

PEKIN PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
6:00 p.m. Thursday, October 6, 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: Marv Brown, Kyle Cain, 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 Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager; Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Advertising & Marketing; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager. Staff absent: Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf and Steve Fitzanko, Chief of Park Police Department.

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

4. Comments from the public: None

5. Consent Agenda and Approval of the same:

- A. Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2022
- B. Approval of bills paid from 9/13/22 through 10/03/22 in the amount of \$107,620.33
- C. Approval of bills to be paid 10/7/22 in the amount of \$51,139.07

Move to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Marv Brown
All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried

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

Motion: Greg Ranney 2nd: Gary Gillis
All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried

7. Executive Director's Report: (ED)

The ED reported the following:

- Election packets are available. Commissioner Helm indicated she would not be seeking re-election.
- He asked if any commissioners wanted to attend the state conference in January. He noted he knew Gary Gillis was attending. Commissioner Ranney indicated he was interested. Commissioner McMillan is interested too but will let him know if she is able to attend.
- He would like to set up a meeting with City representatives, himself, the Park Board President and Vice President regarding the Riverfront Park splash pad. He indicated it might be time to look for a new location and noted that communication with the city has been poor.
- He noted concern with buses going through the park like never before. He noted that there has been some rerouting with no communication. He would like to talk to the City about this too.
- He asked if Greg Ranney would set up a meeting with proper city employees to discuss the Riverfront Park and bus route.
- He noted that Gary Gillis is running for the IPARKS Board again.
- He informed the board that the park received one RFP for audit services in the amount of \$28,000 from Hjerpe & Tennison CPAs, LLC. He noted the cost increased \$3,000.

8. Staff Reports:

Shawn Powers reported the Recreation Department has seen many changes in staff this year and introduced Andrew Richey, Program Manager; JJ Tassart, Program Manager; Mason Carr, Aquatic Manager/Assistant Facility Manager; and Derek Beach, Recreation Maintenance Supervisor. Also hired this year and unable to attend is Andrea Steffens, Recreation Department Assistant.

9. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Gillis apologized to Scott Clausen for forgetting a student field trip. He was going to share some park district history.

Paula Helm thanked everyone for the flowers sent to honor her son.

Commissioner Cain asked about the Sunken Garden Fountain and Band Shell Projects. Commissioner Gillis indicated that he and Cameron Bettin

would be meeting with Unity Point representatives next Thursday regarding the band shell. He noted they have new renderings and an estimate that makes the Sunken Garden Fountain Project just under a million. Cameron Bettin reported the Performing Arts Venue committee met this week. They have come up with a prefab type structure and are working with Amy Wilson of the Farnsworth Group on site layout and cost. He noted they hope to present to the Park Foundation November 21 and to the Park Board December 1.

Commissioner Cain thanked Scott Clausen and Shawn Powers for their help with the homecoming parade.

Commissioner Brown mentioned to Scott Clausen concern with a “crater” where the blacktop ends and the gravel begins on McNaughton Park Road.

10. Unfinished Business: None

11. New Business:

1. Discussion and approval to purchase a dragon slide for DragonLand Water Park –

The ED stated the purchase is pretty straight forward and asked if anyone had questions. Commissioner Walraven asked if there would be a lifeguard at the top. He answered no, it’s not that tall.

Move to approve the purchase of a dragon slide for DragonLand Water Park in the amount of \$34,376 from Water Odyssey by Fountain People.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Sue McMillan

All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried

2. Discussion regarding Parkside Fitness 2023 fiscal year budget –

Cameron Bettin stated we have new competition coming to town in 2023. Titan Fitness is building a new facility across from the Avanti’s Dome. They will offer childcare, Less Mills exercise classes, cardio equipment, free weight equipment, sectorized equip, and be open 24 hours. He asked Keith Knox to review the information sent to the board which included; Annual and Month to Month Membership options, Summary of the competition’s offerings and fees, Assumptions and Speculations of the options. He discussed rate reducing options with the Board. Commissioner Cain asked, where do we stand with the Smart Approach. Cameron Bettin answered he will have to look back at the information. He

noted he is concerned with leaving rates the same or increasing rates. He would like to do marketing pushes through social media, radio and drone. Kristen Walraven mentioned the high school has a totally renovated their fitness area. Cameron Bettin asked the Board to think about the rate structure and indicated a decision would need to be made at the October 20th meeting if lowering fees.

3. Review of surveys and discussion regarding going forward with playground replacements for Blenkiron and Willow Parks –

Cameron Bettin stated 116 surveys were sent for Willow Park, twelve were returned unopened and 19 were received back – 18% return rate. He indicated the focus was on 2 to 12 year olds. He reviewed the comments. 164 surveys were sent for Blenkiron Park, four were returned unopened and 28 were received back -17.5% return rate. Again, the focus was on 2- to 12-year-olds and he reviewed the comments. He indicated he is looking at different types of equipment, keeping each neighborhood unique. He stated as with replacement of KPN and SSBA playgrounds it's a buy one gets one grant through Gametime. The purchase will be made through Sourcewell again, so no bidding is necessary. He will have approval of purchase on the October 20th agenda and grants must be submitted by October 24th. Commissioner Gillis commented on the need for a Strategic Replacement Plan that will estimate replacement dates.

4. Discussion regarding park board email –

Cameron Bettin stated that when he recently met with commissioners Cain and Ranney regarding a response email he wrote, they indicated a desire for personal board emails. He indicated the current process is working fine. He explained that the Board Secretary receives the park board emails and directly forwards to the current President & Vice President and that typically he is the one responding. He stated that commissioners Cain and Ranney feel a board member should respond. He indicated it would be easy to set up individual emails if that's what is desired.

Move to assign all park board members an individual park district email.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Greg Ranney

All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried

12. Closed Session:

1. Move to Convene into closed session for the acquisition or lease of real property or the selling or rental price of real estate.

Motion: Kristen Walraven 2nd: Sue McMillan

All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried.

Time: 7:53 p.m.

2. Move to reconvene into Open Session.

Motion: Marv Brown 2nd: Gary Gillis

All ayes by a roll call vote- motion carried

Time 8:16 p.m.

13. Adjourn:

Move to adjourn this meeting.

Motion: Sue McMillan 2nd: Greg Ranney

All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried

Time: 8:17 p.m.

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