



**PEKIN PARK  
DISTRICT**

Minutes of

The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners  
6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2024  
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, Kristen Walraven and Kyle Cain (arrived at 6:03),. Also, in attendance were; Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Assistant Board Secretary; 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; Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management. Absent was Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator and Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation.
3. Additions to and/or deletions from the Agenda, if any: None.
4. Public Comments: None.
5. Consent Agenda:
  - A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, ~~2023~~ 2024
  - B. Approval of the December 2023 Treasurer's Report
  - C. Approval of the bills and payroll for 1/03/2024 thru 1/12/2024 in the amount of \$326,501.81
  - D. Approval of bills to be paid 1/22/2024 in the amount of \$9,479.02

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.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

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 Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours.

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

7. Illinois River Valley SRA Representative Report: Commissioner Ranney mentioned that a board meeting was held January 16 at Fondulac. The new winter brochure was passed out. Programs are going well and starting to see more involvement from the group homes. The 2024 budget and goals were also discussed. The sports banquet is set for February 3 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Fondulac. The cost is \$17 per ticket.
8. Fair Board Representative Report: Commissioner McMillan mentioned that a board meeting was held January 16. The certified forms have been submitted to the state for 2024 for their request of funding. Funds for projects should be around \$22,740. The 2024 4-H Fair dates are 7/28 through 7/31. Projects being considered are power washing and/or painting the LRB outside siding and possibly the roof. The Cultural Exhibits Building also needs to be looked at as a possible project. It was discussed that the lease/agreement between the Fair Board and Park District needs to be updated/renewed. The next meeting is 3/19.
9. Pekin Park Foundation Report: Commissioner Gillis mentioned that a board meeting was held January 17. Casey Smith was at the meeting to discuss the update to the PayPal link for the Performing Arts Venue fundraising, as well as the donations to the Foundation in general. The board approved two agreements with Farnsworth Group for the Performing Arts Venue project. One was for \$5,000 to develop a RFQ to obtain a Construction Manager for the project. The other was for \$38,000 to develop the construction documents. He mentioned that the July 6 Pavilion Porch Party they are sponsoring will be called the Pekin Park Foundation Bicentennial Bash. He also mentioned a Bicentennial trivia night that might be good for them to sponsor and get involved with. The next meet is 2/21.

10. Executive Director's Report: The ED handed out a letter to the Board from the Washington Park District Director regarding an IAPD legislative breakfast they are hosting on February 26. He encouraged those that can attend, to try and do so. Commissioner Walraven asked about whether or not it would be considered a quorum if three or more attended? The ED and attorney indicated that as long as they were not talking Park District business together it is okay.
11. Attorney's Report: None.
12. Staff Reports: None.

Commissioner Ranney mentioned he received several calls regarding the snow removal at Parkside. The ED explained the snow removal process. He mentioned that though this company has been better than previous regarding responding and getting to the park when asked to be there, the process is being looked at and changes will be made.

Commissioner Gillis mentioned that Parkside staff does a great job with the sidewalks, but the parking lot is a concern.

The ED mentioned some issues that occurred with PCHS regarding snow removal of the Arena lot, and explained the process that has gone on for years and the change in the process PCHS expects us to do. We have always pushed the snow from north to south and as far as we can to the south. Now the school does not want us pushing it up to their fence, which is understandable, but they also do not want it stockpiled in the stalls or not for an extended period of time. Commissioner Ranney asked if it could go across Redbud Drive? Not really because our plows are not big enough and we do not have heavy equipment to move it once it is stockpiled. Commissioner Sours asked if we can move it to the "White Dashes?" Not really either because it could potentially tear up our plow, the curb, etc. Commissioner Ranney asked about a 6" snow? If this were to happen, most likely the school would be closed. It takes a long time to move snow, especially this amount. Commissioner McMillan asked how many years we have done it this way? It has been as long as the ED has been here (9 years) and it was done like this before that. Commissioner Dralle asked for clarification of who plows where. Commissioner Cain asked how long the signs have been there? They were installed at the end of the school break. Commissioner Walraven asked what the plan is going forward? We are going to continue to push it as far south as possible. We need to get together again with the school and work something out. Commissioner Gillis indicated that they can pay for it if they want it plowed a special way. Commissioner Sours indicated that the bitterness is concerning and we need to get this worked out.
13. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Walraven asked about the posts regarding the Lagoon ice. These posts were done because someone was ice fishing and created

concerns with allowing ice skating, which we could not do. Commissioner Dralle asked that if we only allow ice skating out there and not ice fishing, doesn't the outdoor ice skating take revenues away from ice arena's public skate? Not really because it does not happen that often the way the winter weather is around here now. Plus, it is a unique recreational opportunity for the people to be able to skate outside in a great setting.

14. Unfinished Business:

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

The ED talked about the opportunity Clean Energy Design Group (CEDG) presented to the Park District regarding the State of Illinois Solar For All Program. It is a program CEDG is a preferred vendor of and presents an opportunity (if awarded) for the Park District to lower its rate and annual escalator even more, and get more savings. The ED is looking to have a public meeting in February or March on the solar proposal. The new trail on Stadium Drive is something to keep in mind in regard to adjusting the vehicular traffic ingress/egress for the event parking. Commissioner Sours asked if the rate was guaranteed? Yes, if we are awarded the program. If not, the rate will be what was originally proposed.

15. New Business:

- A. Presentation of the 2024 General Fund Budget: The ED and Superintendent of Parks presented their budgets, and highlighted any major changes to staffing, salaries, revenues, expenses, capital improvements, equipment and operations. Attached is the memo presented and reviewed with the Board. Commissioner Sours made comment that we have \$900,000 less coming in in 2024 compared to 2023 and asked why we are budgeting deficits? Though we are getting less in replacement tax this year and we do not have the grants budgeted like last year, we are still budgeting with the beginning cash in hand. That is part of our budget. We still have a good ending cash for 2024 and most likely will be better because we never utilize all our expenses. Commissioner Walraven asked about the Outer Park expense? Besides annual repair and maintenance improvements to the roads and drives in the outer parks, this also includes the utilities for Soldwedel we have not turned off in order to prevent any mold or other issues to arise from it sitting there before we demolish the building. Trying to avoid any remediation.

- B. Approval of Ordinance 24-1 “An Ordinance abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2023 to pay the principal of and interest on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020A, of the Pekin Park District, Tazewell and Peoria Counties, Illinois”

Move to approve Ordinance 24-1.  
Motion Gary Gillis; Second Sue McMillan.  
All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

16. Adjourn:

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.  
All ayes by a voice call vote – Motion carried.  
Time: 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Chip Hill  
Assistant Board Secretary  
Pekin Park District