

BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT
Annerino Community Center – Board Room
Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2021

Commissioner Vastalo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Roll call: Andrews, Cairy, Hix, McVey, President Vastalo.

President Vastalo began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion Commissioner Vastalo, second Commissioner Cairy to approve the agenda. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, Cairy, Hix, McVey, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

Motion Commissioner Vastalo, second Commissioner Andrews to approve the following meetings:

- Monthly Work Shop Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2021
- Closed Session Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2021
- Monthly Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2021

Roll Call: Ayes: Andrews, Cairy, Hix, McVey, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC

Commissioner Cairy said he spoke to Alice Murray, a resident regarding the potential sale of Hidden Oaks Nature Center and Hidden Lakes. She had some questions and concerns we were able to address which was general information that was already addressed multiple times through various channels. Ms. Murray is looking forward to seeing what the Forest Preserve is able to do with the facilities. Her main concern is with Will County government.

Ms. Murray talked about the trees in Heritage Park. She is concerned about 3 willow trees she believes to be in poor condition. Commissioner Cairy said that is being taken care of. Commissioner Cairy will get back to Ms. Murray regarding the bridge update.

Executive Director Ron Oestreich received correspondence from Robert Widuch, a Bolingbrook resident. Mr. Widuch would like to know what the estimate sale price is for Hidden Lakes and Hidden Oaks to Will County Forest Preserve District and are we applying that to existing debt service. Oestreich replied to Mr. Widuch that the district is still in final negotiations on the final sale price. Once we are at that sale price it will be public information and yes, we will be applying that to debt and interest payments. Oestreich said Mr. Widuch gave him the thumbs up!

Commissioner Vastalo received correspondence that Jim Conrad, previous board member, passed away and asked for a moment silence.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC

None

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Executive Director Ron Oestreich turned the floor over to Kim Smith, Director of Marketing and Customer Care. Kim introduced James Rodriguez and congratulated James on being promoted to the Marketing and Communications Manager with the district. Kim said James was hired in 2010 part time as a graphic designer, then in 2011 he moved to full time as a Graphic Communications Specialist. Kim is very excited that he wants to continue his career with the park district.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Andrews made a motion for the payment of bills including travel reimbursement in the amount of \$1,240,529.52, subject to audit. Second Commissioner Hix. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, Cairy, Hix, McVey, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration and Personnel – Commissioner Vastalo reported:

Public Access to the DuPage River – Under Federal Law

The IDNR was given the responsibility by statute of determining whether every body of water within the State is a public body of water (i.e. navigable for commerce) or not. The DuPage River is not designated as a public body of water in those rules.

The general public is not entitled to access and use the portions of the river which are owned by any property owner, whether a public entity or private landowner, who has not given permission to do so. The public is not entitled to the same use and enjoyment of the DuPage River (like kayaking and fishing) that they are entitled to on designated public bodies of water.

A complaint was filed with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources requesting a determination of public access to the DuPage River. Since one private owner has suggested that individuals using the river for canoeing, kayaking, paddle-boarding and tubing are trespassing.

While we agree that trespassing and disrespect of private property is disruptive, Bolingbrook Park District, along with our neighboring Districts, Lisle, Naperville, Plainfield, and the Forest Preserve District of Will County and a strong number of State Senators and Representatives respectfully urges the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to articulate a clear position that it is not attempting to limit, and will not limit, normal and lawful recreational activities on or public use of the DuPage River.

With Staff Recommendation Commissioner Vastalo made a motion to approve Resolution 21-23 Concerning the Public Use of the DuPage River, second Commissioner McVey. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, Cairy, Hix, McVey, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

Potential Sale of Hidden Oaks Nature Center and Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm to the Forest Preserve District of Will County

This process began in early 2020 when the district was looking at ways to reduce long term bond and interest debt, during a meeting with Village leadership. The idea of approaching the Forest Preserve District of Will County to inquire if they would be interested in a potential transaction for Hidden Oaks Nature Center and the land all the way to the DuPage River was proposed.

With the Board's blessing, the Executive Director approached the Chief Operating Officer of Forest Preserve District of Will County, to inquire about their potential interest in purchasing Hidden Oaks, Hidden Lakes, and the land from Bolingbrook Park District.

As mentioned in the public informational meeting held on September 2 the thought behind this plan is to allow for a much larger expert organization whose sole focus is driven around enhancing, promoting, protecting, and educating about nature.

Enhance long-term preservation and public use of both Hidden Oaks Nature Center and Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm with stronger resources dedicated to both facilities, especially Hidden Lakes.

Allowing the proceeds from a potential sale to contribute to reducing the bond and interest bond debt.

Elimination of expenses for capital replacements, staffing, and operational expenses resulting in a more streamlined operation and renewed focus on areas the district excels.

The next step is Board approval of a contract of sale when negotiations are complete. Estimated transfer of property is January 1, 2022.

FAQ's are available on the BPD website at this link.

<http://www.bolingbrookparks.org/en/about-us/board-of-commissioners/>

Finance and Technology – Commissioner Hix reported:

Commissioner Hix met with the finance committee yesterday and they gave him an in-depth analysis of the districts cash position and cash projection. The multi-payment system that was put in place by Will County for tax distribution is working very well. Just 1-1/2 percentage points below where we were last year.

Commissioner Hix announced the upcoming Budget Work Shop meetings:

- Thursday, November 4 at 6:00pm Location: TBA
- Tuesday, November 9 at 6:00pm – Location: TBA

Buildings, Grounds and Natural Resources – Commissioner Andrews reported:

Members from New Life Lutheran Church gathered to remove trash from Knights of Columbus Park on Sunday, August 22. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated by the staff and residents. Andrews mentioned New Life Lutheran Church supports the park district because they offered their building, for free, last year for the districts childcare program when people needed these services.

Congratulations to Eagle Scout Candidate Mateo Scharosch of Naperville, Il, Troop 597 for completing his Eagle Scout project on August 21 by building a raised garden bed at the community gardens. This is the tenth and final raised bed for the gardens and I am sure it will be permitted out in 2022. Thank you, Mateo!

Eternally Green Turf Care of Frankfort, Il will begin herbicide and turf fertilization treatments of parks the week of September 13. The Natural Resources crew has started preparing sites for fall restoration seedings. They will also be converting turf to naturalized buffers around some ponds to help control erosion and prevent mowing of dangerous slopes. Lastly, the Horticulture division is preparing for fall tree and perennial plant installations which will take place in late September early October.

Per our Capitol Replacement Program, Buildings is in the process of replacing many Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) to our indoor and outdoor pools. VFDs provide information to motors by varying the frequency and voltage. Essentially tells the motor for the slides, pool filtration, river turbines, etc. when to start, speed up, slow down or stop.

Bolingbrook Soccer Club held their annual Labor Day Tournament over Labor Day weekend. They had 115 teams enter into the 19th annual tournament. Staff did a tremendous job from getting fields set, mowing, snow fencing up, timers changed, custodial supplies stocked and much more for the busy weekend. It was a full team effort from the Buildings, Grounds and Natural Resource Departments.

Fall sports have started and fields are being used for practices and games. Staff has been on top of mowing, painting and cleaning up athletic areas of refuse with the start of all of the groups.

Staff met with Upland Design and staff from the Forest Preserve District of Will County to discuss Construction Documents for the Bait Shop project. Based on higher pre-bid cost estimates, Upland and staff agreed to delay the bid process to November in hopes of getting better pricing on both labor and materials, due to supply chain challenges. The updated timeline has the project out to bid in early January with construction starting early 2022 (weather dependent).

Sealcoating at BRAC, Volunteer, Poplar and Indian Chase Meadows are complete. Staff are also working on misc. asphalt & concrete repairs throughout the District.

Recreation & Facilities – Commissioner Cairry reported:

Recreation

There are currently 61 registered dancers for fall instructional classes. Last year we had 100 registered for the fall season. Chicago Style Stepping class is starting back up for fall. Two new adult dance class options were added for fall including Tap and Hip Hop.

Gymnastics fall session one has 28 classes with 169 participants, Ninja fall session one has 17 classes with 91 participants and Cheer fall session one has 1 class with 6 participants.

Reminder the winter play Ho Ho Ho! The Santa Claus Chronicles debuts December 17 at 6:00pm and December 18 at 2:00 pm in the Annerino Multipurpose Room.

The second summer session for Day 1 sports Academy had 17 of 17 offered programs run with 207 participants in the 17 programs.

Fall leagues have begun. Fall softball leagues have 35 teams in 5 different leagues. Fall flag football league has 12 teams, which is up from 10 teams in the spring. Fall volleyball league has 24 total teams in 3 different divisions.

Fitness

Parkie's 5K saw 286 smiling faces. The race took place on August 28 and was a success.

Aquatics

Pelican Harbors team earned a 5-Star Starguard audit in August. Which is the highest score they can achieve, based on management, operations, and lifeguard skills.

BHS Swim Team has developed a relationship with BHS to help create a girl's swim team.

The Swim Team has 15 participants. Pelican Harbor indoor pool is used Monday-Friday 2-4pm for their practice. Swim team parent information night is October 3 and the fall class will start October 4.

Birthday Parties and Private Rentals total for August:

- Birthday Party: 30
- Outdoor rental: 17
- Indoor rental: 15

Currently Pelican Harbor has 1,214 Annual Memberships.

Pelican Harbor has sold 1,985 Summer Pelican Passes for the 2021 season. Summer Pelican Passes expire on September 30.

Pelican Harbor had a total of 68 participants sign up for private swim lessons in August.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Upcoming programs include:

- Adult bonfire night: September 24
- Canning 101: October 1

Freaky Fun Friday will return to Hidden Oaks on Friday, October 22. With Meijer as the presenting sponsor. Guests will also enjoy a Trick or Treat Trail supported by members of the Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce. A thrilling monster hunt will round out the evening's activities. Guests can register for one of two time slots: 4:00-6:00 pm or 6:00-8:00 pm.

Hidden Lakes hosted a unique night catfish derby on Saturday, August 21. The derby brought 74 registered anglers out for a beautiful evening under the stars. The largest fish caught weighed 4.75 lbs. and measured 24-1/2" inches in length.

The final derby of the 2021 season will occur on September 25 from 3:00-6:00 pm. Registered anglers will be eligible to receive a free pre-loved rod and reel combination, donated courtesy of Bass Pro Shop's Trade In Trade Up Program.

The bait shop will close for the 2021 season on September 30.

Commissioner Vastalo asked why the umbrellas were still up on the Pelican Harbor Island. Oestreich said they do not go up and down like the funbrellas, they are permanently up so they have to take the canvas off. It is a different structure.

Marketing – Commissioner McVey reported:

Commissioner McVey congratulated James Rodriguez in his new role.

A total of 41 families completed the Summer Park Challenge this summer.

The Bolingbrook Park District website is entering the testing phase. It has been a huge project and it's really exciting. Looking at an October launch for the new site.

BRAC Jam happening on October 2 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Lots of fun stuff happening.

Golf Course & Ashbury's – Commissioner McVey reported:

Green fees are still going strong.

Upcoming Event: Comedy Night, September 25

NWCSRA - Commissioner McVey reported:

Fall registration is underway and numbers are going strong caused by a higher number of participants and increased number of programs.

Athletic programs have grown from being able to field one team in the summer to three teams this fall.

The NWCSRA Board approved the funding for the Adaptive Sports field pending an Intergovernmental Agreement giving NWCSRA priority usage and maintenance of the sports field. The letter is not binding until an IGA has been voted on and accepted by the NWCSRA and Village of Romeoville Boards.

Mike Selep, Executive Director, and Gina Madden, Legal Counsel, will be meeting with the Village of Romeoville the week of September 20 to negotiate the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hix welcomed James and promised him a challenge.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Commissioner Vastalo, second Commissioner Andrews to adjourn from the regular board meeting at 7:27pm. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, Cairry, Hix, McVey, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passes 5/0.

Minutes Verification Signature

**Bolingbrook Park District Board Secretary
Jake McVey**