

Pekin Park District
Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
6:00 p.m. Thursday, December 7, 2023
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order.
President Ranney called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. and all stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll call.
The following Commissioners were present: The following Commissioners were present: Mike Dralle, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, Steve Sours, Kyle Cain and Kristen Walraven. Also, in attendance were; Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Assistant Board Secretary; Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police; and Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management. Absent was Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator.
3. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. None.
4. Public Comments: Shawn Powers introduced his son Nathan who was in attendance. As part of the requirements to earn his Eagle Scout, Nathan has to attend a government agency meeting.
5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2023.
 - B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 11/14/23 thru 12/4/23 in the amount of \$132,412.64.
 - C. Approval of bills to be paid 12/8/23 in the amount of \$39,441.89.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.

Move to accept the Consent Agenda as presented:
Motion Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours.
All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.
6. Motion to pass all items of business listed in the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote.

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

Motion Steve Sours; Second Kyle Cain.

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

7. Fair Board Representative Report:

Commissioner McMillan gave an update of the Fair Board Meeting held 11/21/23.

Katheryn Girone of the 4H has taken a different job to better her family. She definitely will be missed. In the meantime, Linda Lower-Sharp is filling in part time until they can find a new Katheryn!

Building projects are complete for 2023: All funds requested from fair board have been expended for projects and all projects have been completed in 2023. Arena (ice rink) lighting, HVAC install in hallway between Parkside and Arena.

Election of officers took place. Cameron made a motion to keep all officers the same. I seconded that motion. The motion carried.

Illinois Association of Ag Fairs convention dates are January 12-14, 2024, in Springfield.

The 2024 Fair Board meeting schedule was approved. Cameron has the schedule if anyone is interested in attending a meeting.

Fair dates for 2024 are July 29 – 31.

8. Pekin Park Foundation Report:

Commissioner Gillis gave an update of the Pekin Park Foundation meeting held 11/20/23. Park District Attorney Mike Seghetti was in attendance to explain the need for the Foundation to change its IRS status within our 501(c)3 classification. Our sub-status is currently a 509(a)3 which is a category controlled by a public organization. To qualify for certain grants and donations we should be seen as a more independent organization under the direction of multiple sources. Therefore, Mike will file a “change of status” form to have us reclassified as a 509(a)2.

Board agreed to fund the Park District’s participation in Pekin’s Bicentennial next year for \$15,000. They would be the main sponsor of the event.

Board approved using Loyalty Publishing for our mass mailing which will

commence shortly.

Executive Director shared upcoming Miller Center improvements to the entry area, walks and landscaping. This will likely include work to be done on the east (Lagoon side) of the building that may see resuming operation of its fountain and a possible deck area to be added.

The Foundation is exploring ways to develop and implement a discounted rate program for military veterans.

Gary Gillis shared with the Board the pending implementation of a monthly newspaper to be distributed to 19,130 households via mail beginning in the spring. It will be called the "Pekin Voice" and the district and Foundation will likely be asked to provide content and possibly advertise as well.

Schedule of 2024 meeting dates were approved.

The Executive Director asked legal counsel that if another Commissioner wanted to attend a Foundation meeting to see what it was about, is it a violation of the OMA? Legal Counsel said as long as they are just observing and not taking part in the business meeting, it should be fine.

9. Executive Director's Report: Cameron Bettin introduced Ericka Davis who is the new Superintendent of Human Resources and Risk Management. Ericka comes from Kuhl Insurance. Ericka started December 4.

Cameron indicated that this was Tony's first week on his own and in charge of the Park Police Department.

The Superintendent of Parks received a thank you letter from the Tazewell county Veterans Assistance Commission for providing the bleachers on Veterans Day.

The Parkside Manager received a thank you from Dan Englebright for their donation to the 4th annual Brett Englebright Memorial 3 on 3 Tournament. They raised \$13,200 for the Concussion Legacy Foundation, local youth hockey programs and the Brett Englebright Scholarship Fund. In four years they have donated over \$48,000 to these groups.

Hollie Green, from Parkside, and who volunteers to head up the Learning Garden, received a Certificate of Appreciation for the Park District participating in the 2023 Grow a Row Project and donating fresh produce to help increase the availability of nutritious options with the charitable food system.

Cameron asked the Commissioners if anyone was interested in attending the IAPD/IPRA State Conference. Commissioner Ranney said he might be and would get back to Cameron by Monday.

Cameron is checking into the reason the District's IDNR PARC Grant application was not approved.

10. Attorney's Report: None.
11. Staff Reports: The Superintendent of Marketing and Communications mentioned that the IRVSRA Christmas Live! Holiday Music Show at First Baptist Church Pekin is this Saturday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.
12. Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Ranney asked the Superintendent of Recreation how his meeting went with PCSA's Board. Shawn indicated that it went well. They discussed concessions, tournaments, and scheduling.

Commissioner Ranney asked the Superintendent of Parks what the orange cones were for around the Lagoon. Scott indicated that some lamp posts rusted out and fell over, exposing wires. The cones are anchored down to cover the wires for safety reasons. The plan is to start replacing the ones that fell and some others. There are 30 lights around the Lagoon and the cost just to purchase the lamp posts is around \$5,000 each. Commissioner Cain asked if they will look the same. The Executive Director said they will look similar but they are not the same. They will be like the ones in the dog park.

Commissioner Gillis attended the IAPD "Best of the Best" Gala. Commissioner Cain was recognized for her ten years on the Board and he presented a plaque to her.

Commissioner Dralle asked a question about a bill paid to Personal Touch Cleaning and who uses them? They are the cleaning service for Parkside Fitness. They are there after hours, seven days a week.

13. Unfinished Business:
 - A. Discussion of the proposed solar power system project for the Arena and Parkside Fitness.

The Executive Director indicated that he received an updated proposal from CEDG but has not been able to fully review it yet. He will have it for the next meeting. He also indicated that based on comments from the last Board meeting, they would be looking at the suggested proposed

location and being able to shift it more to the east. The Parkside Manager looked up Illinois Park District's using solar and also found National Parks that are using it also. Information was included in the Board packet.

Commissioner Gillis indicated his concern about a 20-year commitment.

Commissioner McMillan asked if the roofs were able to have solar. Cameron indicated that because of the age of the roofs, they would need to be replaced first before putting solar on them. He is not comfortable with putting solar on very old roofs.

Commissioner Gillis looked at the top ten solar providers in Illinois and CEDG was not one of them. From what he has seen, almost all solar is exclusively on top of buildings. He is going to follow up with Peoria Park District.

15. New Business:

A. Discussion of Pekin Park Sports Complex Fees.

The Executive Director and Superintendent have been discussing and working on how to come with a residency requirement for the Pekin Park Sports Complex that does not affect PCSA and Boys and Girls Club who basically are the only local organizations left. It is becoming more and more difficult to manage the requests and traffic, and still provide for our local organizations. There are organizations from Peoria and Galesburg that have heard we do not charge and are wanting to come to our facility. These organizations can still come to our facility but will have to pay if they do not meet the residency requirement. The local organizations that meet the requirements will not have to pay. The threshold is set at 80%. 79% or less will have to pay. The purpose of the complex is for the youth of Pekin per the donor agreement. Commissioner Sours asked where the 80% came from? It came from researching various agencies that have implemented such a policy and the majority were around that percentage. Morton has a requirement but it is very stringent. Commissioner Ranney asked how do you validate? Teams will need to submit rosters. Commissioner Cain asked if there currently is a priority for Pekin teams? Yes, there is a pecking order and we do accommodate Pekin teams first. Commissioner Walraven asked when would it take place? Next season, 2024. She also asked what does the 80% include? Everybody within our boundaries of the Park District. Commissioner

indicated he would like to see it lowered to 50% just to make sure we are not affecting any local teams.

Steve Sours made a motion to approve the policy but at 50% rather than 80%. Second Mike Dralle. Roll call vote: Steve Sours and Mike Dralle, Ayes; Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, Kyle Cain and Kristen Walraven, Nays. Motion failed 5 Nays to 2 Ayes.

Kyle Cain made a motion to approve the policy with the 80% requirement. Second Gary Gillis. Roll call vote: Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, Kyle Cain, Mike Dralle and Kristen Walraven, Ayes. Steve Sours, Nay; Motion carried 6 Ayes to 1 Nay.

- B. Presentation of the 2024 Racquet and Health Fund.
Parkside Fitness staff presented their budget, and highlighted any major changes to staffing, membership fees, programming and operations. Attached is the memo presented and reviewed with the Board. Commissioner Cain asked how much the body scan is? \$2,500. Commissioner Ranney asked the Executive Director if other insurance is looked at to compare the increase of what we are receiving. Unland reviews the rates within the market to make sure what we are receiving is comparable. The Parkside Manager mentioned that he hired a strength and conditioning coach from Limestone. He also mentioned that he is looking into leasing equipment. Commissioner Gillis mentioned that maybe the Park Foundation could establish a credit line for leasing equipment.
- C. Presentation of the 2024 Golf Fund.
Golf staff presented their budget, and highlighted any major changes to staffing, greens fees, season passes, programming, equipment and operations. Attached is the memo presented and reviewed with the Board. Commissioner Gillis asked if we normally vote on golf rates? The Executive Director said we have in the past and a motion can be made to do so. Gary Gillis made a motion to approve the 2024 golf season rates. Second Steve Sours. All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

16. Closed Session:

- A. Move to convene into to closed session under Sec 2 (c)(1), appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance of dismissal of specific employees and Sec 2 (c)(21) 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 Kristen Walraven; Second Kyle Cain.

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried (Time 7:43 p.m.).

B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried (Time 8:23 p.m.)

C. Move to approve the November 16, 2023 closed session Minutes.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kristen Walraven.

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

17. Adjourn.

Motion Greg Ranney; Second Kyle Cain.

All ayes by a voice call vote – Motion carried.

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Chip Hill
Assistant Board Secretary
Pekin Park District