

FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2024

The following are Minutes of a meeting of the Frankfort Square Park District Board of Commissioners held at the Park District Administration Building, 7540 W. Braemar Lane, Frankfort, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

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

Also present were: Audrey Marcquenski, Executive Director/Secretary, Linda Mitchell, Recording Secretary.

Absent was: Ken Blackburn

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Input

No members of the public were present.

V. Correspondence

Ms. Marcquenski presented the following correspondence for Board review.

A. Appreciation

A letter was received from the Cancer Support Center, expressing appreciation for the Park District's support of their holiday celebration by providing a Square Links foursome of golf and power carts as a raffle prize.

An email received from the Arbury Hills SCO thanking the Park District for the donation of a free golf as a raffle prize for their Summit Hill Education Foundation Family Bingo Night event.

A thank you note was received from a F.A.N. member that requested a floor mat that provides a comfortable spot for members to do stretches.

An email was received from an individual that attended the LWSRA basketball tournament at LWN, expressing appreciation for the assistance provided by two FSPD staff members, and also thanked all that made the tournament a wonderful experience for players and their fans.

B. Congratulatory

Several email messages were received from local government agencies, intergovernmental partners, local businesses, and residents that supported the Park District's OSLAD grant application, congratulating the Park District for being awarded a \$600,000 grant to redevelop Hunter Prairie Park.

VI. Presentation of January 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Denis Moore made Motion 24-1900 to accept the January 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Craig Maksymiak seconded.

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

Phil Cherry made Motion 24-1901 to accept the January 18, 2024 Executive Session Minutes, as presented. Frank Florentine seconded.

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

VII. Legal Report

No report.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Vice-President, Dave Macek accepted the January Treasurer's Report, pending audit.

Ryan Holley made Motion 24-1902 to accept the Accounts Payable Listing. Denis Moore seconded. Motion carried.

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

IX. Executive Director's Report

Audrey Marcquenski discussed the OLSAD grant notification, noting it was quite an achievement for all involved in the application process, Our District will receive \$600,000, an amount that is being provided to park districts much larger than the FSPD, for the purpose of redeveloping Hunter Prairie Park.

No work can begin until the executed project agreement is received from the IDNR. The park redevelopment must be completed within two years. Planning Resources, Inc. will develop a timeline reflecting the first year's planning, permitting, and site prep, and park construction will begin and conclude in the second year.

Ms. Marcquenski reported that the second draft of the 2024/2025 budget did not differ greatly from the January draft and that the March draft will include updates to the OSLAD grant section and carryforwards in various funds.

The District's fund balances remain in a good position, with all ahead of last year's totals. Ms. Marcquenski anticipates additional Cook County tax distributions, noting that in 2023, final tax dollars were not received until April.

In 2025/2026, a capital budget may be incorporated, where money can be saved for projects., and if tax distributions are received late, the capital budget provides flexibility to use capital budget carryforwards. Ms. Marcquenski will review this matter with Park District Counsel and the new Lauterbach & Amen audit team.

The 2024/2025 budget contains wage increases with a maximum 6% based on CPI and a couple of points for merit, as applicable.

The budget also reflects the additional maintenance staff, and the District is planning to hire one additional full-time staff member in the coming fiscal year.

Ms. Marcquenski and John Keenan, Superintendent of Recreation, met with representatives from Frankfort Square Wildcats Football & Cheer. Cheer will start earlier this year, with many already starting practice. Cheer is asking for additional space for which there is no easy solution as the Park District provides them with use of the Mary Drew gym and dance studios, and the Lincoln-Way North fieldhouse and wrestling room to accommodate 185 practices from August 2023 through November 2023.

Commissioner Frank Florentine asked if Cheer could contact Summit Hill Schools for practice space. Ms. Marcquenski responded that she did encourage them to contact SHSD.

The conversation also included game field drainage, with the Park District working with Sports Fields to complete this improvement project.

The Wildcats also expressed an interest in moving a practice field goal post from its current distance of 91' to the standard. Phil Cherry will contact his father, a founding member of the Frankfort Square Wildcats, to inquire if there was a reason for how they were originally set up.

The Park District is in a unique position to be able to use a facility that is also now housing students, and Ms. Marcquenski appreciates Dr. Tingley's efforts to ensure the building is secure for the students and that the Park District can continue to use this valued facility for all D210 residents. It is anticipated that Lockport High School will continue using LWN through the end of the current school year.

Ms. Marcquenski and staff had a good meeting with Reliable Property Services, where Square Links groundskeeping for the 2024 golf season was discussed. Reliable is excited to introduce a new organic fertilizer, testing it first on a section of the range, and the treatment will be expanded if it shows good results. The cicada emergence was also discussed, and although it will not cause damage, it will be loud while they are active.

The Reliable contract term has been extended through April 2027 and a rate increase was decided based on the CPI.

The deadline to submit college scholarship applications is March 3, 2024, and Ms. Marcquenski noted that since the scholarship program that was introduced by the Park Board in 2006, has \$145,000 to college-bound residents to date.

Staff have been preparing for the Park District's 50th anniversary, and the plan is to celebrate throughout the summer through programs and facilities. The summer brochure will have a 70's theme with some 70's style programs and pricing. Other ideas include floating a large "50" in Community Park Pond, a treasure hunt through parks to increase awareness, a 70's themed golf cart wrap, and 50th anniversary range balls where if you receive one in a range bucket, the bucket is free.

Frank Florentine noted that there is an app that can be used to encourage people to visit parks that includes geo tags to track park access. Commissioner Ryan Holley recommended featuring couples that may be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries.

Ms. Marcquenski discussed changes to the Champions Park pickleball courts to ensure that homeowners and players can better coexist, including moving the entrance gate to the north side of the course, providing a shadier spot while waiting for an open court, and keeping players from blocking parking lot traffic.

Signage with usage rules, along with daily hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The rules will also be sent to the pickleball community so they are aware that the facility cannot be used for unauthorized fundraisers which can present liability issues for the Park District.

All six nets will be available, and the facility will include a programmable lock to prevent early morning and late evening usage.

A full and complete discussion ensued that included additional changes such as no lights and installation of surveillance cameras.

It is hoped the positive changes will discourage non-resident league usage and allow residents and families to again enjoy this facility.

Ms. Marcquenski reported that the original Park Use Ordinance is still under review by Park Counsel, and when complete, will be a good document that will be helpful in detailing expectations for behaviors at park facilities. The completed ordinance will be provided for Board review and consideration at an upcoming Park Board Meeting.

X. Committee Reports

A. Maintenance

Park staff have been removing beaver dams that have been causing flooding issues, and a trapper was contacted to relocate the beavers.

B. Recreation

Jimbooo's Italian Beef restaurant again catered the Sweetheart Dance.

F.A.N. pass sales and attendance continuous to be strong, and staff have met members' requests to include mats for stretching and cornhole equipment.

The AARP Driver Safety class has been moved to the Nature Center, making it a shorter and more convenient walk for seniors.

Staff are looking for additional active adult opportunities that can be offered in the Nature Center.

C. Information Technology

Ms. Marcquenski thanked Board Members for sharing information on spam emails. The District's IT Contractor worked with Barracuda Networks, Inc., the company that safeguards the Park District's email system, to identify the source and to block foreign countries.

D. Special Recreation

Ms. Marcquenski will attend LWSRA's monthly Board Meeting on February 20.

Dave Macek, LWSR Foundation President, reported that the Foundation met to begin planning 2024 fundraising events.

E. Finance and Planning

No report.

F. Golf Course

Square Links was again open on Super Bowl Sunday, where a record 101 patrons enjoyed playing golf in February.

The Tinley Park Golf Expo was beneficial, and Square Links was included as a sponsor this year.

Longtime Square Links PGA Golf Pro, Ken Buss will not return this season. Mr. Buss shared his love of the game with all he met, and we wish him all the best. Staff will be looking for a new instructor for the 2024 season.

G. Office

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

H. Risk Management

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

I. Community Updates

Frankfort Square Baseball League (FSBL) will install new Nevco scoreboards at Union Creek Fields #1 and #2. They also requested breakaway fencing and field modifications at Hunter Prairie Park to enable Broncos to play at this location.

J. FOIA

The Park District received and responded to two FOIA requests for information and will add legal fees to the FOIA cost spreadsheet as they become available.

XI. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

XII. New Business

No new business was discussed.

Commissioner Comments

Phil Cherry congratulated all for the successful OSLAD grant application, noting it will be a great park improvement for the community.

Mr. Cherry asked why only half of the Union Creek parking lot along 80th Avenue was seal coated. Ms. Marcquenski responded that the Park District only owns the north side of the lot and can only maintain what it owns.

Frank Florentine understands the hard work that went into applying for the OSLAD grant and is looking forward to seeing the success in action as Hunter Prairie Park is redeveloped.

XIII. Adjournment

Craig Maksymiak made Motion 24-1903 to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Denis Moore seconded. Motion carried in a vote by voice.

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Mitchell