

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 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 January 15, 2025, 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: Ott, Fischer, Larson, and President Schulz.
- Also in Attendance** Executive Director Greg Lewis, Director of Parks – Maintenance Ken Stephens, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, Director of Recreation Lea Pipiras, Director of Business Services Kathy Lynch, Deputy Director of Business Services Jason Braglia, Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath, and Office Coordinator Aurora Abbott.
- Treasurer’s Report** President Schulz quoted the totals from the monthly Treasurer’s Report as presented for December 31, 2024. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the monthly Treasurer’s Report for December 31, 2024. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented for December 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** President Schulz quoted totals from the Payment of Bills as presented for December 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 December 31, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Communications** President Schulz noted that we received the 2024 Annual Report from IAPD labeled “Glowing Reviews” as well as the Sharon’s Bay OSLAD Grant Award letter.
- President Schultz also presented Commissioner Dale Larson with an IAPD Certification of Appreciation Plaque for his 25 years of service as a board member. Commissioner Larson provided a few words of wisdom for those in attendance. The Board shared various stories regarding his time on the New Lenox Community Park District board and thanked him for his service.
- Approval of Minutes** *Approval for the Regular Minutes of December 18, 2024*
President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Regular Minutes of December 18, 2024. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, 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 reported on how Business Services is switching to pay vendors via electronic payments rather than by mailing checks. Approximately 15 vendors are now being paid in this manner.

Facilities / Planning President Schulz reported that right now the staff is primarily focused on general maintenance updates. He also mentioned that starting this month, there will be updates on the Crossroads Sports Complex in the board packet. Executive Director Lewis and Director of Recreation Pipiras continue to attend weekly meetings with the Village to hammer out the budget and are working with vendors to get everything equipped. They currently are under contract to have games scheduled for July 1st.

Golf Course Commissioner Larson reported that the Top Tracer range hit its 1-year anniversary on December 26th, 2024. Sales at the range have been higher than projected and are expected to keep rising. 30,000 balls have been purchased for January delivery to keep the range open during the winter months. All permanent tee time players plan on returning for the 2025 season. Commissioner Larson listed the Sanctuary events scheduled for this year. The Golf Course is also working to upgrade cameras and on getting a grant for two electric charging stations for vehicles.

Director of Golf Bob Schulz noted that he wanted to recognize Maddie Burdelik on her years working with Food and Beverage operations and wished her luck as she leaves the park district. Commissioner Larson reported that gaming operations had another good month and that they will be purchasing a sixth machine.

Commissioner Larson shared the good news that after a year of waiting, the golf course received three new UMAX carts from Yamaha. There are currently no major equipment issues and preventative maintenance is going well.

Parks/Development *Athletic Associations/Sites*
Commissioner Larson mentioned that registration has started for the New Lenox baseball, softball, and soccer associations.

Fleet and Equipment
All fleet vehicles have received their yearly oil change and six-month lane safety checks have been completed.

Development Update
Commissioner Larson mentioned that the Haines Ice Rink is now open for the season, weather permitting. On January 28th-30th, the New Lenox and Peotone Fire Departments will be using the pond at Hibernia Park for surface ice training.

Hibernia Park Phase II- OSLAD Grant
Director of Parks Maintenance Stephens was happy to report that they are just waiting for the final reimbursement to come in for the Hibernia Phase II Project and then that project will be wrapped up.

Sharon's Bay Park Redevelopment- OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks Maintenance Stephens told the board that Planning Resources, Inc. has started to put the budget proposal together for the Sharon's Bay OSLAD Grant.

Water Chase Park- OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks Maintenance Stephens noted that everything is completed with the Water Chase project other than ComEd hook up.

Recreation

Special Recreation Update

Executive Director Lewis reminded the board that the LWSRA Board Meeting will occur the following week on January 21, 2025.

Recreation Update

Commissioner Fischer reported that 21 participants attended the Woodstock holiday shopping bus trip on December 5th. Woodstock was voted the most festive Christmas town in Illinois and participants enjoyed shopping and exploring.

Commissioner Fischer moved on to athletic programs, highlighting the Children's Basketball League. There are 527 participants practicing weekly with games played on Sundays at Lincoln-Way West. A thank you was made to Burns Photography, who conducted team and individual pictures for the league.

Commissioner Fischer spoke about the Beyond the Bell program which was held over winter break. This program serviced 69 kids from families that have to work on school holidays.

Commissioner Fischer spoke about the New Lenox Fire Department coming out to talk with our four-year-olds in the Kiddie Kampus program on December 2nd and 3rd for their Learn Not to Burn Program. On the evenings of December 11th, 12th, and 13th Kiddie Kampus held their annual Christmas Program where they performed a variety of Christmas songs for parents.

Accreditation Update

Director of Recreation Pipiras provided updates on Accreditation efforts by stating that Marketing Supervisor Amy Maher is spearheading the project. Meetings have been held with all Directors and Deputy Directors to assign various tasks to meet the goal of submitting all paperwork by April 25, 2025. As a part of this, Supervisor Maher has been developing a comprehensive Crisis Communication Policy for the Park District to strengthen emergency preparedness and compliance.

New Business

Change Order #3- Water Chase Park Development

President Schulz requested a motion to approve Change Order #3- Water Chase Park Development. Motion was made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor and motion passed unanimously.

Community Events Commissioner Fischer reminded the Community about the Lion's Club 2nd Annual Blood Drive on February 14th. This will be held in the All-Purpose Room at 701 W. Haven Avenue from noon to five.

President Schulz announced the New Lenox Chamber Annual Dinner will be held February 19, 2025, at the American Legion Post 1977. He additionally recognized the 2024 Chamber Award winners.

Adjournment At approximately 6:31 p.m., President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the January 15, 2025, Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Recording Secretary – Melissa McGrath