

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS of the Park District of Forest Park, Cook County, Illinois was held in the Administration Building of the Park District of Forest Park, 7501 Harrison Street, Forest Park, Illinois at 6:30 p.m. on January 12, 2017.

**ROLL CALL:** President Walsh chaired the meeting, calling it to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Doss, McDermott, Sansone and Walsh answered present. Commissioner Entler was an excused absence. Also present were Assistant Director Steve Thomas, Superintendent of Parks Larry Buckley, Treasurer Joe Murray and Secretary Chris Richards. Foundation President Kevin Bartlett also in attendance as was Marianne Birko of West Suburban Special Recreation Assn.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion was made by Commissioner Sansone, seconded by Commissioner Doss, to approve the agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Commissioners Doss, McDermott, Sansone, and Walsh ; Nays: None; Absent: Commissioner Entler.

**MINUTES:**

-Motion was made by Commissioner Doss, seconded by Commissioner Sansone, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2016 Regular Board Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Commissioners Doss, McDermott Sansone and Walsh; Nays: None; Absent: Commissioner Entler.

**SPECIAL GUEST:**

- Marianne Birko of WSSRA addressed the Board with her annual presentation outlining the state of WSSRA for the year. She presented facts and figures for 2015 with regard to programming, participation and funding, specifically as they relate to Forest Parkers and also highlighted the activities of the WSSRF. She closed by thanking the Board for their consistent support and cooperation. President Walsh thanked her and her staff for the great work they do on behalf of their partner districts.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

-None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

-None..

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

-Treasurer Murray reviewed the disbursements for December 2016 and January 2017: computer generated checks totaled \$62,248.50 and manual checks totaled \$1,887.16 for a grand total of \$64,135.66 in expenses submitted for approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Sansone, seconded by Commissioner Doss, to approve disbursements for December 2016 and January 2017. Roll Call: Ayes: Commissioners Doss, McDermott, Sansone and Walsh; Nays: None; Absent: Commissioner Entler.  
-Joe reviewed financial statements for the close of December 2016 noting that the balance on account as of December 31, 2016 was \$5,058,094.20. The Money Market fund shows a balance of \$226,514.72 as of 1/10/17 and the Illinois Park District Liquid Asset Fund shows a balance of \$4,358,841.91 in the Bond Account with an additional \$425,684.76 in the DCEO account. Motion was made by Commissioner McDermott, seconded by Commissioner Sansone to approve the financial statements for the close of December 2016. Roll Call: Ayes: Commissioners Doss, McDermott, Sansone, and Walsh ; Nays: None; Absent: Commissioner Entler.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT:**

-Superintendent Buckley reported that all holiday decorations were taken down last week with the break in the weather. He also had the vans and bus inspected. The crew is currently working on cleaning up the garage. Larry said that the pick up truck will also need service because there is an issue that causes the check engine light to stay on.  
-Larry reported on the problem we have been having with the elevator when it gets a lot of use. He believes that the design was at fault because it keeps overheating. The elevator company has tried installing a fan to control the heat, but that does not seem to be working. He wants to try changing to synthetic oil, but if that doesn't work the solution may be more involved. He will continue to work on solving the problem. He thinks that Larry has followed up with the architect with regard to the problems.  
-Commissioner McDermott commented that Larry's van has been having problems and said that we may need to consider replacing it in the next fiscal year. Superintendent Buckley agreed stating that it has over 200,000 miles

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

-Assistant Director Thomas outlined programs and activities that occurred over the past month and highlighted upcoming events include the Legislative Breakfast that will be hosted here on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and the annual Daddy/Daughter Dance being held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. He reminded the Board that the IPRA/IAPD Conference is being held January 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. The new bus has been ordered and we are expecting delivery in March.

-Commissioner McDermott suggested that we look into Lasertag hear at the Park, possibly on a day off of school.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

-Director Piekarz was not in attendance, but his written report requested that the Board come to a consensus as to whether or not staff should proceed with plans to revamp and revive the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. The event would be shorter than in the past and would include a limited menu, two bands and, of course, fireworks. The cost of fireworks would be \$16,000.00. The Board discussed their concerns, primarily with crowd control and security. The Village is asking us to provide fireworks with smaller shells, and limit marketing and put up fencing for crowd control. The consensus of the Board was that we should proceed and be clear that it is a trial basis so that if there are any problems, it would be discontinued immediately. Commissioner McDermott commented that we should reach out to our neighbors as well so that they are aware of what we are doing. Commissioner Doss commented that discontinuing the celebration four years ago was the most difficult decision he has had to make as a Commissioner. We are planning on asking the Village to allow an option for citizens to make a donation toward the cost of the fireworks with vehicle sticker renewals and/or water bills and, Commissioner McDermott thought that this might also be how the event is promoted to residents. She also felt that we should be the ones to announce the return of the fireworks and control the message that goes out.

-Assistant Director Thomas reminded the Board to visit recreation software vendors at the conference. He has already done preliminary research and we are considering Maximum Solutions.

**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS REPORT.**

-None.

**PARK DISTRICT OF FOREST PARK FOUNDATION REPORT.**

-Kevin Bartlett presented the Foundation report stating that they are beginning their 5<sup>th</sup> year. He said that last year was their most successful year to date. Their goal this year is to continue to increase their visibility and provide volunteers for park events. They are working on coming up with a "signature event" and reaching out to companies for sponsorship. They are also trying to fill a couple of vacancies on their Board.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

-None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

-None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

-Commissioner McDermott asked that "Yankee Doodle Dandy" be scheduled as a movie in the park on July 3, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

-Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sansone at 7:24 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Doss. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent:1.

Submitted by:

Steve Richards Secretary

Approved:

Matthew Walsh Board of Park Commissioners

Roy J. Sansone Board of Park Commissioners

Date:

2/16/17