



**THE LISLE PARK DISTRICT  
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR MEETING- Remote via Zoom  
February 18, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** President Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. via remote access, stating the pursuant to State of Illinois Executive Order 2020-07 suspending the requirement of in person attendance by members of the public body, the February 18, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held using remote participation. Director Garvy, Superintendent Silver, President Cook and Commissioner Olson were present at the Lisle Park District Recreation Multipurpose Room, 1925 Ohio Street, Lisle, IL 60532.

Director Garvy Called Roll:	Commissioners Present in person:	Cook Olson
	Commissioners Present via telephone remote access:	Altpeter Richter Ferron
	Staff Present in-person: Director of Parks & Recreation Superintendent of Finance	Garvy Silver
	Also Present via telephone remote access: Superintendent of Recreation Superintendent of Parks Cultural Arts, Rental & Office Manager Recreation Program Manager Athletic & Youth Camp Manager Parks Manager Youth & Early Childhood Manager Facilities & Safety Manager Recreation & Fitness Manager Senior Accountant	Pratscher Cerutti Nadeau Breihan Wise Hamilton Jehs Mendez Jayne Culbertson

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

None.

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Gentle Learning Preschool Update – Jill Jehs, Youth & Early Childhood Manager. Superintendent Pratscher introduced Jill Jehs, Youth & Early Childhood Manager to the Park Board. He said Jill has been successful in managing preschool for 65 students this year through a combination of virtual, in person and hybrid models and she will oversee preschool, EDGE, a variety of early childhood programs and a variety of special events. President Cook welcomed Jill on behalf of the board. Jill thanked the Board and said she is excited to be here and there are great things coming in 2021.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Tom Hummel said he is glad to see the park district partnering with the township on the garden plots, saying he suggested this to Director Garvy last March. He commented that he is happy to see Wheatstack being outsourced but said the license agreement should have been bid out. He said he thinks the licensee should pay for the parking lot if it is replaced in 2022 and should the Park Board approve the replacement of the sign later in the meeting, will the licensee pay for a portion of that or will he get use of a free sign. He asked about the park district and licensee's role in the event video gambling becomes legal within the Village of Lisle. He asked if the parking lot expansion that was discussed previously receives ongoing attention, would the licensee pay a significant portion of that cost since the supposed demand would be from the restaurant. He said again the process lacked transparency and should have been discussed in November and/or December.

#### **V. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA**

Commissioner Altpeter moved to approve the meeting agenda for the regular meeting for Thursday, February 18, 2021. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Richter, Ferron, Olson, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

#### **V. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Altpeter moved to approve consent agenda items A, B, and C.

A. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 21, 2021.

B. Approve the February 2021 Voucher List in the amount of \$132,944.31.

C. Approve the reservation of Saturday, September 25, 2021 for set up and Sunday, September 26, 2021 for the DuPage Humane Society's Barkapalooza dog walk in Community Park.

Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Richter, Ferron, Altpeter, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None

#### **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

President Cook thanked Superintendent Silver for his work in securing this for another year.

B. Daily Herald Article- Photo Contest Winners.

President Cook announced the winners and thanked them for their participation and entering the contest. He said he is saddened the park board was unable to recognize the winners in person.

#### **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Arbor View Park Playground and Court Area Redevelopment Landscape Architectural Services.

Director Garvy reported the memo with Signature Design Group's proposal is in the Board Packet and between him and Superintendent Cerutti would be happy to answer any other questions.

President Cook stated the proposal is very thorough and knows the work will be very well presented.

Commissioner Altpeter moved to award the Arbor View Playground & Court Area Redevelopment Architectural Service work to Signature Design Group in the amount of \$50,450.

Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Richter, Olson, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: Ferron

B. River Bend/Wheatstack Electronic Sign Replacement.

President Cook asked Director Garvy if his comments were shared with the board, to which Garvy said they were. President Cook said he is open to what the Board wants to do. Commissioner Altpeter said she is not in favor of doing anything currently considering the pandemic and the uncertain financial needs in the near future. Commissioner Richter said he agrees with Commissioner Altpeter but said he can support the use of vinyl signs until the District is on more stable ground. Commissioner Olson said he is appreciative of all the options presented in staff's memo and he agrees with Commissioners Altpeter and Richter. He said not doing it today does not restrict the ability to do something in the future. Commissioner Ferron said he agrees with not moving forward and maybe revisiting it in the future. President Cook asked if vinyl signs can be made in house, to which Director Garvy said yes. President Cook said the consensus of the board is to be on more stable ground and to hold off on the expense for now.

## **IX. STAFF REPORTS**

President Cook mentioned it is sad to see how COVID effected operations. He said the District lost good people and staff and he is proud and appreciative of how the existing staff stepped up with innovative ways to help our residents still enjoy the programs, parks and facilities. He said he never thought he would see the day that golf was the most popular thing at the District and credits staff for making that possible. He said he recognizes the fitness center took a big hit but reiterated the role staff played in making the most out of what was possible for our residents.

Commissioner Richter commented that the effect of COVID was dramatic on the fitness center, but in comparing the first two months of 2020, it was apparent that Superintendent Pratscher and Manager Jayne are on the right track in turning the facility around and we have the right people in place.

Commissioner Ferron stated he wants to reiterate the efforts of staff and said he is not sure everybody appreciates how much of the park district's revenue comes from

programs, being close to 40% and unlike other entities in the community who have the luxury of having close to 100% of their revenue from taxes and didn't make the sacrifices the park district did. He said this team did a phenomenal job in navigating the waters and in his opinion, nobody else in the Lisle area had the same challenges and rose to them the same way the park district team did. He said from a financial position, the District is in good place due to the sacrifices staff made. He stated the park district is far above some of the other resources in the area, some of which never laid off or furloughed anybody for a temporary time give taxpayers relief and he appreciates all the efforts and work and he's looking forward to a better 2021.

Commissioner Olson acknowledged Manager Jayne's and Superintendent Pratscher's efforts with the fitness center. He asked Director Garvy for an update on the Arboretum Woods bike path project and how this project relates to the Com Ed corridor project. Director Garvy stated the status of the Warrenville Road Bridge project is the county reportedly received federal permits and are planning on construction for 2022-23. He said they are currently working on an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Lisle because the Village will be paying the difference between the original concept and the underpass, since that underpass is being considered at the Village's request. He said the park district had previously agreed to allow use of the park for a widened right of way and for compensatory storage that the underpass will require and said he believes one of the next steps will be to entertain an intergovernmental agreement either with the county or with the village or both but does not expect anything until summer or fall. He said regarding the ComEd corridor opportunity, there are no parks adjacent to the right of way. He referenced the relationship in Woodridge where the park district maintains the right of way and path and that he is not necessarily opposed to that at this time, but whoever accepts that responsibility must recognize it is a significant endeavor, saying it is a mile of 10-foot-wide path and turf maintenance and a price tag comes with it. He said he sees no way the park district can absorb that with what it has currently. He said this will all be part of due diligence, and he expects to attend a meeting with ComEd and the village in the near future. Commissioner Olson said it makes sense to be part of the conversation but is curious if other units of government like the township or school district can be involved. Commissioner Richter said there were interesting conditions regarding negligence and that Com Ed reportedly requires a lessee to indemnify them for their own negligence. Director Garvy said that has been the case in the past, but Woodridge was able to successfully negotiate that away. Commissioner Altpeter said she is concerned considering the district's limited resources and does not believe the park district is in a position to devote a lot of time or resources considering how thin staff is stretched right now. President Cook said he has a hard time thinking the park district has anything to do with it considering the amount of turf and path that would need to be maintained. He said he noticed the village approved \$200,000 towards the Warrenville Road bridge project but again, he thinks it is wrong what they are doing and how much the park district has to give with storage for their compensatory storage to putting ramps on park district property.

Commissioner Altpeter commended Superintendent Pratscher and Manager Jayne and their staff for their efforts at the fitness center and their success in retaining members during the pandemic. She noted virtual programs are successful and commends staff for adapting so quickly. She said she wanted staff to know their efforts are recognized in keeping things going.

#### **X.PARTNERS FOR PARKS REPORT**

The Partners for Parks Report is included in the Board Packet. Manager Jayne added to be on the lookout for a popcorn fundraiser.

## **XI. SEASPAR REPORT**

The SEASPAR report is included in the Board Packet.

## **XII. OFFICER REPORTS**

### **A. President, Commissioner Cook**

No report.

### **B. Treasurer, Financial Reports ending, January 31, 2021.**

Superintendent Silver stated the District's investments are all collateralized or FDIC insured. He reported the District is slightly ahead from last year at this time. He stated the Recreation Fund is struggling staff is proud that it is about break even, which is very good considering the limited programming revenue and a lot of expenses are fixed. He said the Enterprise Fund is ahead of pace without the restaurant. He said a CD matured in January.

### **C. Commissioners' Reports.**

None.

## **XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Olson moved to enter closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)6, the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body and 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 Altpeter seconded.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Altpeter, Ferron, Richter, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

Motion Passed at 7:42 p.m.

## **XIV. OPEN MEETING**

### **XV. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Board returned to open session at 7:55 pm.

Roll Call: Olson, Ferron, Altpeter, Richter, Cook. Director Garvy stated the Board was in closed session pursuant to sections 2(c)6 and 2(c)21.

### **XVI. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

A. Wheatstack License Agreement – Possible Action.

Commissioner Olson moved to approve the Wheatstack – A Midwestern Eatery & Tap food and beverage operations license agreement. Commissioner Ferron seconded the motion.

Commissioner Olson said he appreciates the effort and work that has been put into this opportunity. He said the restaurant industry certainly has its challenges and the park district has had revenue challenges that he said Commissioner Ferron voiced earlier in the meeting that is not tax based but is crucial to the park district more so than the other taxing districts. He said one thing to keep in mind is the opportunity cost, referencing public comment and the process the park district followed. He said considering the ability in 2021 to have a licensee open and operating and not have another lost year is

an opportunity cost that is worth moving forward. He said it is uncertain what the bidding process would have revealed, but being able to move forward not only quickly, but also with a licensee who is familiar with the client base and the park district, it is a risk worth taking. He said sometimes you go out to bid you find out a bird in the hand is better than two in the bush so he said he appreciates the concern, but he is comfortable with the process.

Commissioner Richter added he understands the concern voiced in public comment and how it looks from the outside, but part of the reason it was not open to public bidding was the fact we had the opportunity to work with someone who has shown they can run the restaurant well, but also can uphold what we want to see in a restaurant that is so closely associated with the park district. He said it is also difficult to separate Wheatstack from the park district and the manner in which the restaurant is run will reflect on the park district and bringing someone in who can do the right thing was an opportunity worth taking.

Commissioner Altpeter said she concurs with Commissioners Olson and Richter, and this is a tradeline that is so closely associated with the park district, for us it is a risk worth taking knowing the consistency of branding will be there and we already have a vetted licensee.

Commissioner Richter noted the licensee was also very flexible with the additional terms the park district imposed on him, over and above what we would expect from an outside restaurant operator.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Ferron, Richter, Altpeter, Cook.

Absent:

Nays:

Motion passed.

B. Approve certain closed session meeting minutes.

Commissioner Altpeter moved to approve the closed session meeting minutes of August 20, 2020; November 12, 2020; December 17, 2020; and January 21, 2021. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Olson, Ferron, Richter, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

C. Release certain closed session meeting minutes.

Commissioner Altpeter moved to release the closed session meeting minutes of August 20, 2020 and December 17, 2020. Commissioner Ferron seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Ferron, Olson, Richter, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

D. Authorize the destruction of verbatim recordings of certain closed session meetings.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Altpeter moved to authorize the destruction of the verbatim recordings of the closed session meetings of February 21, 2019 and August 15, 2019. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Ayes: Altpeter, Richter, Ferron, Olson, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

**XVII. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING**

Commissioner Olson moved to adjourn the open meeting. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Olson, Richter, Altpeter, Ferron, Cook

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

Motion passed at 8:05 pm.