

PEKIN PARK DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF  
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 20, 2022  
At the Mineral Springs Park Robert N. Blackwell Building  
1701 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to Order:

Commissioner Gillis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and all stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call:

The following Commissioners were present: Marv Brown (audio attendance), Kyle Cain, Paula Helm, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, and Greg Ranney. Absent was Commissioner Kristen Walraven. Also, in attendance was; Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Dori Smith, Board Secretary/Asst. to the Executive Director; Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Luke VonDerHeide, Park Police Chief; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing and Communications; and Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks (audio attendance). Staff absent were: Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator, and Chip Hill; Business Manager.

3. Additions to and/or Deletions from the Agenda, if any: None – The ED noted that the correct Ordinance number under New Business is 22-1.

4. Presentation by Bo Cheesman regarding U.S. Premier Hockey League Vikings Team –

Bo Cheesman addressed the board regarding his request to have a Central Illinois Premiere Junior Hockey Program at the Veterans Memorial Arena. With him was Scott Saur, and two former players with their parents. The big concern is that the Veterans Memorial Arena does not have locker rooms and having locker rooms would be a requirement for the junior hockey program. Mr. Cheesman has requested locker rooms be built. After listening to Mr. Cheesman, Cameron Bettin indicated that the park district does not have the money to fund such a request and that Mr. Cheesman would have to raise the money. He also reiterated the need to talk with the Tazewell County Veterans Memorial Fair Association (TCVMFA) to see if they would allow the addition to their building. He also indicated he was surprised to see the size of the addition, as this was the first time for anyone to see a plan. He said he would present the request at the next TCVMFA meeting.

5. Presentation by The Unland Companies regarding Stewardship -

Pat Taphorn and Betsy Yarcho gave Stewardship Report presentations. They explained the services they provide to the park district, their consultation offerings and tools they provide. Kathy Betteridge was also in attendance.

6. Comments from the public: None

7. Consent Agenda and Approval of the same:

- A. Approval of January 6, 2022 meeting Minutes.
- B. Approval of the December 2021 Treasurer's Report
- C. Approval of the bills and payroll for 1/05/2022 thru 1/17/2022 in the amount of \$10,984.77
- D. Approval of bills to be paid 1/21/2022 in the amount of \$27,815.75

Move to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Greg Ranney 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue McMillan

All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried

Move to pass all items of business listed in the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Paula Helm

All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried

8. Illinois River Valley SRA Representative Report:

Commissioner Ranney reported they met Tuesday. He reported that both Shelly Chism and Shawna Burnice both attended the meeting (Shawna by Zoom). He reported two teams went to State. They are planning on playing more golf and providing lessons. Summer Camp participation numbers were the best ever. New table rack has been ordered. Rentals are going well. They are planning a spaghetti dinner. Ducks are still available for purchase at \$20. He reported that this meeting would be Casey Smith's last meeting due to his new position. He also indicated that group homes are still hesitant to allow residents to participate in programs due to Covid.

9. Tazewell County Veterans Memorial Fair Board Representative Report:

Commissioner McMillan reported the Fair Board met January 18<sup>th</sup>. She indicated that three board members attended the State Agriculture Fair, met the new State Representative Jeanette Watkins. Commissioner McMillan noted she is facilitating new changes that would affect us, but more accountability and detail oriented, but may affect the park district for the better later on in regards to maintenance. It also appears she wants to promote change for 4-H by broadening categories of entries, etc. They broadened the age range to 8-20- or possibly 21. She indicated funding was moving slow and grants are up for grabs. The annual fair will begin August 13<sup>th</sup>. The next Fair Board meeting is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>.

10. Pekin Park Foundation Report:

Commissioner Gillis reported over the last two meetings they voted to extend an invitation to Buster Hanley to join the Foundation Board, and welcomed him at their last meeting. Projects they acted on or were completed were: Approved a request for funds form the Miller Center account for purchase of a shed for the Miller Center; Approved the 2022 meeting schedule of the Park Foundation Board of Directors; Band Shell proposal: The ED introduced an effort by interested parties in the community to have a band shell constructed in Mineral Springs Park for use by the Pekin Park Concert Band. Discussion followed regarding how to determine the feasibility of the project; There was a discussion of possible goals for 2022. While thoughts were shared it was noted that the Foundation is near completing their marketing plan. In January action, the board heard a presentation from McDaniels Marketing regarding the Foundation's new logo. After discussion the decision was made to adopt a new logo and he shared it with the Park Commissioners. The ED updated the Board on progress with the Pekin Park Concert Band shell. He shared that 12 to 15 people are interested in pursuing the project. He emphasized to them the need to bring ideas in a concept forward. Amy Wilson from Farnsworth will be giving them direction. The board agreed on the purchase of a tree in memory of Barb Owens, former park commissioner and Park Foundation Director. The ED shared that Scott Clausen has communicated with Hydro Dramatics regarding upgrading the fountain in the Sunken Garden. The price quoted in December was \$6,000 and Scott will revisit to see if there's been a hike in pricing.

11. Executive Director's Report:

The ED noted that Commissioner Gillis already mentioned the band shell and that was all he had.

12. Attorney's Report: No report

13. Staff Reports:

Scott Clausen reported that he had not heard anything more regarding the Sunken Garden fountain and would request an updated quote.

Shawn Powers reported that Sled Hockey participants with an array of disabilities were practicing with typical hockey players in the stick and puck sessions.

14. Commissioner Comments:

15. Unfinished Business: None

16. New Business:

1. Approval of Ordinance 22-1

Move to approve Ordinance 22-1 "An Ordinance Adopting the Combined Annual budget and Appropriation of Funds for the Pekin Park District, Tazewell and Peoria Counties, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning on the First (1<sup>st</sup>) Day of January 2022 and Ending on the Thirty first (31<sup>st</sup>) Day of December 2022".

Motion: Gary Gillis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Greg Ranney  
All ayes by a roll call vote - motion carried

17. Executive Session:

1. Move to convene into Executive Session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, litigation or personal status of employees, officers and legal counsel for the park district and to discuss the sale price of real estate under Sec 2(b)(6) of the Open Meetings Act and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

Motion: Greg Ranney 2<sup>nd</sup>: Gary Gillis  
(Time: 7:45 p.m.)

Motion: Greg Ranney 2<sup>nd</sup>: Gary Gillis  
All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried  
(Time: 8:22 p.m.)

2. Reconvene into Open Session –

Move to reconvene into Open Session.

Motion: 2<sup>nd</sup>:

All ayes by a roll call vote - motion carried.

(Time: 7:40 p.m.)

3. Action on Executive Session –

Move to approve release of and not to release of Executive Session Minutes as presented.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue McMillan

All ayes by a roll call vote - motion carried.

18. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Paula Helm

All ayes a voice call vote – motion carried. (Time: 8:24 p.m.)

Respectfully,

Dori K. Smith, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners  
Pekin Park District