



**THE LISLE PARK DISTRICT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2021**

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

Director Garvy Called Roll:	Commissioners Present:	Richter Altpeter Costello Hummel Wessel
	Commissioners Absent:	None.
	Staff Present:	
	Director of Parks & Recreation	Garvy
	Superintendent of Finance	Silver
	Superintendent of Recreation	Pratscher
	Superintendent of Parks	Cerutti
	Cultural Arts, Rental & Office Manager	Nadeau
	Assistant Superintendent of Recreation	Dale

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Richter led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Introduction of new Museum Manger Grace Heiderman
- B. Introduction of new Recreation & Registration Assistant Melissa Grant

Superintendent Pratscher introduced the newest staff members, Grace and Melissa to the board. They both started full time on August 31st with the District.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

Commissioner Altpeter moved to approve the meeting agenda for the regular meeting for Thursday, October 21, 2021. Commissioner Costello seconded the motion.

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

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Altpeter moved to approve consent agenda items A through C.

- A. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 16, 2021.
- B. Approve October 2021 Voucher List in the amount of \$555,548.94.

C. Approve the reservation of Sunday, November 21, 2021 for the Lisle Area Chamber of Commerce Turkey Trot Tune Up 5K Walk/Run in Community Park.

Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Altpeter, Wessel, Hummel, Costello, Richter

Absent: None.

Nays: None.

Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 21-02 – an Ordinance amending certain provisions of the Lisle Park District's Board Member Policy Manual and adopting a remote attendance policy.

Commissioner Hummel moved to adopt Ordinance 21-02 – an Ordinance amending certain provisions of the Lisle Park District's Board Member Policy Manual and adopting a remote attendance policy. Commissioner Wessel seconded the motion.

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

B. 2022 Budget Draft – discussion

President Richter started of the discussion by thanking staff for the detailed memo. He thanked board members who met with staff individually to go over questions and thanked Commissioner Hummel for submitting his questions ahead of time.

Superintendent Silver stated he was reminded that one of his responsibilities is to educate the board so they can make decisions with accurate information. He thanked Commissioners Altpeter, Wessel, Costello and President Richter for taking time out of their day to meet with him and Director Garvy to discuss the 2022 Budget, saying it's a valuable tool and lesson so that he can answer any and all questions they may have. He said it also allowed him to get a sense of what the Board is looking for in the budget, and he believes that after each meeting that each commissioner was supportive of the current budget as presented as no one asked him to make any adjustments. He said they are certainly welcome to offer further commentary as nothing was finalized other than trying to make sure staff answered all of their questions satisfactorily. He thanked Commissioner Hummel for taking time to review and submit questions as well. Superintendent Silver stated the tax levy is a major talking point that staff needs more clarification on.

He stated to Commissioner Hummel that he has made previous comments that he needs more clarification on so that he can better understand what his goals are.

Superintendent Silver said Commissioner Hummel stated at the June 17th Board meeting that he would like to see a "flat levy" for the 2022 Budget, and he had mentioned to him after that meeting that he wanted to see the budget in a flat levy and that he didn't care if the following year that the tax levy was increased. He continued by saying some of Commissioner Hummel's questions on the 2022 budget raised questions that are tied to

the tax levy. He asked Commissioner Hummel for clarification, saying he thinks this is a critical discussion to have as a group so that we all understand each other, and he asked him what he means by a flat levy.

Commissioner Hummel stated the operating levy should be flat and the dollar amount shouldn't be higher than last year, with the exception that the debt payment causes the total dollar amount to increase.

Superintendent Silver stated in that scenario, then the Lisle Park District would not collect the new growth of the District and everyone would not be paying their fair share, which was a point of contention Commissioner Hummel had made earlier in opposition to the downtown TIF. Superintendent Silver stated if we levy to capture new growth, then everyone pays their fair share which he believes is one of Commissioner Hummel's priority.

President Richter stated if the district only levies an increase tied to the December 2020 CPI of 1.4% with inflation and the current CPI at over 5% the District will be forced to make further cuts and the board would essentially be starving out Park District funds.

Commissioner Costello said we are dealing with two complex things, accounting and the law. He said without a referendum, the District is only allowed to levy to the tax cap and inflation.

Superintendent Silver stated there is a compounding affect if the District exercises a flat levy even for only one year for a year, reporting that over twenty years there is a loss of over 4 million dollars in revenue the District could have collected to maintain its assets which total over \$37 million. He explained different scenarios available that would limit or eliminate this loss of revenue, and explained the District is likely to receive less than what his proposed levy requests, but he inflates his levy slightly to be sure he captures new growth and any increase in the EAV. He said the District is financially sound, it doesn't have huge fund balances, and the Lisle Park District has a track record of being good stewards of the taxpayer's money. He said the District is here to provide services to the community, and in his opinion the District needs these financial resources to maintain what the community has come to expect.

Director Garvy stated he understands the concern with rising property taxes and stated the park district is constantly faced with projects that require the accumulation of more funds a single year can provide, including the Arbor View Park renovations, protective canopy at the railroad track underpass in Community Park, the current pond study and likely costly recommendations that will follow, pickleball courts, expanding the community's bike paths, making drainage improvements to Community Park ballfield #5, and the yet to be determined priorities everyone needs to expect from the strategic master plan next year. He said the pandemic has reset perspective in many areas, not the least of which is parks and recreation and the value people place in it, yet the Lisle Park District had reduced full-time headcount by a third, reduced total headcount by two thirds, and reduced parks department labor by 94% in 2020 and 2021. He said restoring staff that this budget allows for has been driven by a demand for services and the 2022 budget aligns the District to deliver services the community has come to expect, all while chasing a 5.4% increase in prices over the past 12 months. He said the community at large supports the Lisle Park District's allocation of their tax investments and cited the absence of direct commentary when the levy request is presented, with the exception of one or two individuals, and when someone does attend a meeting, they are usually asking for more or better services rather than asking us to reduce them. He stated the District's tax levy history has positioned the Board to maintain a forward-

looking approach without accumulating large fund balances while maintaining the flexibility to be responsive to unexpected requests like pickleball, outdoor fitness stations, and other projects. He concluded by saying the result of this approach to the tax levy and wise allocation of tax dollars has resulted in an employment culture and service delivery history that has kept the board room and other public interactions supportive, complimentary, free from controversy, and progress focused.

Commissioner Hummel stated the enterprise fund debt payment comes off the books next year, the recreation fund has covered the payment for them for many years, and asked if there is a plan for the enterprise fund to pay back the recreation fund over time. He said he feels with the constraints of the restaurant gone and considering the park district chose not to address its performance while it continued to lose money, there are consequences to reopening the restaurant during a pandemic. He said the money that the restaurant has lost over the years should be paid back.

Commissioner Altpeter stated the board inherited that restaurant from a board close to 20 years ago and that is unfair to say that when you weren't on the board making that decision. She said the community values the parks and services we offer, one of the shining lights of this community is all the parks, and we have to be responsible and maintain these levels of service whether it's the golf course or other assets.

Commissioner Costello said looking at the budget the first thing he thought to cut was the fitness center, but then looking at the numbers, it covers itself. He said he believes we need to take advantage of the taxing authority coming out of a pandemic and you need to get back to building up what was reduced or removed previously. He said cutting anything would be park district malpractice and he feels the proposed budget is a reasonable budget.

Commissioner Wessel said everyone else made many of the points he was going to make and said he's not sure what's going to happen after the last two years, but he said he has no problems with the budget as presented as it will provide the flexibility to continue to address what is needed.

Commissioner Richter also said he is happy with the budget as is and feels if we cut anything now, we would be creating many more problems down the road.

Commissioner Hummel asked why commissioner conference expenses seem so high. Commissioner Altpeter stated the value in attending conferences is very high, especially for new members of the board. Commissioner Hummel said he is fine with state conference, but he doesn't feel the national conference is necessary.

President Richter said it depends where the conference is located and said in his opinion and experience the national conference provides the best in educational opportunities, networking, and learning about new industry products and services.

Commissioner Hummel stated he would like to see something in the budget for the enterprise fund paying back the recreation fund. President Richter said he likes the idea. Commissioner Hummel said it would be a little over time and he does know it will take a while. Superintendent Silver stated there are a lot of maintenance issues that need attention at the golf course because there has been a lot of heavy use the past two years, divots need to be fixed, and there are 53 trees that need to be removed and many replaced. President Richter agrees we need to maintain the asset, but we also need to slowly give back. He asked what the history is of golf courses making a profit.

Director Garvy stated that golf is profitable, but the restaurant has drawn it down. He said the board can definitely decide that when the course generates positive revenue, part of that can be returned to recreation fund, for example, 75% remains within the Enterprise Fund while 25% funds other District projects. He said we all need to be cautious in that the District doesn't know what will happen with golf after the pandemic. Superintendent Silver also stated that the course is entirely in the floodplain and one bad flood can have a significant impact.

Commissioner Altpeter said maintenance at the course is key, and we don't want to get a reputation of being a course that isn't kept up.

Superintendent Cerutti reported the irrigation system is original to the course and over 30 years old. He stated parts have been extremely difficult to acquire and that is another facility component that most people think about when they think about pending maintenance needs.

Commissioner Hummel stated he would like to add in a line item and allocation for video equipment to record the board meetings. He said he wasn't looking for an official decision now, but if there's an allocation the board can discuss whether or not to move forward at some point in the future.

Commissioner Altpeter stated the board talked about that previously and wasn't interested in pursuing it. She said putting it in the budget would be seen as an end around and it gives the false impression that the rest of the board is supportive of the allocation.

Commissioner Hummel stated he recollects the previous discussion being the board would revisit it in the future. He said video recording meetings is about improving transparency.

Discussion ensued with the consensus being to not include that allocation.

Commissioner Hummel stated his other comment was he was fine with the salary study for staff that is allocated in the budget draft however, the salaries should not be compared to the private sector as that artificially inflates them.

Commissioner Hummel stated he doesn't think we need to have two bands on July 4th and feels that one band and the fireworks is enough. He said the line item is fine but suggested allocating those funds to have a band on another night by extending the entertainment series. Commissioner Richter stated he feels two bands are good for a community event with fireworks afterwards. Commissioner Wessel agreed with President Richter, saying he spends his summers in the parks listening to concerts. Commissioner Costello also agreed with President Richter and supports the concerts as presented. Director Garvy also said the Lisle Partners for Parks Foundation will be considering fundraising opportunities for the summer entertainment series as a means to make up for not having Eyes to the Skies' opportunity.

Director Garvy recapped the next steps. He said the final budget will be presented in November for one more board review and based on tonight's discussion, it will likely be the same budget you see here. He said it will then go on public display for 30 days, then it will be presented for final approval at the December board meeting. He thanked the commissioners for asking the questions they did, and specifically thanked Commissioner Hummel for his level of detail and interest in knowing what goes into many areas of park district operations.

X. STAFF REPORTS

Commissioner Hummel stated it's sad to continue to see vandalism in the parks. He said the DuPage Sheriff's Work Alternative Program team working to clean up the parks was nice to see and asked about the tennis courts project. Director Garvy reported the Community Park courts opened today and the Abbeywood Park courts are next as soon as conditions permit. He reported the support and flexibility from Lisle 202 coaches and Athletic Director in light of the exorbitant project delays has been wonderful.

XI. PARTNERS FOR PARKS REPORT

The Partners for Parks Report is included in the Board Packet. Commissioner Hummel asked if the foundation has discussed funding options to replace the loss from Eyes to the Skies yet. Director Garvy reported they briefly discussed it and opportunities that may be possible at the summer concerts, but they haven't decided anything yet.

XII. SEASPAR REPORT

The SEASPAR report is included in the Board Packet.

XIII. OFFICER REPORTS

A. President Richter

President Richter stated he attended Depot Days and he especially liked the 1961 tractor that was there. He reported the fitness trail donations are coming along well with their goal currently being about 50-60% funded.

B. Treasurer, Commissioner Wessel

i. Financial Reports ending, July 31, 2021

Superintendent Silver reported the investments are all collateralized or insured. Silver reported the account income statement is included in the board packet and he is happy to answer any questions. Commissioner Hummel asked about the enterprise fund credit of \$4,339, to which Superintendent Silver explained that was the park district's share of a cooler replacement.

C. Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Wessel reported he attended the Scarecrow Scramble event. Director Garvy thanked him for staying until the end of the event, saying it really showed support and interest to the staff.

Commissioner Altpeter reported she attended the senior bingo at the Senior Center and complimented Manager Breihan for collaborating with DuPage County with offering the booster shot opportunity to residents. She reported she also attended the DuPage County Museum annual meeting where long time Lisle Heritage Society volunteer Bob Goodwin received an award.

i. Village of Lisle TIF District Annual Joint Review Board Meeting

Commissioner Hummel stated he has concerns on the TIF in downtown Lisle and said now is the time to express an opinion if the park district has one. President Richter stated he is impressed with the stamina of the developer and would be happy if the Lisle Park District could receive the impact fees of \$325,000 from the project rather than nothing if a residential component is not included in the development. He said there has been nothing there for so long he wants to support it, and the more people we get in downtown the more things will get moving. Commissioner Altpeter agreed with President Richter. She said the park district's role is not to tell other agencies what they can or can't do, plus she knows developers go to communities that offer these sorts of incentives. Commissioner Wessel agreed, saying he is supportive of development and

thinks that is something the park district should support. Commissioner Hummel stated the 2002 TIF was shut down by the Library and District 202 and considering the Lisle Park District is on the Joint Review Board, we do have a voice and an opportunity to express our opinion. He said he feels a TIF is like stealing tax dollars from the community and giving it to the developer. He said he is fine with the project itself, just not that it's part of the TIF. Commissioner Costello agreed with President Richter and Commissioners Altpeter and Wessel and said it's important to maintain a good working relationship with the Village and to work to secure the impact fees this proposed development would provide the park district.

Superintendent Silver asked for clarification on the board's statement because he will be attending the joint review board meeting on Wednesday. President Richter stated based on this discussion, the board's official statement is the park district supports the proposed development and hopes it sparks interest and activity on the remaining parcels within the TIF.

XIV. ADJOURN OPEN MEETING

Commissioner Altpeter motioned to adjourn the open meeting. Commissioner Costello seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote at 9:16 p.m.