

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at approximately 6:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Village Hall, New Lenox, Illinois.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

- Call to order** President Schulz called the November 20, 2024, meeting to order at approximately 6:02 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: 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, Director of Business Services Kathy Lynch, Deputy Director of Business Services Jason Braglia, Attorney Angelo Vitiritti, and Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath
- Treasurer's Report** President Schulz quoted the totals from the Monthly Treasurer's Report as presented for October 31, 2024. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the Monthly Treasurer's Report for October 31, 2024. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented for October 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.
- Payment of Bills** President Schulz quoted totals from the Payment of Bills as presented for October 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 October 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.
- Special Guests** New Lenox Friends of the Parks presented the New Lenox Township Food Pantry with a check donation of \$6,000 which were proceeds from the Empty Bowl event.
- Communications** President Schulz mentioned two Thank You Letters that we sent out. The first one was to Eric Dobis with Cheers Not Tears for their donation in support of the We Go Swing at Leigh Creek South Park. The second letter was to Peter Murphy the President & CEO of IAPD congratulating him on being awarded the prestigious Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal for Parks and Conversation.
- Approval of Minutes** Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2024
President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Regular Board Meeting minutes of October 16, 2024. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of October 16, 2024, as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee & Staff Reports

Business Services

Commissioner Ott stated that there are supporting documents for the tax levy and the 10-year comparison of where we are today versus over the last nine or ten years. He noted that one thing that stood out to him was how low this grade was of .2333, which is the rate that translates to less than 3% of what is collected in taxes annually per household that goes to the park district. He stated he feels that this speaks volumes for the park district and staff, who are doing more with less.

Commissioner Ott spoke about the Path Incentive Program which is a program that our employees who are enrolled in our medical plan have an optional incentive to participate in with a small benefit for them. This program promotes wellness for our employees and rewards them.

Commissioner Ott reported that in the Guest Services Supervisor's report the fiscal year to date versus last year's recreation department revenue is up nearly 9%. He noted that this speaks volumes of what we can do this year compared to last year.

Facilities / Planning

President Schulz reported that 901 had a new energy efficient boiler installed along with some piping done and the system was flushed out.

President Schulz reported that the Sports Complex will now fall under facilities, and he will head it up. Commissioner Kraemer and President Schulz will switch responsibilities when it comes to being the liaison for the village. He noted that we are working with the village on what will be involved in the Intergovernmental Agreement between the two entities regarding the sports complex. He thanked Director of Recreation Pipiras for the excellent job she did working with the village on the budget and staffing.

Executive Director Lewis explained that we are at the very start of the staffing budget piece of the sports complex. He noted that it is a matter of taking what we do, what the village does and what the sports facility companies do when they manage these types of facilities and then come up with a budget and who is going to do what part. He reminded everyone that we do not own the facility, and the money is not ours, but we will play an important part in all of it.

Golf Course

Golf Course

Commissioner Larson reported that October was another great month, and the weather did help produce the rounds. The high schools have wrapped up their 2024 season and they really enjoyed and used the new practice facility. The Chili Open sold out via our lottery on October 1st and once again we had 24 teams on the waitlist. We have started to get pricing for a new golf shop counter, it is only 26 years old and we would say it is time for new one especially with the volume that we do now. Commissioner Larson noted that we will start meeting with all of our outings to get the schedule set for the 2025 season. We do know that the MAJGT, IJGA and State Am are all returning in 2025. He stated that the staff are starting to take their much-needed vacation time.

Commissioner Larson reported that the Food and Beverage did just \$16K in sales compared to last October and the numbers keep getting better. He noted that the

gaming had a good month even with a BIG winner during the month. We are trying to obtain a sixth gaming machine. We had limited hours in the kitchen due to staffing issues and slower afternoons. This will change come December as we expect the top tracer to get busier as the weather turns colder.

Commissioner Larson reported that we are still waiting for the 3 Yamaha Umax UTVs to be delivered. We expect to have them sometime in November. The new greens mowers are in production, and we hope to have some more information on them in the next couple of months. Commissioner Larson reported that the cart fleet has been serviced and we had some tearing of the seats and Yamaha came out and replaced all the seats in our fleet under warranty work. He noted that we did have to replace our jockey pump on the irrigation system, which we expected since our two main pumps both went out at the same time in July. We plan on blowing out the system in mid-November. The new greens in our short game area will be covered for the winter after this is performed.

Director of Golf Schulz reported that the Penguin Open is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 10 am with a walk up and pay, no registration. Information is on the website and that participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item.

Parks/Development

Athletic Associations-Projects

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that the girls' softball field #2 and 3 had the outfield fencing repaired. He noted that field 5 had the dug outs changed from stone to concrete.

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens stated that the baseball fields were scheduled to have all 15 fields top coated by Sports Field during the month of November but with the weather this may have to wait until spring.

Development Projects Update

Hibernia Park Development Phase II – OSLAD

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that Hibernia's paperwork is being logged in at this time.

Sharon's Bay Redevelopment - OSLAD

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that the DNR are on their second review of the application and will get ahold of us hopefully in mid-December with the results.

Water Chase Park - OSLAD

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that the electricity is in at the pavilion, the electric box is installed and most of the parking lot is striped. Regarding Change Order #2, there is a path that goes to the west into Calistoga that had to be redone due to the addition being started. We had to go in and cut a drainpipe into a drain pit. There was a culvert that was put in for under the path going to the east to help with the grade. He noted that there were two ADA sidewalks that were left behind and were worn out. They were pulled and new ones were graded out and installed.

Commissioner Larson reported that under parks that baseball, softball and soccer have wrapped up their seasons and Mustangs and youth football in their playoffs.

Commissioner Larson stated that all contracted services will be back next year with the same pricing as this year.

Commissioner Larson noted that the trucks, trailers and buses have had their 6-month safety lane checks.

Commissioner Larson reported that all park buildings and water fountains have been shut down for the season. The staff is taking care of sites needing last mowings. On Monday, November 18th, the staff will be setting up the 2 ice rinks in the Commons. Finally, there was a new porta john surround built at Hibernia.

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens stated that with the GO bond there was \$26K that we are going to move into the 51 fund and 25 fund to get two projects done out of the money that is still sitting there. He noted that whatever monies are not being used will go towards the 5% retainage debt for the Water Chase Project. If there is money that comes in for the 51 funds then we would be able to get the three projects done at Walker Country Estates, Jacob Lowell and Windemere Parks.

Executive Director Lewis noted that we cannot do everything but wanted it noted that it will be in the order of need. He stated that any of the important things with the GO money is that we always have the last year where we must have it all spent down before we reissue. The schedule to reissue in next year's budget is in December, so by informing you of what we are trying to do tonight and having it approved.

Executive Director Lewis reported that he has attended several meetings regarding the Teerling Lakes Development and the project is moving ahead. He noted that this is a one-of-a-kind project. He stated that phase one will include the six and half acre park and ten plus acre conservation area with a pond will be in phase two. Executive Director Lewis stated that he has chosen to sit back and let the village handle this development and since we have such a great working relationship with the village, we have had input on the concept from day one.

Recreation

Special Recreation Update

Executive Director Lewis noted that there was nothing to report other than the Sports Banquet that was attended by Commissioner Fischer and Commissioner Fischer.

Commissioner Fischer noted that there was a 5-year strategic plan in the board packet that has a lot of good information in it. Commissioner Fischer stated he and Commissioner Kraemer attended the LWSRA's Annual Sports Awards Banquet on October 26, 2024. This event recognizes the athletes from LWSRA and their achievements. Executive Director Lewis congratulated Director Keith Wallace from LWSRA for being selected as a section chair for the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association.

Commissioner Fischer reported that the Recreation department is in full swing and has held many different activities during the month of October including a trip to Starved Rock for our adults. He noted that our Fall Kick Start Soccer league concluded in October with 157 players and 14 teams. Our Flag Football league concluded their season with a total of 229 players and 26 teams. Our Children's Basketball League will begin in December with 527 players. Commissioner Fischer thanked all of the volunteer coaches for their participation in these leagues because without them we wouldn't be able to run.

Commissioner Fischer stated that our Before and After school childcare program has a total of 463 participated enrolled throughout the four locations. In the month of October, the Kiddie Kampus program had their pictures taken, taken a field trip to Konow's Pumpkin Farm and participated in vision screenings done by the Lions Club.

Commissioner Fischer noted that the Big Bad Pumpkin party was held on October 20th at Walker Country Estates Park with over 300 participants of all ages that attended. New this year, we hosted a Halloweenie Roast at Haines Park on Thursday, October 24th and had 51 attendees' pre-register. Commissioner Fischer thanked all the vendors and everyone that participated to make these events happen.

Commissioner Fischer highlighted our Recreation Staff who helped in a Habitat for Humanity event and thanked Deputy Director of Recreation Olga Viano for organizing this event. Director of Recreation Pipiras stated that it was a great way for the Recreation Staff to give back and look forward to doing another event like this.

Commissioner Fischer wanted to remind everyone that the 2024-2025 Winter Spring Program Guide registration begins on December 9, 2024, for In-District residents. There is a wide variety of programs for preschoolers through senior citizens.

Commissioner Fischer stated that the Ice Rink will be open in the Commons beginning on November 30th with skate rentals available for \$7. The village sponsored Christmas in the Commons opens on November 30th and runs through December 22nd featuring a 50-foot Santa and a few new surprises for everyone. For more information visit the village website at www.newlenox.net.

New Business

Ordinance #24-11-01 Levy Ordinance 2024-2025

President Schulz asked if there were any questions regarding Ordinance #24-11-01 Levy Ordinance 2024-2025. President Schulz requested a motion to adopt Ordinance #24-11-01 Levy Ordinance 2024-2025. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #24-11-02 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2023B

President Schulz asked if there were any questions regarding Ordinance #24-11-02 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2023B. President Schulz requested a motion to adopt Ordinance #24-11-02 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2023B. Motion made

by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Engagement Agreement Employment Matter Investigation

President Schulz asked if there were any questions regarding the Engagement Agreement Employment Matter Investigation. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Engagement Agreement Employment Matter Investigation. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

GO Bond Series 2023A – Fund 50 Reallocation of Remaining Balance

President Schulz asked if there were any questions regarding the GO Bond Series 2023A – Fund 50 Reallocation of Remaining Balance. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the GO Bond Series 2023B – Fund 50 Reallocation of Remaining Balance. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon the roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Change Order #2 – Water Chase Park Development

President Schulz asked if there were any questions regarding the Change Order #2 – Water Chase Park Development. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Change Order #2 – Water Chase Park Development. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:38p.m., President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the November 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa McGrath, Recording Secretary