

PEKIN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 17, 2023
At the Miller Center, 551 S. 14th Street
1701 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to Order:

President Ranney 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, Mike Dralle, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, and Steve Sours. Commissioner Kristen Walraven was absent. Also, in attendance were; Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Dori Smith, Board Secretary/Asst. to the Executive Director; Lane Alster, Park District Attorney; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing and Communications; Chip Hill, Business Manager; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; and Steve Fitzanko, Chief of Park Police. Staff absent were; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; and Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation.

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

4. Comments from the public:

Presentation by Amy Wilson, of the Farnsworth Group for potential improvements to Rotary Park as part of the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development application process and time for public input and questions –

Cameron Bettin indicated the park district sent surveys to the Rotary Park neighborhood for input regarding improvements to Rotary Park in March of 2023. He indicated the park district was working with Amy Wilson of the Farnsworth Group to apply for an OSLAD Grant. He introduced Amy Wilson and she came forward to present Rotary Park Renovations OSLAD FY 24 (attached as part of the minutes).

Amy Wilson indicated she worked with the park district in 2019 when the Park District was successful by being awarded an OSLAD matching grant (50/50) for improvements within Mineral Springs Park. She noted that Rotary Park is a 1.9-acre park on North 11th St. She noted that Rotary Park was formerly the Garfield School site and gave the history and background of the relationship between the Pekin Park District and the Pekin Rotary Club. She spoke of the existing conditions, the need to be ADA accessible and challenges. Proposed renovations include, but are not limited to the following:

- (2) trees to be removed (not safe)
- Asphalt pavement removal
- Half-court basketball, asphalt overlay

- ADA accessible concrete sidewalks
- ADA accessible ramp with railings up to shelter
- Sidewalk extension for accessible route to restrooms
- Concrete cornhole boards
- (2) benches in playground area
- Concrete playground curb with 3' ornamental fence surround
- Swing set: (2) belt swings, (1) bucket swing, & (1) 2-5 expression swing
- Play structure
- Merry-go-round
- Saucer swing
- Concrete driveway and sidewalk removals
- Existing shelter with restrooms to remain
- Existing baseball backstop fence to remain

After the presentation, there was time for questions. There was some noted concern with taking a full court basketball court down to a half court.

5. Consent Agenda and Approval of the same:

- A. Approval of August 3, 2023 meeting Minutes.
- B. Approval of July Treasurer's Report
- C. Approval of bills paid from 8/1/23 thru 8/14/23 in the amount of \$50,336.40
- D. Approval of bills to be paid 8/18/23 in the amount of \$36,598.35.

Move to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Steve Sours

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: Steve Sours 2nd: Mike Dralle

All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried

6. IRVSRA Representative Report:

Commissioner Ranney stated no meeting – no report

7. Fair Board Representative Report:

Commissioner McMillan stated no meeting – no report

8. Park Foundation Representative Report:

Commission Gillis stated the Park Foundation will meet Monday, August 21st.

9. Executive Director's Update: (ED)

The ED reported the following:

- Shawn Powers received a thank you note from a Marigold Pageant Contestant for allowing her use of the dance room in preparation for her competition.
- He asked everyone to put October 12th on their calendar for Dori Smith's retirement party.
- The dragon slide arrived 8/17 and should be installed within the next couple of weeks.
- A park patron donated a yard library for KPN. He also indicated benches and picnic tables were installed there recently.
- He referred to a letter received from Dr. Owens of District 303 and stated they didn't wish to pursue their request any further.
- He referred to his Board Report regarding the Train Depot on Broadway Road. He noted that Dori Smith had looked back through Minutes and other archived materials and confirmed that the depot was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He also noted that the park district has already spent approximately \$225,000 on renovations. He will continue research and would like to hire an architect firm to conduct a study on how the building can be used and help with the historic preservation guidelines. He also noted that there are grants that are possibilities to help with preservation, once we have a purpose.

10. Staff Reports: None

11. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Gillis stated it was frustrating to see the tragic situation in Maui. He talked about emergency preparedness for the Marigold Festival. Cameron Bettin stated there is a plan in place that is shared with emergency responders.

Commissioner Sours referred to the Rotary Park survey results regarding needles and other paraphernalia found. He wondered if it was time for security cameras of some kind.

Commissioner Cain was very pleased the fountain was back up and running.

Commissioner Ranney mentioned that he reached out to Representative Travis Weaver regarding recent notification from IDNR regarding an OSLAD Grant, and that the Pekin Park District is no longer considered a distressed community. Representative Weaver was going to look into the situation and get back to Commissioner Ranney.

12. Unfinished Business: None

13. New Business:

1. Approval of Resolution No. 23-14 –

Move to approve Resolution No. 23-14 “A Resolution Approving Execution of Real Estate Purchase Agreement with Illinois American Water Company”.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Kyle Cain

All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried

14. Adjourn:

Move to adjourn this meeting.

Motion: Kyle Cain 2nd: Steve Sours

All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried

Time: 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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