

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, September 18, 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 September 18, 2024, meeting to order at approximately 6:00 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, Fischer, Ott, and President Schulz.
- Also, in Attendance** Executive Director Greg Lewis, Director of Business Services Kathy Lynch, Director of Recreation Lea Pipiras, Deputy Director of Business Services Jason Braglia, Director of Parks-Maintenance Ken Stephens, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, and Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath.
- Treasurer's Report** Commissioner Kraemer quoted the totals from the Monthly Treasurer's Report as presented for August 31, 2024. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the Monthly Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2024. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented for August 31, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. 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 August 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 August 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.
- Communications** President Schulz noted that a Thank You card came from the family of Former Park Board Commissioner William Walter for the arrangement that was sent.
- Approval of Minutes** Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2024
President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2024. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2024, as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Committee & Staff Reports**
- Business Services** Commissioner Ott reported that August was a slow month, but the Business Services team continues to prepare the current audit. He noted that the Federal Reserve lowered the Fed Funds rate by 50 basis points, impacting interest rates on CDs which is not good but when it comes to purchasing new equipment, we will see better interest rates for buying. Commissioner Ott stated that there have been various IT issues that have come up, but all have been taken care of.
- Facilities / Planning** President Schulz reported that general maintenance has been happening and wrapping up summer season. President Schulz thanked the staff for the appearance of our parks and buildings.
- Golf Course** Commissioner Kraemer reported that August was another record month with just over \$100K in range balls which is a new record. The new putting and chipping greens are bringing in more golfers. All outings in August went great with record attendance. The rounds of golf were great with just over 200 more than last August. The high schools have started and really like the new set up we are offering and are utilizing it a lot.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Food and Beverage had another great month which is due to everything being so busy. The Food and Beverage has increased this summer, and the staff has done a great job keeping up with the demands.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that with the heat in July and August the grass is rebounding from that. There have been some irrigation issues and need to come up with a plan to get these addressed going forward. Director of Golf Schulz stated that irrigation system is from 1996, and we are doing the best we can with what we have but the good news is the 2nd pump that went out in July was under warranty which saved us \$20K. Replacing two pumps in one year is not what we would want to do. Director of Golf Schulz noted that the only issue that has happened is the growth of the range due to the dry weather, but they are going to mix some seed with rye. President Schulz asked Director of Golf Schulz if the trend of those who left due to us not having a grass range gone back up now with the grass range being open and he stated that it has, and we are receiving compliments.

Director of Golf Schulz noted that the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Top Tracer will take place on Wednesday, October 2nd at 11am. There will be a chipping and putting contest along with a closet to the pin contest with some great prizes to give away. He noted that on October 1st at 7am will be the lottery opening for the Chili Open.

Parks/Development

Association Update

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that all associations are underway in their fall seasons. On October 14th the Rebels Association will have a new board named and Jim O'Dette, who has been the President will be stepping down. The NLSD 122 softball and baseball teams are in their tournaments and have had a good season. He reported that soccer had field work done at Nelson Campus, field 1, 2 and 6 with drains and regrading. Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens noted that with all associations and park district programs running they stripe 140 gallons of paint per week.

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that the Softball Association will be redoing field 5, Stonebridge and VFW with mid-low mix and they will be repairing dugout(s) fencing at Palmer Valley Park.

Contracted Services

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that the summer/fall turf applications are being completed. He stated that Beary's Landscaping has been a lot better compared to the last 2 years. He noted that Mcloud Aquatics has also been doing a better job treating our ponds.

Fleet & Equipment

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens noted that the vehicle safety inspections continue, and he is anticipating the arrival of October.

Out in the Parks

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that at Jacob Lowell Park had a ditch reprofiled and rip rap stone added. At the Lion's Den and Freedom Park forest lines were cut back to make mowing easier. He stated that the old wood salt bin structure has been replaced with metal structure at the park maintenance shop and the staff continues to prune trees and clean flower beds.

Developments

Hibernia Park Phase II – OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens noted that they are continuing to work on the paperwork to have it all finalized.

Sharon's Bay Park – OSLAD Grant Application

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that the paperwork has been sent to IDNR Grant Administrator and was told everything looked good.

Water Chase Park

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens noted that they were paving the pickle/basketball courts and path areas with completion by the end of the week with the fence company lined up to come in to start. The shade systems and frame of the pavilion are up. The trees were delivered due to the nursery charging them for storage.

President Schulz commented on how the Associations seem to be returning their documents and information faster than years before and thanked them for that because in turn that makes things easier on the park district.

Executive Director Lewis noted to the public with the demand for pickleball courts, we are asking that the community do their best to follow the rules on the signs that are going to be posted. He also made note that there are more pickleball courts being built and that the indoor pickleball will be starting on Sunday, September 22nd.

President Schulz noted that in the packet was a letter to the Village of New Lenox Building Inspector requesting permit fees be waived for the Electrical project at Water Chase Park and documents showing a development project named Teerling Lakes.

Executive Director Lewis reported on the Teerling Lakes development project that came about 6 months ago and would be a turnkey park for us. The group coming in is very impressed with our parks and we shared our vendors as well as how we built our parks with them. Executive Director noted that we will be involved with the concept plan through the completion of the development. We will not be taking any developer donations and with doing it this way everyone wins and receives what we want. He is confident that working with the village on developments like this is a good relationship to have and saves us from going for a grant. Commissioner Ott asked if we could get more of the specifics on this development and Executive Director Lewis stated that there is more to come on this and once, we have all the details it will be shared. He did note that some of the amenities that they are adding to their development will be restricted to their development only.

Recreation

Special Recreation

Executive Director Lewis reported that LWSRA did receive two new transit vehicles, which would be a better means of transportation for most of their programs. Their sensory garden is close to being complete and have received a lot of involvement with a \$20K grant and other community groups involved. There is an older bus that was converted into a sensory bus, like a sensory room which can be showcased out in the community. Executive Director Lewis noted that the annual Sports Banquet has been set for October 26th and they are beginning to plan for their 50th anniversary in 2026.

Commissioner Fischer reported that the LWSRA Hawks Wheelchair softball team went to the Omaha, Nebraska for the National wheelchair softball series and placed 4th in the nation. Congratulations to them.

Commissioner Fischer reported that our Rec Department activities for Adults is very popular with some bus trips that happened in August. A group of 11 went to New York City and experienced the best of the Big Apple, Rockefeller Center, saw 3 plays, went downtown to see Times Square, the Statue of Liberty and toured the 911 museum.

Commissioner Fischer stated that our children's Flag Football league had their first games on August 17th with 25 teams consisting of 302 players and 48 coaches. As always, thank you to our volunteers because without them we would not be able to have these types of leagues. Commissioner Fischer noted that our Before and After school programs are up and running with approximately 1500 kids signed up to use the Before school program and 1000 kids for the After-school program. This program is very important to our working parents and is a big part of the park district. Our Kiddie Kampus program has 187 kids ages 3 and 4 signed up and there are still spots available.

Commissioner Fischer reported that on August 15th at the Firefighter's Park we hosted an Ice Cream Social, which was a free event, we had over 400 bowls of free vanilla and kryptonite flavored ice cream generously donated by Raffy's Candy Store.

Commissioner Fischer noted that we offer over 800 programs through our park district a year and have just about something for everyone of every age.

Commissioner Fischer announced that our Big Bad Pumpkin Party is taking place on Sunday, October 20th at Walker Country Estates Park from 10am to 12noon. We will have costume contests, games, hay rack rides and more. On Thursday, October 24th we will host a free Halloween Roast at Haines Wayside Park from 5:30-7:00pm for all ages.

New Business

Resolution #24-12 Authorizing the Execution of the Agreement with Homewood Disposal Service/NuWay Disposal

President Schulz requested any questions or comments on Resolution ##24-12 Authorizing the Execution of the Agreement with Homewood Disposal Service/NuWay Disposal. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #24-12 Authorizing the Execution of the Agreement with Homewood Disposal Service/NuWay Disposal. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Local Efficiency Report for the New Lenox Community Park District-Final Report

President Schulz asked for a motion to approve the Local Efficiency Report for the New Lenox Community Park District-Fianl Report. President Schulz noted that this report was also reviewed by our Friends of the Park committee. Commissioner Fischer reported that there is a lot of good information in the report and one highlight would be that our tax rate is under 3% and we are still able to offer all these programs. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Lewis stated that this report was put together and gone over by the Board of Commissioners, staff and local members of the community. This was a team effort to be able to put this report together, approve and send to the state. Executive Director Lewis thanked all those involved for putting this report together.

Community Events President Schulz reported that there is a Shred Event coming up on Saturday, October 5th that is being hosted by Senator Hastings, Mayor Baldermann and himself from 10am to 1pm at the Village Hall.

President Schulz noted that he attended the State of the Community Event with Executive Director Lewis and Director of Recreation Pipiras at Silver Cross Hospital. He noted that it was a very nice event, and it was great to hear all the local organizations highlight their accomplishments as well as what is coming up. The mayor did a phenomenal job, and it is great to be part of a great community who works together to benefit all their residents. Executive Director Lewis noted that all the Park District's information can be found on our website, and it shows what we have accomplished in the course of a year.

Adjournment At approximately 6:41p.m., President Schultz requested a motion to adjourn the September 18, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa McGrath, Recording Secretary