

PEKIN PARK DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF  
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
6:00 p.m. Thursday, November 18, 2021  
At the Mineral Springs Park Robert N. Blackwell Administration Building  
1701 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to Order:

President Brown 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, Kyle Cain (arrived 6:10 p.m.), Gary Gillis, Paula Helm, Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney and Kristen Walraven. Also in attendance were; Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Dori Smith, Board Secretary/Asst. to the ED; Michael Seghetti, Park District Attorney; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks (attendance by phone); Luke VonDerHeide, Chief of Park Police, Chip Hill; Business Manager and Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator. Absent was Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation and Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager.

3. Additions to and/or Deletions from the Agenda, if any: None

4. Public Comments: None

5. Presentation/Request: City of Pekin proposed property transfer for new fire station –

Justin Reeise, Public Works Director and Jayson Brienen, Public Property Supervisor from the City of Pekin made a presentation regarding a request for a potential property exchange that would enable the City to construct a new fire station on property owned by the park district. They indicated the City of Pekin has conducted numerous studies, compiled data and current property conditions, and has authorized the development of new fire stations. Contributing factors for their project are current response times for the fire department, road miles to high risk areas within the city, unaccounted for city expansion over the past 60 years, as well as, current building conditions and lack of conforming to modern day firefighting facilities. They indicated that after considering all the factors that three new fire stations in three new areas is the best solution. They indicated their request affects the park district because they believe the best location to build one of the new fire stations is currently owned by the Pekin Park District a long 5<sup>th</sup> St. The City of Pekin's proposal would be to

swap approximately 10 -12 acres along 5<sup>th</sup> St for 12-15 acres of City owned property adjacent to and directly south of the Sports Complex. Cameron Bettin indicated that the property donor's initial response was not positive and he needed to further review the Donor Agreement. He was concerned that such a property trade could negatively impact the park district greatly down the road. He also indicated that a Phase II Master Plan for the Pekin Sports Complex was recently done and paid for and that he felt the City would need to reimburse the park district for the expenditure. Several concerns were brought forward. It was noted that it was hoped the two governmental entities would be able to find a mutually agreed upon solution without hurting either entity.

Cameron Bettin added he felt no decisions can be made until we have had a chance to speak with the donor again and study the request further. He also stated that the park district will not spend any additional funds on site planning until a decision has been made.

5. Consent Agenda and Approval of the same:
  - A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2021
  - B. Approval of the October's Treasurer's Report.
  - C. Approval of the bills and payroll for 11/2/21 thru 11/16/21 in the amount of \$35,529.22
  - D. Approval of the bills to paid 11/19/21 in the amount of \$10,065.28

Move to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried  
motion carried

6. Motion to pass the items of business listed in the Consent Agenda:

Move to pass the business items in the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote

Motion: Kyle Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kristen Walraven

All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried.

7. Budget Performance Summary Report: No Report. The ED stated he would have the October 2021 report for the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
8. IRVSRA Representative Report:  
  
Commissioner Ranney stated no meeting - no report.
9. TCVMFA Representative Report:

Commissioner McMillan reported they reviewed their Treasurer's Report, Budget and changes to Budget. They also discussed building improvements. She noted that Keith Knox talked about the new floor scrubber and the necessary training for the scrubber. They also discussed drainage problems and vent fan issues at the Livestock Review Building. She noted that the Fair Convention was being held in Springfield January 14<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup>. They approved 2022 Fair Board meeting schedule and elected officers for 2022.

10. Pekin Park Foundation Report:

Commissioner Gillis reported the Pekin Park Foundation November 15, 2021.

A presentation on a new logo for the Foundation and other marketing material changes to be brought forward by McDaniels Marketing was deferred until December due to scheduling conflicts. The board brainstormed additional ideas to be shared with McDaniels. The Foundation Board accepted the resignation of Val Moehle from the board for personal reasons with regret. A number of names of possible new board members were brought forward. An effort is underway to determine indications of interest among those names. A funding request for repairs to the column bases on the Pavilion Porch for \$1800 was brought forward. The expenditure was approved. This completes the porch renovation project. The board discussed possible goals for 2022. Those that will likely be further investigated before adopting are:

- Completion of Branding and Messaging Process and related brochure completion.
- Look into memorials and acknowledgement of pets at Dog Park. Small signs or tokens are under consideration.
- Signage recognizing park improvement opportunities through financial support.
- Begin exploring reasons for and design of Capital Campaign for Fountain and Pavilion.
- Develop 3 to 5-year plan for support of Park District projects.

The Executive Director recognized Gary Gillis for article about Pekin Park Foundation likely to be placed in upcoming issue on Alternative Revenue Sources in Parks and Rec Magazine.

11. Executive Director's Report: (ED)

The ED reported he was working with McDaniels Marketing on the website. He indicated that staff is reviewing the website also and he will have more information at the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. He reported he will be conducting annual staff reviews. He reported that he attended a preconstruction meeting with Peoria Metro and noted their work will begin soon. He reported Otto Baum poured the walk to the restroom and diamond #1 and lagoon patio. He noted that work on the lagoon sidewalk would begin soon. He also reported WMBD is producing 15 second commercials for the park district that will begin to air in December and 30 second commercials are scheduled to air in the spring. He stated Shawn Powers asked that he report the park district received the 2021 International Silver Award from Jeff Ellis and Associates. He also reported that Shawn is working with the Farnsworth Group on a bid packet for repair and painting of the DragonLand pool area. He also noted that the dragon slide needs to be replaced and needs to be removed, hoping to replace it for the 2023 season.

12. Attorney's Report:

Michael Seghetti reported he had completed the process of setting up the Concert Band to operate separately from the park district and reported that he attended the IAPD Legal Symposium.

13. Staff Reports: None

14. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Kyle reported she had been to the library with students and saw a model of the Pavilion that had been donated by Busey Bank and encouraged others to go and see it.

Commissioner Brown commented he had concerns regarding parks hours. He felt we should have more signs and work at getting the word out that parks close at dusk.

Commissioner Walraven commented that she was hearing rumors of naughty behavior from high school students at Parkside Fitness. Cameron Bettin answered yes, there has been trouble and we recently banned a student for a year due to destructive actions.

Commissioner Helm commented that all the Winter Wonderland trees have been sold, the parade is Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and there will be a fireworks display after the parade.

15. Unfinished Business:

1. Strategic Plan –

Cameron Bettin broke the group down into break-out groups to discuss stated goals and to come up with objectives for the Strategic Plan.

16. New Business:

1. Presentation of the 2022 Golf Fund Budget –

Cory Proehl, Director of Golf presented the 2022 Golf Fund Budget. He stated the following Goals and Objectives for the 2022 Budget:

- Continue to grow more outings
- Keep promoting the game of golf to women, children, and families
- Sunday – make Family Day and let kids play free with a full paying adult after 2 p.m.
- Purchase (4) sets of Junior Clubs from \$800 River Cup Grant

Attached as part of the Minutes are Cory's 2022 Budget Presentation Talking Points that indicate differences between the 2021 and 2022 Budget.

2. Vaccine mandate discussion –

The ED indicated that individuals who work at companies with over 100 or more employees will need to be vaccinated against Covid - 19 by January 4<sup>th</sup> or get tested for the virus weekly under a mandate by the federal government. He noted that he is concerned that it will lead into the scariness of getting people to apply for jobs. He gave a few examples of his concern. Park District Attorney, Michael Seghetti noted that generally the mandate is found to be legal. However, it was noted that this issue could get tied up in the court system. Commissioner McMillan commented her husband received notice from his employer regarding their mandate.

3. Discussion regarding Health Insurance Spousal Carve-outs & Surcharges –

Cameron Bettin stated that he and Dori Smith have had discussions with Betsy Yarcho and Bill Shock from the Unland Companies on ways to save money. They indicated that carve-outs and surcharges were very common. He stated, we brought up

the topic in a staff meeting and concerns were shared in respect to hiring and the difficulty in getting people to even apply. He indicated he and Dori talked more and recommend holding off for now and re-evaluating options next year.

19. 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. Time: 8:13 p.m.  
Motion: Gary Gillis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Paula Helm  
All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried
2. Move to reconvene into Open Session. Time: 8:40 p.m.  
Motion: Greg Ranney 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kristen Walraven  
All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried
3. Action on Executive Session, if any - None

18. Adjourn:

Move to adjourn this meeting.  
Motion: Gary Gillis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kyle Cain  
All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried  
Time: 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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