

FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
August 17, 2023

The following are Minutes of a meeting of the Frankfort Square Park District Board of Commissioners held at the Square Links Golf Course & Practice Center Clubhouse, 7861 W. St. Francis Road, Frankfort, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were: Ken Blackburn, Phil Cherry, Frank Florentine, Ryan Holley, Dave Macek, and Craig Maksymiak.

Absent was: Denis Moore.

Also present were: Audrey Marcquenski, Executive Director/Board Secretary, Linda Mitchell, Recording Secretary, and Mr. & Mrs. Sherman, Mr. & Mrs. McGill, and Mr. & Mrs. Janssen, Frankfort Square residents.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Input

Patty Sherman addressed the Park Board, noting she and her family lived in their home on Rosewood Drive in Frankfort Square for over 25 years and they made many outdoor improvements and enjoyed recreating in their backyard until the pickleball courts were constructed 50' from their property line, 80' from their bedroom window. The Sherman's son is an audio engineer, and he measured the sound, revealing that from a distance of 100' from the pickleball court, the test revealed a noise level of 70 decibels (dB), or 8 times the dB in typical residential areas. The sound produced by a pickleball paddle is alarming and was measured at 1,200 hertz (hz). This level of hz awakens the brain, setting off anxiety with relentless noise.

In addition to the noise levels, some of the players drive recklessly through the neighborhood, are belligerent and verbally abusive, insulting the residents with foul language and physical threats.

Ms. Sherman appreciates that the Board and staff are listening to the residents and that the hours have been adjusted from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., however, individuals are ignoring the posted hours and playing at least an hour after the courts close.

Ms. Sherman noted that the majority of the pickleball players are not residents and do not support the facility with their tax dollars. She asked the Board to consider permanently closing any pickleball courts that are within 100' of homes and replacing them with a pollinator or community gardens to help restore peace to the neighborhood.

Carlene McGill cited a recent article about the rise in popularity of pickleball, but that it also causes disruption to the quality of life for those that reside near pickleball courts.

Ms. McGill expressed appreciation to Audrey Marcquenski for listening to the residents and for working towards a solution, noting that she and her neighbors have been dealing with pickleball issues since 2020. Mr. McGill noted that he appreciates the game and healthy pursuits enjoyed by occasional players, however, non-resident groups that arrive as early as 6:45 a.m., setting up tents and large coolers, yelling, and swearing every weekend, have made it difficult for families within the Park District to play. Mr. McGill recounted a situation where a 10-year-old neighbor used to play pickleball with his friends, but league players have chased them away, stating they reserved the courts. Out of town residents have also been observed driving recklessly in the parking lot shared by the Mary Drew facility where the Park District conducts children's programming.

Audrey Marcquenski has studied the issue and stated that she shared some ideas with the Park Board and Ms. McGill but will need time to make changes that can include ordinances and improvements with a goal to mitigate noise and discourage group and tournament play. These changes will take time to ensure proper legal recourse, and ideas will be brought before the Board prior to taking action.

President, Ken Blackburn stated that the Park District will keep all options open and will incorporate changes prior to the 2024 season opening.

V. Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

VI. Presentation of the July 20, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dave Macek made Motion 23-1860 to accept the July 20, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Craig Maksymiak seconded.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Phil Cherry, Frank Florentine, Ryan Holley, Craig Maksymiak, and Dave Macek. Abstained: Ken Blackburn. Nays: None. Motion passed.

VII. Legal Report

President, Ken Blackburn read by title and requested consideration of Ordinance 23-08-345, An Ordinance Amending Policies for Remote Participation, a copy of which was provided to each member of the Board of Park Commissioners prior to said meeting.

Craig Maksymiak made Motion 23-1861 to adopt Ordinance 22-08-345, as presented. Dave Macek seconded.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Phil Cherry, Frank Florentine, Ryan Holley, Craig Maksymiak, Dave Macek, and Ken Blackburn. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Ken Blackburn read by title and requested concertation of a Comprehensive Plan Services Proposal provided by Campfire Concepts, a copy of which was provided to each member of the Board of Park Commissioners prior to said meeting.

Treasurer, Craig Maksymiak, inquired about the cost of the proposal, stating it had increased from previous Campfire Concept proposals. Ms. Marcquenski noted the proposal outlines a different product that includes a master plan and strategic plan that will involve a more involved process including Board and staff interviews. The price for this plan is reasonable and within budget.

Dave Macek made Motion 23-1862, authorizing Ms. Marcquenski to accept the Comprehensive Plan Services Proposal provided by Campfire Concepts, as presented. Phil Cherry seconded.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Phil Cherry, Frank Florentine, Ryan Holley, Craig Maksymiak, Dave Macek, and Ken Blackburn. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Ken Blackburn presented travel reimbursement forms for senior trip coordinators' meal and incidental expenses to be incurred during the trip to Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada, October 8-14, copies of which were provided to each Board Member in advance of said meeting and requested consideration of same.

Craig Maksymiak made Motion 23-1863, approving travel reimbursement forms for trip coordinators meal and incidental expenses to be incurred during the trip to Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada, October 8-14, as presented. Phil Cherry seconded.

Commissioner, Frank Florentine felt the reimbursement cost seems low for the length of the trip. Ms. Marcquenski stated that the trip coordinator and assistant coordinator are being provided with travel packages that cover the majority of meal expenses, except for two dinners, seven lunches, and incidental expenses.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Phil Cherry, Frank Florentine, Ryan Holley, Craig Maksymiak, Dave Macek, and Ken Blackburn. Nays: None. Motion passed.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, President, Ken Blackburn accepted the July Treasurer's Report, pending audit.

Craig Maksymiak made Motion 23-1864 to accept the Accounts Payable Listing. Ryan Holley seconded.

Ms. Marcquenski reported that adjusting journal entries requested by the auditors are reflected in the Treasurer's Report opening balance related to a truck payment that was drawn from the budget's Recreation equipment purchase and rental line item, and moving forward, a capital loans and leases section was added to the budget where subsequent monthly truck payments are drawn from Corporate. In addition, a debt service interest payment was incorrectly coded, resulting in a reduction in the opening balance of \$1,639.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Phil Cherry, Frank Florentine, Ryan Holley, Craig Maksymiak, Dave Macek, and Ken Blackburn. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Ken Blackburn requested consideration of Audited Financial Report, Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/2023, completed by the independent audit firm of Lauterbach & Amen LLP, a copy of which was provided to each Board Member in advance of said meeting.

Craig Maksymiak made Motion 23-1865 to accept the Audited Financial Report, Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/2023, as presented. Dave Macek seconded.

Vote on Motion: Ayes: Phil Cherry, Frank Florentine, Ryan Holley, Craig Maksymiak, Dave Macek, and Ken Blackburn. Nays: None. Motion passed.

IX. Executive Director's Report

Staff continue to provide required documentation for the OSLAD grant Hunter Prairie Park Redevelopment application that is due by August 31. The last item, a narrative was reviewed, and edits were sent to PRI, landscape architect and grant administrator. It is expected that the IDNR will announce grant awards by March 2024.

The first of three Local Government Efficiency Committee meetings will be held on September 21, 2023, immediately following the Board Meeting. The efficiency report draft will be provided to all committee members that include Audrey Marcquenski, the Park Board, and residents, Pam Kohlbacher and Bonnie Roach.

The Park Board discussed the issues presented by residents during the public input section of this Board Meeting. All agree that action will need to be taken and that residents appreciate Ms. Marcquenski's efforts to resolve the challenges of the Champions Park pickleball courts, balancing the need for peaceful enjoyment of the homeowners with the enjoyment of residents that should be able to access the pickleball facility.

X. Committee Reports

A. Maintenance

The maintenance department continues to operate with a small staff, as Connor Rich, newly hired full-time employee resigned his position. Job postings are in progress, but Ms. Marcquenski noted it can be challenging to find the right people.

Ms. Marcquenski reported that the District employed an outstanding summer crew. All worked hard and she was thankful for their efforts this season.

B. Recreation

The fall brochure was delivered to the Frankfort and Tinley Park post offices, and program registration begins the week of August 21.

Summer Day Camp ends on Friday, August 18, and Audrey noted that this program was successful due to the great group of counselors.

The Before and After School Program will begin on Wednesday, August 23.

C. Information Technology

No report.

D. Special Recreation

Ms. Marcquenski noted that all LWSRA member agencies approved the continuation of the annual levy for special recreation contribution allowing for the LWSRA Board to formally approve it at the August 15, 2023 Board Meeting.

The second of two LWSR Foundation fundraisers will be held at Green Gardens Country Club on Friday, August 18, and the Park District will be well-represented at this event.

E. Finance and Planning

Sufficient information was included in the August Executive Director's Report.

F. Golf Course

Letters requesting support for the District's annual College Scholarship Golf Classic were sent to vendors, contractors, and District partners, and to date, \$4,000 has been received,

G. Office

Ms. Marcquenski commended front office staff for their friendly attitudes and willingness to aid all departments, whether managing calls and recording comments from pickleball players during the recent Champions Park pickleball court hiatus, to entering work orders into the new Productive Parks software system.

Office staff are preparing for the start of fall registration on Monday, August 21.

All community groups need space, in particular the Wildcat Cheerleaders requested regular usage of the main gym at LWN, however that would require denying usage to a large number of people that utilize the gym. John Keenan, Superintendent of Recreation hoped to provide the cheerleaders with access to the LWN cafeteria, but the School District is currently using it for storage.

H. Risk Management

No report.

I. Community Updates

Ms. Marcquenski reported that she has been in conversation with officials from the Villages of Frankfort and Tinley Park regarding planned improvements in their respective communities.

Road improvements currently underway along 80th Avenue in Tinley Park includes a bike path that will connect to the Park District's path system and enable commuters to bike to the 80th Avenue Metra Station.

Apartments along 191st Street will go vertical within the next two weeks. A new subdivision at the southwest corner of 191st Street and 80th Avenue has been approved for construction, and although Brookside Glen developers exceeded park land donation, this development may include a tot lot. Ms. Marcquenski will meet with Frank Bradley, Crana Homes developer, and the small park can be constructed per Park District specifications.

J. Freedom of Information

No Freedom of Information requests were received over the past month.

XI. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

XII. New Business

No new business was discussed.

A. Commissioner's Comments

Frank Florentine and Ryan Holley thanked Audrey Marcquenski for managing the recent pickleball and community garden challenges.

Commissioner, Phil Cherry noted that the fountain at Community Park looks amazing.

Mr. Cherry observed increased traffic at Mary Drew that included Summer Day Camp and dance program dismissals, players arriving for Wildcats Football practice, and pickleball players. All seemed to be in a rush, and he asked if a crosswalk or speed bump could be installed to slow down traffic as a proactive safety measure.

Commissioners, Frank Florentine and Ryan Holley agreed with Mr. Cherry's observations, and Mr. Florentine suggested a temporary stop sign, while Mr. Holley noticed residents park cars across the sidewalks, causing kids to use the street to pass on their way to and from Mary Drew. Ms. Marcquenski will discuss this matter with Dr. McDermott, SHSD Superintendent.

XIII. Executive Session

No business came before the Board that required an executive session.

XIV. Adjournment

Dave Macek made Motion 23-1866 to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Ryan Holley seconded. Motion carried in a vote by voice.

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Mitchell