

PEKIN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 5,2022
At the Mineral Springs Park Robert N. Blackwell Building
1701 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to Order:

President Cain 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: Kyle Cain, Gary Gillis, Paula Helm, Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney and Kristen Walraven. Absent was; Marv Brown. Also in attendance were; Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Dori Smith, Board Secretary/Assistant to the Director; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Keith Knox; Parkside Fitness Manager, Steve Fitzanko, Interim Chief of Park Police; Chip Hill, Business Manager and Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing and Communications. Absent was Alisha Dault, Miller Senior Center Administrator

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

4. Comments from the public: No one from the public in attendance

5. Consent Agenda and Approval of the same:

A. Approval of April 21, 2022 meeting Minutes.

B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 4/19/22 thru 5/2/22 in the amount of \$83,808.03

C. Approval of bills to be paid 5/6/22 in the amount of \$30,077.88

Move to accept the Consent Agenda with noted correction to the Minutes. Paula Helm was recorded both as present and absent – she was absent.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Paula Helm

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: Greg Ranney 2nd: Kristen Walraven

All eyes by a roll call vote – motion carried

6. Executive Director's (ED) Report:

The ED reported the following:

- He attended the Central Illinois Director's Roundtable in Urbana on April 22nd. He noted 14 Directors were present. He also noted that Peter Murphy from IAPD was in attendance. They give updates and ask questions. The ED indicated that he inquired about gaming and noted it was a "wishy-washy subject".
- He and Keith Knox met with a company regarding potential solar panel installation at Parkside Fitness and the Veterans Memorial Arena. He indicated there is a lease or pay as you go option and will be meeting again to obtain additional information.
- He and Keith Knox met with Vercada Security System Co regarding a trial camera that was installed at the Parkside Fitness. He stated they are looking at budgeting an improved security system in the 2023 budget.
- He and Dori Smith met with Park District Attorney Mike Seghetti on rental contracts, allowing alcohol in certain facilities, ownership of Sunken Gardens and a contract for the Vikings hockey group. Also discussed was board meetings and how regulations were loosened due to the pandemic and are back to be more restrictive.

7. Staff Reports:

Commissioner Gillis asked Shawn Powers if he was having difficulty hiring lifeguards. Shawn indicated yes. He had 15 hired as of Friday, but recently attended a job fair at PCHS and now will be teaching a class of 23. He indicated he is good as long as they all long into Ellis and Associates and create accounts-tight but ok. He also noted he raised the wage for a lifeguard from \$13 to \$15.

8. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner McMillan made reference to some negative comments on Facebook regarding the Park District and felt that there should be better communication regarding what's happening at the Park District.

Commissioner Gillis noted he is hosting a pod cast called "What's the story Pekin". He noted he will share simple facts and that the pod cast lasts 20-25 minutes. He also reported he attended an IPARKS meeting and they agreed to distribute IPARKS logo items such as fleece jackets, mugs, hats, reflective vests, etc. to commissioners. He also noted he

shared the park's greenhouse story with Peter Murphy and noted the story will appear in a magazine article to be shared with other park districts.

9. Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion regarding installation of gaming machines at Parkview and Lick Creek Golf Clubhouses –

Cameron Bettin stated he hoped that all had a chance to read his memo submitted in the meeting packet. He gave a highlight of his comments as follows: the cost of repairs, current expenses and future capital projects are approximately around the seven-million-dollar mark; must be creative when it comes to making money especially since golf is an enterprise fund and does not receive specified levied taxpayer funds; making money from the gaming machines is not going to be a save all resolution, but it is a way to generate additional revenue and begin building a reserve and capital improvement fund for the golf courses; the reserve can be utilized in times when the golf courses have a bad year due to inclement weather, an unexpected large expense or a downturn in the economy; in the past the General Fund has subsidized the Golf Fund when it had ended up in the red at the end of the budget year; the golf courses must be looked at in a different light since there are no grants or federal aid for Park District golf courses that we have found or are aware of for capital improvements; gaming machine revenues would help offset this expenditure and most likely allow the Golf Fund to be solely responsible for the lease payments and a list of big-ticket items that have been addressed and need to be addressed. He stated that we will not be advertising this with banners on Broadway or Parkway, or on Facebook or our website. We already have a steady customer base with our golfers both locally and from outside our community throughout the state. Cory Proehl, Director of Golf reiterated that he will not advertise and feels there is no need to with the captive audience we already have. He noted the machines would not be in plain sight and would be roped off with security cameras. He also noted with all the necessary capital projects the revenue was much needed, especially to address the over 40-year-old irrigation system at Lick Creek Golf Course. He indicated he was doing his best to be creative. It was noted that park board received one email in support of the gaming machines. Board discussion took place by each commissioner sharing their outlook and feelings on gaming.

2. Approval of Ordinance 22-3 –

Move to approve Ordinance 22-3 “An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 16-5, Ordinance Regulating the Use of the Parks and Property Owned or Controlled by the Pekin Park District”.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Kristen Walraven

Upon roll being called Commissioners Cain, Gillis, Helm, McMillan, & Walraven voted aye and Commissioner Ranney voted nay – motion carried

10. New Business: None

11. Adjourn:

Move to adjourn this meeting.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Greg Ranney

All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried

Time: 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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