

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
RIVER TRAILS PARK DISTRICT,  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD VIA VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING  
IN SAID DISTRICT ON THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF MARCH 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

- I. The President called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and directed Carole Dohse, Accounting and Administrative Assistant to call the roll. Upon roll being called, the following Commissioners answered present: Edward W. Rechner, Nancy Parra, and Jennifer Rezek. Commissioner Gail Dieterich was absent. Also present were Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of Finance Steve Cummins, Superintendent of Parks Tom Pope, Superintendent of Recreation Patti Mitchell, and Manager of Athletics & Facilities Vance Violante.
  
- II. Visitors Present: Leah Lussem Board Candidate.
  
- III. Oath of Office Leah Lussem. Leah read the Oath of Office and has officially been appointed a Board Member for the River Trails Park District. Leah received a warm welcome by all.
  
- IV. The Agenda for March 18, 2021 was submitted for approval. Commissioner Rezek moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem and upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:  
  
    AYE: Ed Rechner, Nancy Parra, Leah Lussem, and Jennifer Rezek  
    NAY: None  
    ABSENT: Gail Dieterich
  
- V. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2021
  - b. Approval of Voucher List of Bills for February 16 – March 15, 2021

Commissioner Lussem moved to approve Consent Agenda items as presented. Commissioner Parra seconded the motion, and upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE: Ed Rechner, Nancy Parra, Leah Lussem, and Jennifer Rezek  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Gail Dieterich

## **VI. Communications**

- a. Staff Report – Recreation. Superintendent Mitchell said the Dance Recital was very exciting for all of the dancers and the audience; she thanked Commissioner Dieterich for helping out. The summer Camp Guide will be mailed out on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The summer staff hiring process is underway. Preschool classes are filled up along with strong numbers for Trailblazers. Parkour enrollment is up and outdoor soccer is at 70% filled. She reported that 3 staff members attended the virtual IPRA conference in January.
- b. 2020 Facility Year in Review
  - i. Facilities and Fitness. Manager of Athletics & Facilities Vance Violante presented to the Board that due to Covid, Athletic Field Permits had overall 45% less revenue and usage in 2020. Facility Room Rental's net profit was down over 10% however, Weiss gym revenue had a 6% increase over 2019 with is remarkable. The Fitness Club membership revenue was down 63% due to Covid restrictions and the staff is currently reevaluating hours of operation, staffing and new ideas to create 2021 revenue
  - ii. FYE – Zone programming. Manager of Athletics & Facilities Vance Violante stated overall Zone program participation was down as expected due to Covid, however not as significant as anticipated. Winter I & II parkour numbers well exceeded expectations and budget. Indoor soccer had a 32% increase over prior year. Zone Facility Usage revenue was down, but Birthday party and open gym showed strong numbers.
- c. Project Wingspan. Director Fahnstrom stated that the River Trails Park District was awarded a participation grant from Project Wingspan to create safe spaces for the Monarch Butterfly. He thanked Grounds Manager Mike Hanley for taking the lead on this endeavor and securing the grant along with the plugs and seeds for this meaningful project.
- d. Miscellaneous Communications.
  - i. Director Fahnstrom noted the basketball backboards at Weiss Center are now mechanically lifted making them easier to maneuver.
  - ii. Director Fahnstrom discussed returning to in-person Board meetings. Following discussion, the goal will be to start back in-person with the annual meeting in May.

## **VII. Old Business**

- a. None

## **VIII. New Business**

- a. None

## **IX. Commissioner Comments.**

- a. Commissioner Parra complimented the talking point card that was circulated to the Commissioners regarding the District's projects. She also noted some areas requiring clean up at Rob Roy.
- b. Commissioner Rechner noted support from prospective Village of Mt. Prospect trustees for the Aspen Trails park project. He said it is nice to have Leah join the Board and congratulated her.

**X.** Executive Session. None

**XI.** Action as a Result of the Executive Session None

**XII.** Adjournment. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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President

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Secretary