners Adopt Ordinance O2023-03-An Ordinance Levying the taxes for the Grayslake Community Park District for 2023. Second by Toth. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** by Deal that the Park Board of Commissioners adopt the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2023 as presented. Second by Rodas. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

The annual Treasurer’s Report from fiscal year 2022-2023 is prepared using the final audited statements and reports. This is a statement of the District’s monies received from each source and all monies paid out in detail for the fiscal year. The Report is prepared to further the transparency of government entities and will be posted on our website.

**MOTION:** by Larson that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Treasurer’s Report for Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2023 as presented. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Every year, IAPD requests each member district to appoint a delegate to represent the district at the annual IAPD Business Meeting. The meeting will be on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 3:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Chicago at the conclusion of the annual IAPD State Conference. This certificate will entitle the delegate or, in their absence, an alternate to vote on matters presented during the Association’s Annual Business Meeting.

**MOTION:** by Toth that the Park Board of Commissioners appoint Marlon Rodas as the delegate and Dennis Kennedy as the alternate to vote on matters presented during the Association’s Annual Business Meeting. Second by Deal. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays.

The current Park District Committee for Local government Efficiency consists of all 7 board members, the Executive Director and two park district residents: Troy Whalen and John Marshall.

Park District resident, John Marshall has moved out of the district and can no longer serve on this committee. Splitt recommends to elect resident Tim Longo to the committee.

The committee will have 18 months from the passage of the original resolution forming the committee to complete the required efficiency report and file it with Lake County. The committee must meet at least 3 times with the 18-month window. All meeting shall operate as a public body pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act. The Park District's deadline to complete this report is November 17, 2024.

**MOTION:** by Rodas that the Park Board of Commissioners appoint Park District resident Tim Longo to serve on the local government efficiency committee for the Grayslake Community Park District, Lake County, Illinois. Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Splitt was contacted by Grayslake Resident, Dennis Darida who lives at 34354 N. Lakeside Drive in the Highland Lakes subdivision. He recently purchased 20 acres of land directly across from his home.

Mr. Darida purchased the land with the intention to preserve it as undeveloped land. It presently has 12 tillable acres in corn and is leased by a local farmer, Phil McNeil. The other 8 acres is wooded.

Mr. Darida is interested in donating this 20-acre parcel to the Park District upon his passing. He would like to place some conditions for the land in the donation agreement. He first would like the farmer to be able to continue to lease the land for farming as long as he is willing and then for the property to remain as passive open space such as a nature conservancy or something similar. He does not want the property to feature ballfields or active recreation amenities.

While Board Members are assessing what they can do with the property, the board directed Splitt to tell Mr. Darida to speak with his attorney about this land donation.

Splitt will bring this back to the January 17, 2024 Park Board Meeting for further discussion.

The board reviewed the report of the Executive Director.

Splitt met with members of the Red Cross last week to tour our facility and renew our Facility Use Agreement in the event of disaster related activities. The Park District recreation center is listed in the Red Cross's database as an emergency location in the event of a local disaster. The Red Cross will be sending Splitt the updated agreement and information for her to sign.

Jones Island Playground has recently been chosen to become a PlayCore National Demonstration Site due to our commitment to advancing play and recreation. This award is presented on behalf of PlayCore's Center for Outreach, Research, and Education (CORE) in recognition of the project's alignment to evidence-based best practices in design to support Community vitality. The playground has been equipped with a sign promoting our commitment to best practices and also a research QR code where visitors can share their experiences and report Community Vitality outcomes.

The IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Annual Conference: Early bird registration has opened for the annual state conference to be held January 25-27 in Chicago. The conference is being held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Chicago. Board Members should let Splitt know if they can attend.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Recreation.

Winter Program Registration will begin on December 5 and the guide will cover programs running through March.

Staff has been very busy with basketball season. In-house basketball has completed evaluations but staff are still accepting registration. As in the past few years staff will be working with other Park Districts to expand the program.

October was a great month for social media engagement. Our website pageviews were up 45% from September. Facebook reach was up 597 % (over 76,000) because of the opening of Jones Island Inclusive Addition which received remarkable feedback.

October was a sporadic and wet month at the Golf Course.

End of Golf Season staff meeting will be held November 29 to recap the season and prepare for 2024. Staff plan to close the course on November 30. Marketing will hold a New Year's Special to save 10% on 2024 season pass.

The board reviewed the report of the Assistant Superintendent of Parks & Facilities Brett Muhr.

- Irrigation Shut Down: On October 30<sup>th</sup> staff began irrigation shut down at all of our locations
- Building Shut Down: On November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> staff began and completed the shutdown of our public restrooms and concession stand at Aquatics and Alleghany Park
- Memorial Items installed or Planted: We continue to add to our growing line of memorial trees in Central Park.
- Memorial Bench (Chesapeake Farms): On November 9<sup>th</sup> staff removed an old bench and installed a new memorial bench overlooking the pond at Chesapeake Farms by Tylerton Circle

- Alleghany Crack Fill: As on November 10<sup>th</sup>, the crack fill project at Alleghany Park continues as we have now completed the major parking lots
- No Parking Signs and Chains Installed at Alleghany Access Road and Golf Course: In order to detour pedestrians and large snow plows from entering the golf course parking lot, we will be installing two posts at both entrances that will be chained for the winter with a No Parking sign attached.
- Alleghany Access Road: Once Julie has finished their locate, we will be installing two posts along with two No Parking Signs to help detour people from parking on the access road next to Landscape Concepts.
- Trim Crew: Our trim crew will be making their final rounds to all the parks to finish (cutting/mulching leaves/winterizing) here in the next week.
- Bike Path Warning Signs Project. Staff has begun the process of looking at all our bike paths to see if they meet the requirements for a warning sign, recently passed by the state of Illinois.
- Jones Island Restoration Continued: Staff was able to complete the split rail fence project a few weeks ago which will add a safety feature to our new park, preventing the kids from having unlimited access to channels.

Muhr passed the National Certification exam and now is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.

The board reviewed the report of the Business Manager.

VanZant stated that revenue remains strong through the fifth month of the budget year.

The IL Funds Portfolio Summary for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2023. Predictions are that inflation will fall back to approximately 2% over the next 3 years. District continues to have an overall strong year in 2023.

Ryan announced the January 17, 2024 Park Board Meeting will be at 7:00pm.

**MOTION:** by Deal to adjourn at 7:37pm. Second by Rodas. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Adjourned 7:37pm.

Ray Larson, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners