

**THE LISLE PARK DISTRICT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MEETING
October 17, 2019**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: President Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Lisle Park District Recreation Multipurpose Room, 1925 Ohio Street, Lisle, IL 60532.

Director Garvy Called Roll:	Commissioners Present:	Altpeter Cook Ferron Olson Richter
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Also Present:	
Director	Garvy
Superintendent of Recreation	Pratscher
Superintendent of Parks	Cerutti
Superintendent of Finance	Silver
Cultural Arts, Rental & Office Manager	Nadeau
Superintendent of Restaurant & Golf	Shamberg
Superintendent of Marketing & Fund Development	Leone
Museum Manager	Gibson

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Cook led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ray Sojka stated he is a fan of the Park District, has supported what it does for years and appreciates the Park Board getting their board packet out so far in advance. He said he is here to talk about the proposed levy increase and requests the District really look at what they need in order to keep the levy flat. He stated every taxing body in the Village has to do their part to help reduce taxes and asked when the last time the District presented a flat levy. He said the District's fund balances are very high as a percentage of expenses and would like to see the District put more thought into their process and present a flat levy.

Mr. Vince Solano stated he has been coming to Park District board meetings for years and sees how hard staff works to control expenses and is proud of what they are able to do with the tax money they receive. He said he has no problem with the levy amount as presented.

IV. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

Commissioner Altpeter moved to approve the meeting agenda for the regular meeting for Thursday, October 17, 2019. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Altpeter moved to approve consent agenda items A, B, C, D, and E.
Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

- A. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 19, 2019.
- B. Approve October 17, 2019 Voucher List in the amount of \$521,948.70.
- C. Authorize the attendance of Commissioner Altpeter, Cook, and Richter at the Illinois Association of Park District/Illinois Park and Recreation Association annual conference in Chicago, IL on January 23-25, 2020.
- D. Approve the reservation of Sunday, November 24, 2019 for the Lisle Area Chamber of Commerce Turkey Trot Tune Up 5K in Community Park.
- E. Award the 2020 Portable Toilet Services to Service Sanitation, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$17,100.00.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Richter, Ferron, Olson, Cook

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

President Cook stated a note thanking the District for Depot Days was included in the board packet.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 Budget-Discussion

Director Garvy stated the 2020 Budget draft is presented for review and discussion. Commissioner Richter asked if the health insurance increases are realistic. Director Garvy replied they are and explained that when the District moved from the broker relationship to that of becoming members of the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefits Cooperative pool, we were told to expect low single digit increases, and we have.

Commissioner Altpeter asked if the minimum wage increases were included in the budget. Superintendent Silver said yes, the wage increases are projected at an increase of \$94,200 for 2020.

Commissioner Ferron asked about the increase of the boat launch expenses at \$180,000 and if that was reduced would it reduce the budget costs or levy. Superintendent Silver stated that money is in capital so it doesn't affect the levy amount. Commissioner Ferron asked why staff budgeted \$180,000 when the Park Board rejected the bids that came in at that amount. Director Garvy replied staff is presenting what it believes is a realistic budget and if the Board chooses not to award the project if it comes in at a similar price it has the ability to do so. Commissioner Ferron said he doesn't want to spend the money simply because it's in the budget. He asked what the staff can do to reduce the levy amount. Superintendent Silver explained the levy and how new construction including the Marq on Main, the recent annexations are major contributing factors to the increase in the levy.

Commissioner Richter stated he didn't think the Board said \$180,000 for the launch was too much, but rather that it exceeded the budget and wanted to rebid the project in 2019 to see where it came in.

Commissioner Ferron asked if \$100,000 for the master plan was an appropriate allocation. Director Garvy stated it is and cited the \$80,000 the District spent on the 2006 master plan as well as inquiries he had made of other park districts that have recently gone through a similar process. Director Garvy stated this is an important project because staff is regularly challenged to lower taxes while also being pushed to reduce program and membership fees, improve and expand facilities and purchase property and community input is critical to aligning resources to where the majority of the community desires.

Commissioner Olson asked if there are any opportunities to fill the gap between the original budget of \$120,000 for the boat launch and the low bid amount of \$180,000. He asked for staff's recommendation on expenditure reductions to keep the levy increase below 5%. He said delaying payments on pension obligations is not responsible, but he's willing to explore any recommendations staff would offer.

President Cook asked about contracted mowing and maintenance at the school sites, particularly the new Elementary School site. Director Garvy replied the cost to maintain the new expansive landscaping there results in a notable increase in expenses to the Park District but that he and School District Superintendent Filipiak have begun talks on a revised intergovernmental agreement that might present an opportunity for some expenditure relief but at this time he is not in a position to report those details. He said at this time he is not comfortable reducing that allocation. Commissioner Altpeter stated she would like to see language about the Park District's continued access and use of schools the School District leases to others, namely Schiesher, included in a future IGA.

President Cook asked when the last time fees were increased. Superintendent Pratscher stated it depends on the program but the Recreation Department is proposing strategic fee increases in select programs and remains in the process of comparing programs to other districts.

Commissioner Cook asked about the paving work in Community Park. Superintendent Cerutti stated the south side of Community still needs to be completed which includes the Yackley path and widening of the path around the turn by ballfield #4. He said Carriage Hill Park is also up for new paving.

Commissioner Olson stated he appreciates the budget memo and how it highlights the increase in debt service to make the pool referendum payment. He said staff and board continues to include capital funding to maintain that facility which can hopefully avoid a future referendum. He said when that debt is retired in a couple years there is a significant opportunity to get a break to the taxpayers.

President Cook said appreciates staff's work on the budget and anticipates more questions as we move forward. Director Garvy asked for more specific direction and explained the approval schedule as being ideally the Park Board approves a tentative budget in November for them to take final action in December.

Commissioner Olson said he would not suggest a flat levy; however anything over 5% is tough for him to support. Superintendent Silver suggested an abatement of what is extended over the 5% as a means to capture the annexations and any new growth without compromising the District's ability to keep pace with what is allowable under State Statute. He reported not all of the Park District's funds contain the 6 month balance as policy states.

Commissioner Richter suggested staff present options for the November meeting that include recommendations to reduce the levy by \$20,000, \$40,000, etc. for a total that would reduce the levy to below a 5% increase. Consensus followed.

B. Illinois Association of Park Districts Credentials Certificate

Commissioner Altpeter moved to designate Commissioner Altpeter as the delegate, President Cook as the alternate and Commissioner Richter as second alternate to the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Association of Park Districts to be held at the Hyatt Hotel, Chicago, Illinois on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 3:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom E/F.

Commissioner Richter Seconded.

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

IX. STAFF REPORTS

President Cook stated there needs to be discussion on the Home Depot project and the Lisle Heritage Society agreement. He said he does not like the overall lack of communication and organization of the Heritage Society and that the Park Board has been waiting for almost two years for an updated agreement. He said the project list for the Home Depot grant continues to change, the Park District leases the property from the Village of Lisle but funds the vast majority of the facility's maintenance and operations yet the Heritage Society has made decisions that affect the Park District without consulting the Park District. He suggested nothing move forward until the Park District receives a signed agreement by the Heritage Society. Director Garvy explained the project as he knows it to be today and said it is a return to the original list as presented in April and no longer includes the two new structures that the Society presented recently. Commissioner Richter stated there needs to be accountability, the current structure of the Society isn't working, there is poor leadership and lack of communication both inside and out. He said they have done some real good things but to be successful partners they need to get their house in order. Commissioner Altpeter said she agrees and has been a member of the Heritage Society for years, has participated in numerous activities in the past and generally supports their efforts, but she does not understand why and how it can take almost two years for staff to finally begin face to face talks on renewing the agreement. Commissioner Olson agreed and said it is for all these reasons why we need a new agreement but said he does not want the Park District to stand in the way of the project or other events the Society and District have planned for the next couple of months, specifically Once Upon a Christmas at the museum campus. He said he's been pushing Director Garvy on the agreement for well over a year and said a hard deadline must be issued. He suggested that if by December 31 there is not a fully executed agreement that the Park District exercise its right to give the Heritage Society notice of the Park District's intent to terminate the current agreement. Commissioner Ferron said he agrees with everything that's been said, including the blowback should the Park District prohibit any further activity until a signed agreement is in place and reiterated the need to give and stick to a hard deadline. Discussion continued with the unanimous consensus being the Park District must receive a signed agreement satisfactory to the Park District no later than December 31, 2019 and that failure of the Heritage Society to do so will result in the Park District giving them notice of termination under the terms of the existing agreement.

Commissioner Olson thanked the marketing department for reaching out to West Side Tractor and for their support of the Discovery Playground project.

Commissioner Ferron asked for clarification on the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau. Superintendent Leone stated they give the Lisle Park District a complementary membership as part of their agreement with the Village of Lisle and that the Bureau has been posting a lot of what staff has been sending them. She said she hasn't noticed any increase in attendance or website traffic as a result but will keep the Board informed moving forward.

Commissioner Olson stated he thinks the Parks Department partnering with the library for the mini libraries is a great accomplishment and was happy to see it benefiting a local scout and both public entities. He said he hopes we can continue to work together and expand into other parks.

Commissioner Altpeter commended Superintendent Shamberg for removing the evening busser positions to reduce restaurant expenses and agreed that the construction on Rte. 53 has affected business.

X. PARTNERS FOR PARKS REPORT

Superintendent Leone reported the foundation report is included in the Board Packet. She reported Scarecrow Scramble went well with 317 runners despite the unfavorable weather conditions.

XI. SEASPAR REPORT

Director Garvy stated the SEASPAR report is included in the Board Packet.

XII. OFFICER REPORTS

A. President, Commissioner Cook

President Cook reported he attended the Lisle Partners for Parks Foundation Fundraiser at Wheatstack and encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans Day event located at the Memorial on Sunday, November 10th at 11:00 am.

B. Treasurer, Financial Reports ending September 30, 2019

Superintendent Silver reported the district's investments are all FDIC insured and/or collateralized. He stated that if the board doesn't levy to capture new growth and the newly annexed properties it will affect the budget and the District's ability to fund operations and projects each year in the future. He said he just wants the Board to know they may be handcuffing future boards by not capturing this new growth. He said Mr. Sojka's comparing fund balances as a percentage of District expenses and claiming it results in overall long-term District financial health is inaccurate and misleading. He added the District's fund balances are higher at this time because it just received its second annual tax payment from DuPage County in September and this will be spent down over the next nine months until the District received its next payment in June 2020.

C. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Altpeter reported she attended the National Recreation and Park Association Conference in Baltimore. She stated there is a lot of value in these conferences for staff and board members and explained a couple sessions she attended. She reported she is proud to learn that a lot of what other park districts are just learning about or beginning the Lisle Park District is already doing. She stated she volunteered at Scarecrow Scramble and attended the Lisle Partners for Parks Foundation Fundraiser at Wheatstack.

Commissioner Richter stated he was volunteering at Scarecrow and just wanted to comment on how fantastic the kids in Lisle are. He said he's lived in other communities

yet has never seen teens who are as supportive and generally kind as he's observed in Lisle, most recently as he volunteered for Scarecrow Scramble. He reported he attended the Intergovernmental Committee meeting. He stated the Village was again not in attendance but that he continues to find it gratifying to hear how supportive all the other government agencies are of each other.

XIII. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING

Commissioner Olson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm and Commissioner Richter seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.