



**LISLE PARK DISTRICT  
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, October 19, 2023  
7:00 p.m.**

**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 In-Person: Altpeter  
Wessel  
Hummel  
Tapella

Commissioners Absent: Dombrowski

Staff Present Included: Director of Parks & Recreation Garvy  
Superintendent of Finance, Golf Operations & IT Silver  
Superintendent of Recreation & Marketing Pratscher

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Altpeter led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

Gentle Learning Preschool students shared a Halloween-themed song called "5 Little Pumpkins." President Altpeter thanked the group for attending their first board meeting and presented the students with a certificate of achievement.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Eric Stahl, 6418 Pruthmore Court, Lisle, IL. Mr. Stahl stated he recently moved to the Village of Lisle and is a frequent skate park user. He said it appears that the skate park is neglected as there are leaves and other debris on the surface. He said he would appreciate more attention being dedicated by staff towards this amenity within Community Park. He said the ramps are deteriorating and rusting, and he thinks if there our funds available, the park could use a facelift. Mr. Stahl said attention to the skate park would be appreciated and he plans to use the skate park with his daughter in the future.

Mr. Tom Laskowski, 4089 Angel Lane, Lisle, IL. Mr. Laskowski stated he has been a resident for 12 years and park district customer for closer to 16 years. He said he is a regular fitness center patron and while there aren't a lot of others at the meeting, there is disappointment in the air. Mr. Laskowski said he wants to spend his money at the park district, even if it costs more. He said he likes the size of the facility and close proximity and that others have said the same thing. He suggested sponsorships, corporate memberships, and appealing to Lisle High School students. Mr. Laskowski said he wanted to bring these items up and speak on behalf of others that weren't present.

President Altpeter asked if there was anyone else in the audience to speak. No other audience members stepped forward.

**V. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA**

Commissioner Hummel moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Hummel, Tapella, Wessel

Absent: None.

Motion Passed.

## **VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Wessel moved to approve the Consent Agenda items, including the voucher list in the amount of \$423,173.19. Commissioner Tapella seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Hummel, Tapella, Wessel

Absent: None.

Motion Passed.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A: Village of Lisle's *Old Tavern Road Culvert Rehabilitation Project Easement Request*

Commissioner Wessel inquired whether there would be any reason not to move forward and that residents would expect this sort of intergovernmental cooperation. President Altpeter indicated that the project made sense and there wasn't any reason she could think of to not move forward. President Altpeter requested that advanced notice be communicated to park users prior to the project starting. Commissioner Tapella clarified that the Board is providing support for the project to move forward, to which Director Garvy replied the Village will provide an agreement once the Park District offers its informal consent. Commissioner Hummel asked if the Village was the one responsible for the project expenses Director Garvy confirmed that is his understanding and that the park district will just need to provide consent and access as it relates to this project.

B. 2024 Budget Draft

Commissioner Altpeter asked for questions or comments. Commissioner Tapella thanked Commissioner Hummel for his detailed questions in advance of the meeting. Commissioner Wessel agreed with Commissioner Tapella and expressed gratitude related to staff efforts to further expand Camp Summer Quest.

Commissioner Hummel stated that in general he supports the engineering expenses for the Hitchcock Woods/Rott Creek bridge project but depending on cost estimates, the project cost could be concerning. Director Garvy clarified the District's partial ownership of the property and history of the agreement as it relates to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Director Garvy added that there has been a history of the public asking about this topic since at least 2011 and that it warrants investigating. Commissioner Hummel asked if the Forest Preserve has engineers on staff. Director Garvy replied that he believed they outsourced engineer work of this nature. President Altpeter asked if the Forest Preserve would have final approval over project plans. Director Garvy stated he would add this question to the items he will ask to be articulated within the agreement with the Forest Preserve when the time becomes appropriate. President Altpeter stated that she had received calls from residents over the years and sees the value in this project.

Commissioner Hummel asked about the number of commissioners who plan to attend the 2024 National Recreation and Park Association Conference. President Altpeter shared the benefits of attending the conference and said she sees the value in the experience and doesn't want to limit the opportunity for the Board. Commissioner Wessel stated he enjoyed the conference in the past and is hopeful in attending next year. Commissioner Wessel and Commissioner Tapella both stated they did not have an issue with the 2024 budget allocating the cost for three commissioners to attend the conference.

Commissioner Hummel questioned the Parks Department budgeted allocation for staff lunches and said the frequency and total quantity was excessive. Commissioner Tapella stated she felt this allocation is inconsequential and that reducing this expense would have a negative impact on morale. President Altpeter stated that if staff thinks this is best for staff management then it is invaluable. Commissioner Wessel agreed that the dollar amount was not significant and if it maintains morale he has no problem. Commissioner Hummel said that using citizen tax payer money for such frequent lunches is not as special for staff. Commissioner Tapella asked if the meetings were working meetings, to which Director Garvy replied this is a strategy to address spontaneous training and other topics of concern for the department's operations while maintaining the morale of a department that continues to struggle finding enough staff. Commissioner Tapella asked how these lunches compare to what other organizations across Lisle do. President Altpeter stated she thought that this was a method of staff retainment and expressed her support. Commissioner Wessel and Commissioner Tapella both stated their support of keeping the budget allocation at the current amount.

Commissioner Wessel indicated that he would be interested in touring the golf course. Commissioner Hummel said he would too. Conversation ensued about setting up times for 1-2 Commissioners to view the facility at a time in the near future.

Commissioner Wessel asked about the trail loop at Heritage South Park. Director Garvy provided a brief explanation of the park area and the planned project. Conversation ensued about the park with support for the project.

Director Garvy stated an updated budget draft will be provided for the November meeting.

## **X. STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Community Park Fitness Center**

President Altpeter asked if there was the need for further discussion and if any Commissioner had an opinion on staff's recommendation to cease operations at the end of March 2024. Commissioner Hummel asked about the organizations that the District may work with and inquired if there would be intergovernmental agreements. Director Garvy explained there are potential arrangements that are being developed with the park districts of Downers Grove and Woodridge, whereby Downers Grove has informally offered in-district rates for their fitness center in exchange for Lisle charging in-district rates to Sea Lion Aquatic Park. Commissioner Tapella inquired about total capacity of the aquatic park and whether there was any concern about Sea Lion Aquatic Park being able to accommodate a potential influx in patrons should an agreement be made with the Downers Grove Park District that may drive additional members and usage. Superintendent Pratscher stated that the facility rarely reaches full capacity and felt that Sea Lion Aquatic Park could accommodate the increase should it occur. Commissioner Tapella asked if there was a capacity limit for total memberships sold. Superintendent Pratscher stated that there was not a limit and reiterated that the facility could accommodate a potential increase in memberships due to those members visiting the facility at random and staggered times throughout the season. Director Garvy stated again that the primary issues are the operating costs

of Community Park Fitness, with the biggest impact being staff wages. He explained that fitness has remained in a state of decline since even before the pandemic and operations are not sustainable in staff's opinion. Commissioner Hummel asked if there is an average amount spent at the aquatic park concession stand. Superintendent Pratscher provided the typical annual amount of gross revenue sales at the concession stand and stated that an increase in attendance would naturally cause an increase in volume within concessions.

Commissioner Tapella stated her support to move forward with closing the fitness center despite it being a difficult decision. President Altpeter said she is a proponent of the fitness center but the facility does not attract new members. She stated her support of finding alternative ways to provide this service to the community and then revisit fitness options when the time comes to explore indoor recreation center space. Commissioner Wessel stated his support to close the facility. President Altpeter confirmed the consensus and direction to staff is to present a draft of the 2024 operating budget that includes Community Park Fitness ceasing operations at the end of March 2024. President Altpeter acknowledged the loyal group of fitness members and thanked them for the support over the years.

#### B. IMRF Park District Fund Balance

Commissioner Hummel asked about the criteria that would trigger a tax objection. President Altpeter asked if any commissioner had an interest in making a different IMRF payment amount. Director Garvy reiterated the rationale for staff's recommendation to make an additional payment of \$70,000.00 that would eliminate a tax objection and bring fund balance to roughly 50% of annual expenditures of that fund, which is a best practice. Commissioner Wessel and Commissioner Hummel asked about the least amount of money that could be spent extra this year that could help avoid a tax objection and would also allow for reducing the IMRF levy to zero. Superintendent Silver talked about various fund balance percentages and explained how the tax objection process typically takes place. He also stated that if the fund balance remains too high due to paying a lower amount, the same issue would occur the following year, as opposed to making a onetime payment now of \$70,000 this year to resolve the situation. Commissioner Tapella asked about what is considered the most responsible way to spend the money and conversation ensued. Director Garvy agreed to provide further information related to payment options for Board consideration in November.

Commissioner Wessel commented on the berry related vandalism at Arbor View Park. Director Garvy explained the nature of the situation and stated that the bushes have been replaced with non-fruit bearing vegetation.

Commissioner Hummel expressed appreciation of the Depot Days photo sharing that took place with other local groups to help promote the event. He also asked about registration numbers for the upcoming Monster Madness event. Superintendent Pratscher reported that current sales are trending lower than the previous year but that nice weather typically attracts a large amount of registration on the day of the event.

### **XI. LISLE PARTNERS FOR PARKS FOUNDATION REPORT**

### **XII. SEASPAR REPORT**

### **XIII. OFFICER REPORTS**

#### A. President, Commissioner Altpeter

President Altpeter reported she attended the National Recreation and Parks Association conference. She also reported that Neelay Blatt, the District's Strategic Master Plan consultant, is

confirmed to present at two sessions during the annual Illinois Park and Recreation Association conference in January.

B. Treasurer, Superintendent Silver  
Financial Reports ending September 30, 2023.

Superintendent Silver confirmed that currently all assets are FDIC insured and/or collateralized. He stated that the interest statement is in line with 2022 and reported that the enterprise fund is looking strong. Commissioner Hummel asked how the rain has impacted the golf course. Superintendent Silver explained that the recent rain had been difficult but reported that the cart path work that was previously completed had made a big impact on being able to remain open despite poor weather. Commissioner Hummel asked about any planned date to end operations for the season. Superintendent Silver confirmed operations are weather-dependent with no specific end date.

C. Commissioners' Reports

Board Meeting Recording/Televising – Discussion

President Altpeter asked if there was any interest in recording and televising board meetings. Commissioner Hummel stated he has always been an advocate for transparency and that the Park District and Fire District are the only entities within the Village of Lisle that don't record. Commissioner Hummel stated that he is not asking for meetings to be live streamed but rather the ability to post the recording online within a couple days. He stated that Naperville and Wheaton park districts record their meetings and said that the Lisle Park District already has incurred the costs of microphones. Commissioner Hummel stated that this would increase transparency and possibly participation as well. He said that meeting minutes don't always capture the full nature of the meeting and that if there will be discussion in the next 2-3 years about a new indoor recreation center, it would be a good topic of interest. He said there is staff that can set up and take down equipment and that this would help keep people informed.

Commissioner Wessel stated that he voted against recording meetings previously but does not have a strong opinion one way or the other.

President Altpeter stated that she appreciates the transparency issue, but she would be more supportive if this action was based upon a community driven request, rather than one board member requesting it. She said doing something of this nature depends on community engagement and whether it's something that the public wants. President Altpeter stated that when previously provided zoom links were available for the public to utilize to attend the meeting, only 1-2 people inquired, of which they were both prospective Park Board Commissioners. She questioned the purpose of the action and stated that recording meetings is not something that anyone from the community has asked for.

Commissioner Tapella stated she didn't feel strongly either way but said there needed to be an ask or need for such a decision and asked about the cost benefit of doing so. She also asked if there were any other legal concerns such as chain of custody, what happens if there is an equipment malfunction and a meeting does not get recorded.

Director Garvy stated that staff can investigate further, provide estimated costs, and look into any legal considerations related to recording and publishing meetings.

President Altpeter directed staff to add this topic to the November park board meeting agenda.

Commissioner Hummel asked when budget changes would be presented to the Board.

Director Garvy clarified that a list of changes made and options related to the IMRF payment amounts will be shared as soon as the budget is updated. He reiterated that the next meeting is a review of the updated budget draft and final action of approval takes place at the December meeting.

**XIV. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING**

Commissioner Wessel moved to adjourn the regular board meeting. Commissioner Tapella seconded.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote at 8:39 p.m.