



**THE LISLE PARK DISTRICT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MEETING
August 18, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: President Altpeter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Director Garvy Called Roll:

Commissioners Present:

Altpeter
Costello
Hummel
Richter
Wessel

Staff Present:

Director of Parks & Recreation
Superintendent of Finance
Superintendent of Parks
Superintendent of Recreation
Cultural Arts, Rental & Office Manager
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation

Garvy
Silver
Cerutti
Pratscher
Nadeau
Dale

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Altpeter led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PRESENTATIONS

None.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

Commissioner Richter moved to approve the meeting agenda for the regular meeting for Thursday, August 18, 2022. Commissioner Costello seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Hummel moved to approve consent agenda item A & C.

A. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 21, 2022.

C. Approve reservation of Saturday, May 6, 2023 for set up and Sunday, May 7, 2023 for the March for Babies walk in Community Park.

Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Hummel, Wessel, Costello, Richter, Altpeter

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

There was no further discussion and motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Commissioner Richter moved to approve consent agenda item B.

B. Approve August 2022 Voucher List in the amount of \$509,293.40.

Commissioner Costello seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hummel pointed out he isn't in favor of using tax dollars to fund things like golf outings. He referred to a charge for \$560.00 to the Chamber Golf Outing on page 21 of the voucher list, where he said Director Garvy replied to an earlier question of his as to who golfed, where he learned two of the golfers were Kathy King from DuPage County and Anthony Cervini from Sikich, the District's auditing firm. He said he has always had a problem with participating in golf outings, but he has a bigger issue with these two guests of staff. He said this comes off as being too cozy of a relationship and said shame on the auditor for accepting staff's invitation.

Commissioner Costello stated he appreciates how Commissioner Hummel dives into the voucher list, but there is some level of intergovernmental relationships that need interaction, but it's always good to stop and think.

Commissioner Wessel stated there are rules on what auditors can and can't accept and isn't sure where this falls.

President Altpeter stated it's not just one auditor on the District audit, and each guest staff brought has gone above and beyond in helping the District. She feels it was a gesture of appreciation of what these two individuals have done for the park district and a means to build and maintain relationships.

Commissioner Richter stated the optics can be questioned by some and he is supportive of the Chamber, but it's more on the auditor for accepting the invitation than on the District.

Superintendent Silver stated he is offended by Commissioner Hummel's questioning of his and Mr. Cervini's integrity, said Mr. Cervini is a partner in a national accounting firm and he would never do anything that would compromise his reputation or the relationship between Sikich and the Lisle Park District. He said this is about relationship building and appreciation for both guests for helping him and Director Garvy on projects that would otherwise have resulted in getting billed or seeking information or advice elsewhere.

President Altpeter stated if there was no further discussion, Director Garvy can take roll.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Richter, Costello, Wessel, Altpeter

Nays: Hummel.

Absent: None.

Motion passed.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Flag Policy – discussion

Commissioner Richter stated in May, an equality flag was put up at the Recreation Center that has different symbols on it, some of which are politically charged. He said the park district goes through great efforts to remain politically neutral and that the flagpole is the community's flagpole, not staff's, and the district shouldn't highlight

certain groups over others because we then open the door for the flagpole to become a public forum.

Commissioner Hummel stated he agrees with Commissioner Richter and said he felt that staff should have had board consent before putting up this flag. He said he has been a longtime critic of the Lisle Park District, but to his knowledge the District has never discriminated against anyone or treated anyone unfairly, so why do we need a flag. He referenced a lawsuit involving the City of Boston and said this is a hot button issue and he feels staff overstepped their bounds. He said the only flags that should be flown at district sites are the American, DuPage County, Village of Lisle, Lisle Park District, or if we have individual facility flags. He said if this is something staff believes in individually, then they should put it up in their own yards.

Commissioner Wessel asked Director Garvy how many comments staff has received about the flag. Director Garvy said to his knowledge they haven't received any comments other than the likes on Facebook and the one comment thanking the park district for making that gesture. Commissioner Wessel said if they haven't received any criticisms, then it's not as politically charged as some may think. He said he thinks this is the director's and staff's call as a day-to-day operation, not a board decision.

Commissioner Richter said he believes because this is such a divisive topic, many people aren't comfortable speaking out for fear of being criticized as being insensitive. He asked what would prevent him from asking to fly an antifa flag?

Commissioner Costello addressed the lawsuit in Boston stating they were sued over a lack of policy and picking and choosing what groups could hang flags. He said all the groups on the equality flag are protected classes, this is permissible public speech, he does not have a problem with the flag, and said he thinks this is a staff decision. He said maybe one option would be to create a policy that only allows the American flag to fly.

Commissioner Richter stated all groups are covered and represented under the American flag, and to have a flag that promotes certain groups and not others is akin to a theme in the book Animal Farm, where all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

Director Garvy stated it wasn't his or staff's intent to be divisive or political, but rather to demonstrate the Lisle Park District's commitment to these groups, many of which have been historically marginalized. He said this is a significant movement within the parks and recreation industry, and nationally, and this was just a gesture that the Lisle Park District welcomes everyone.

Commissioner Wessel said he feels it's not a board decision, but a staff one. President Altpeter said she agrees with Commissioners Wessel and Costello that this is a staff decision.

President Altpeter asked for a consensus on if the board wants to direct staff to create a flag policy and to put this on the agenda for action for a future meeting. Discussion ensued amongst the commissioners. Director Garvy asked if he can comment, and said he agrees with Commissioners Wessel and Costello and President Altpeter that this is a staff issue, and he has decided to remove the flag. He said it was not staff's intent to create this level of divisiveness especially between commissioners. He said he appreciates the position of each commissioner and reiterated staff's decision is to take the flag it down.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Strategic Master Plan Update

Commissioner Hummel asked how many responses are needed for the survey. Director Garvy stated he wasn't sure of the exact number, and said he believes the last survey required about 800 responses for it to be considered statistically valid. Commissioner Hummel asked about the facility tour Kimley Horn and Superintendent Cerutti recently completed and if they are going to present costs for any of their recommendations. Superintendent Cerutti replied he does not think they will but will rather report on how each facility has served the District's need previously, how it is serving them today, and their ability to continue to do so in the future.

B. Park & Facility Tour

Commissioner Wessel said there is expected rain on Saturday and asked if there was a rain date. Discussion ensued with the consensus being the tour will go on as planned and if the weather is bad it can be rescheduled for a future date.

C. Community Park Fitness Trail – Ribbon Cutting Date

The memo is in the packet and the date is August 27th

D. Department Updates

President Altpeter said she was happy to see the Parks Department new hires and that Pickleball is really taking off.

Commissioner Costello said he liked the four years of camp breakdown in the Recreation Department report.

X. PARTNERS FOR PARKS REPORT

The Partners for Parks Report is included in the Board Packet.

XI. SEASPAR REPORT

The SEASPAR report is included in the Board Packet.

XII. OFFICER REPORTS

A. President Altpeter

President Altpeter reported she attended Camp Rock the Musical and sold tickets with Commissioner Costello's wife. She complimented Manager Nadeau for the Camp Rock show and for the Creation Academy Art Camp, saying that is a great option for children who don't want to be outside all day. She said staff continues to do a great job meeting the needs of the community.

B. Treasurer, Commissioner Wessel

i. Financial Reports ending July 31, 2022

Superintendent Silver reported that the district's investments are all FDIC insured and collateralized. He reported the Corporate Fund is doing well, Recreation is slightly down, and the Enterprise Fund is ahead of 2021. He said June at River Bend was wet, but July and August have had better weather and is confident that if it continues 2022 will be a great year after a sluggish start.

Commissioner Hummel asked if the blue Income Statement Comparison Summary sheet could include a column showing 2022 vs. 2019. Superintendent Silver stated he would do so.

Commissioner Hummel asked for clarification on the evaluation of bonds every two years. Superintendent Silver stated he evaluates them all year long and is always looking at interest rates and opportunities to get a better rate with current debt, if the current debt can be stretched out to save money, and otherwise present the park board with options to save taxpayers money.

C. Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Wessel reported that that he appreciates the board's patience last month while he was on a family vacation, and said he attended the 4th of July Parade and the Summer Entertainment Series, saying those concerts were a lot of fun. He said he enjoyed driving through the park in the mornings seeing the summer camp kids all being dropped off and he hopes to have his son attend Camp Summer Quest next year.

Commissioner Costello reported he also attended Camp Rock the Musical and was impressed. He said his daughter was in the show and she really enjoyed it. He commented on how many parents told him they enjoy the District camps.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Costello motioned to adjourn the regular board meeting and move into closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(21): Discussion of minutes lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

Commissioner Richter seconded.

There was no further discussion and motion passed unanimously by voice vote at 8:04 p.m.

XV. OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:17 pm.

XVI. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

All commissioners were present.

XVII. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Commissioner Hummel asked if the compensation disclosure requirement should include the bonuses paid, to which Director Garvy said his interpretation is this compensation disclosure requirement is part of the budget approval process, and since bonuses were not part of the budget that was approved by the board, it wasn't included.

Commissioner Richter moved to approve the closed session meeting minutes of December 16, 2021 and February 17, 2022. Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Richter moved to release the closed session meeting minutes of February 17, 2022. Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Costello moved to authorize the destruction of the verbatim recordings of the closed session meetings of August 20, 2020; November 12, 2020; December 17, 2020, and January 21, 2021. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote 4-1 with Commissioner Hummel voting nay.

XVIII. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING

Commissioner Richter moved to adjourn the open meeting at 8:22 pm. Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.