

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Village Hall, New Lenox, Illinois.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

- Call to order** President Schulz called the August 21, 2024, meeting to order at approximately 6:01 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance** President Schulz led the Board, Staff, and all others present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call** President Schulz directed the Recording Secretary to take roll call. Upon taking roll call, the following were present, Commissioners: Kraemer, Larson, Fischer, Ott, and President Schulz.
- Also in Attendance** Executive Director Greg Lewis, Director of Recreation Lea Pipiras, Director of Parks-Maintenance Ken Stephens, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, Deputy Director of Business Services Jason Braglia, and Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath
- Treasurer's Report** Commissioner Kraemer quoted the totals from the monthly Treasurer's Report as presented for July 31, 2024. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the monthly Treasurer's Report for July 31, 2024. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented for July 31, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Payment of Bills** Commissioner Kraemer quoted totals from the Payment of Bills as presented for July 31, 2024. President Schulz requested any questions or comments. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented for July 31, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Communications** President Schulz reported that a thank you letter was received from IAPD for hosting the 23rd Annual IAPD Golf Tour and thanked Director of Golf Bob Schulz and his staff for everything that they did to make the event successful. President Schulz noted that he received nothing but compliments on the course as well as the Top Tracer Range.
- Approval of Minutes** *Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2024*
President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 17, 2024. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 17, 2024, as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Committee & Staff Reports**
- Business Services** Commissioner Ott noted that the Guest Services Supervisor's report that in the month of July versus last July the registration numbers are up nearly 40% which he believes is a testament of the health of our district. Commissioner Ott stated that he feels this is not only due to the community wanting to be in our programs, but the Recreation department and the types of programs we put out. He thanked Director of Recreation Pipiras and her staff for making it worthwhile for our residents of all ages to participate in our programs.

Commissioner Ott welcomed a new employee to our Business Services Department, Ellie Gobillot. She will be a Business Services Generalist and comes to us with great experience and will be an asset to the district.

Deputy Director of Business Services reported that Director of Business Services Kathy Lynch met with Bob Tutko from the Illinois Public Risk Fund regarding the prevention measures that we have in place for the district to reduce and prevent accidents, illnesses and injuries overall. He noted that the meeting went very well, and we were not given any recommendations.

Facilities / Planning

President Schulz reported that there is a long and lengthy list of general maintenance that has been taking place during this past month. He noted that there are a lot of moving parts and thanked the Facilities Staff for stepping up to make sure everything was completed as well as helping with special events that we have hosted.

Golf Course

Golf Course

Commissioner Kraemer reported that revenue was up again in July. The grass area of the range opened at the end of July, which was a couple of weeks earlier than expected and it has been well received by the patrons. Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Top Tracer Range will take place on October 2nd at 11am. Commissioner Kraemer stated that he received quite a few compliments as well from the IAPD staff and golf outing participants about how great our course and amenities are. Commissioner Kraemer reported that the high schools will start their seasons in August and end in late September or early October.

Food and Beverage

Commissioner Kraemer stated that our food and beverage is still seeing growth and we expect this to continue through the fall and winter months.

Grounds Operations

Commissioner Kraemer reported that we got through the heat of the summer well and only had minor turf lost, especially around the 15 green and some of our fairways the poa is dying off because of the heat. These areas will be overseed in the next coming weeks. Commissioner Kraemer noted that our tractor needs new tires and will cost around \$5,000.

Director of Golf Schulz reported that the new tractor quote came in under \$3,000 which was good news. He noted that with the expansion of the driving range, there is plenty of room for the high schools and patrons to be there at the same time stating that there were some patrons saying they didn't even realize the high schools had started practicing yet because there was plenty of space of everyone

Director of Golf Schulz noted that the Golf/Fish sign ups begin on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6am.

Parks/Development

Commissioner Larson reported that the Baseball Association held a Whiffle Ball tournament on August 10th with 100 teams that participated. Their fall season started with 520 in-house players. Commissioner Larson noted that the girls fall softball season will begin after Labor Day with 300 players. He reported that soccer association games begin in September with 350 players. The Mustang

Football association has 200 players and 100 cheerleaders and will have their first game on August 17th. The NLYFA football will have 342 players and 269 cheerleaders. He noted that the associations are doing well with their numbers.

Commissioner Larson reported that with contracted services numerous trees have been replaced throughout the parks and fall turf applications will start up in September. He noted that the tree applications have been completed and all playgrounds have had their mulch replenished which includes the schools.

Commissioner Larson stated that the vehicle safety inspections continue to take place. He reported that out in the parks, the wheelchair swing at Leigh Creek South has been installed and it turned out very nice. The screening paths have been redone and sand has been added to the volleyball courts at Wildflower Park.

Development Projects Update

Hibernia Park Phase II OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens reported we have a final payment in process and continue to work with IDNR for our final reimbursement from the state.

Sharon's Bay Park Phase II – OSLAD Grant Application

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens reported that the grant application has been sent in and we have received an email stating that they have received it.

Water Chase Park Update

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens stated that they attended a meeting there this morning and things are moving along very well, with a lot of the concrete work done and asphalt work to begin. He noted that the timeline is still on schedule.

Recreation

Special Recreation Update

Executive Director Lewis asked if there were any questions on the financials that were in their packets. He noted that they have activities everywhere. Executive Director Lewis stated that there was an event that was held at the LWSRA building and softball field that we helped facilitate. This event brought the four communities, including the mayors, police chiefs and fire chiefs together for some friendly competition. He noted that the We Go Swing had been installed the Monday before and they were able to witness a child in a wheelchair put the swing to use. Executive Director stated that Leigh Creek South Park continues to be a destination for total ADA accessible activities for those in need and we should be proud to be part of it.

Commissioner Fischer reported that our Recreation department is doing well, and some highlights include the registration of our Children's Flag Football ended on Wednesday, July 3rd and this year we have a total of 302 players and 48 coaches with practices beginning the week of Monday, July 29th and games start on Saturday, August 17th. Our summer T-ball and Kick Start Soccer Leagues ended on Saturday, July 27. Commissioner Fischer noted that we could not run these programs without our volunteers and thanked them. He noted that throughout the month of July there were 34 athletic camps and programs with a total of 275 participants.

Commissioner Fischer stated that our Camp Wewannago program was coming to a close with approximately 447 participants, 55 part-time staff and 1 full-time staff member.

Commissioner Fischer reported that the park district, New Lenox Village and the Lion's Club had an event on Friday, July 19th that celebrated those Individuals with Disabilities. There were approximately 400 participants from LWSRA and Trinity Services who participated in many activities that included carnival games, dancing, lunch. He thanked the New Lenox Fire Department and New Lenox Police Department for coming out and showing the participants their equipment as well as the Friends of the Park members who provided a balloon artist.

Commissioner Fischer noted that on July 25th we had our Grand Opening of the Hibernia Park Phase II project. There were over 150 residents that came out and enjoyed a complimentary hot dog and free access to the splash pad. Mayor Baldermann and President Ted Schulz spoke briefly before the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Commissioner Fischer stated a special thank you to Senator Hastings and Representative DeLuca for their additional financial support.

Director of Recreation Pipiras announced the Summer Recap video that was shown to the Board of Commissioners.

New Business

Change Order #1 – Water Chase Park Development

President Schulz asked if there were any questions regarding Change Order #1 – Water Chase Park Development. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve Change Order #1 – Water Chase Park Development. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Events

President Schulz reported on the upcoming Community Events. Saturday, September 7th from 6:00-10:00pm is a Silent Roller Disco. On Saturday, September 21st is the Last Call Before Fall from 1:00-5:00pm which features the "Empty Bowls" event that is sponsored by the Friends of the New Lenox Parks. For more information on these events and more visit the website at newlenox.net/events.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:34 pm., President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the August 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa McGrath, Recording Secretary