

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
RIVER TRAILS PARK DISTRICT,  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD  
AT 401 E. CAMP MCDONALD ROAD IN SAID DISTRICT  
ON THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF APRIL 2024 IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING THE DECENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:00PM**

- I. The President called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. and directed Crista Altergott, Administrative Assistant & Risk Management to call the roll. Upon roll being called, the following Commissioners answered present: Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra, Robert Hoban III and Melissa Ackerman. Also present were Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of HR and Finance David Oswald, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powles and Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley.
- II. Visitors Comments
  - a. None
- III. The Agenda for April 18, 2024, was submitted for approval. Commissioner Parra moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem and approved by common consent.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 21, 2024. Commissioner Ackerman moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lussem and approved by common consent. Commissioners Hoban and Parra abstained from the vote.
- V. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of April 4, 2024. Commissioner Parra moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoban and approved by common consent. Commissioners Ackerman and Lussem abstained from the vote.
- VI. Approval of the Paid Invoice List for March 16 – April 12, 2024. Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Paid Invoice List for March 16 – April 12, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra, Robert Hoban III,  
Melissa Ackerman

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

- VII. Communications
  - a. Staff Report: Parks Department - Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley
    - Superintendent Hanley presented highlights of the trade work being done around the District including beginning pool operations, a refreshed look at The Zone and annual roof repairs completed at the Weiss Community Center.
    - Parks are undergoing Spring treatment using organic fertilizers and Hanley reported installing a new 2500 Gallon rain barrel to collect rainwater. Commissioner Parra asked what our previous process for watering included. Hanley reported we would use municipal water and transport in our truck tanks.

- Rob Roy Golf Course opened on April 5<sup>th</sup> and tree work is currently done for the season. Commissioner Parra inquired how many trees were removed. Hanley reported around 40 trees, however, the district will be strategically adding trees around the golf course and parks.
  - Commissioner Parra asked for an overview of the Community Garden. Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powles outlined the intended use of the space for residents which includes park district preparation and general upkeep but relies on the residents to plant and maintain. Commissioner Rezek asked about the picture and Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom said that the Community Gardens were moved to the Sled Hill area. Commissioner Ackerman requested the compost bin be moved further from the walking path and asked for wildflowers to be planted in empty plots. Superintendent Hanley affirmed both requests are in progress.
- b. IAPD Legislative Updates – Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom
- Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom presented an overview of the recent IAPD Legislative Updates. IAPD does a fantastic job representing the best interest of Parks and Recreation. They provide a communication that includes all Legislative Updates. Fahnstrom typically takes the original report and reformats the report to items most relevant to the District. Fahnstrom asked the Board if they would like to receive the direct email or continue to get the truncated version. Commissioner Hoban asked for clarification and after discussion it was determined that the truncated report is preferred.
  - Commissioner Parra asked for an explanation of how SB 2849/ HB 4715 applies to our District. Fahnstrom replied that it provides details of drone usage or denial of usage. Currently, the River Trails Park District does not have an ordinance regarding drone usage. Superintendent Powles remarked that we are near an airport which may affect usage, but FAA approval may be situationally possible.
  - Commissioner Ackerman is intrigued by the options of SB 3597 which would allow the District to borrow money from the Illinois Finance Authority to build, purchase or lease new clean energy infrastructure projects including potential EV charging stations.
  - Commissioner Hoban requested additional information regarding the bills identified as amendments to the Illinois Human Rights Act; HB 2161, HB 4867 and SB 3310. Commissioner Ackerman gave a brief explanation that a single person cannot be hired with the expectation of having more free time to work, nor a person with a family denied employment due to perceived lack of time.
- c. 2024 Main Events – Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Christine Powles
- Superintendent Christine Powles led the group through the 2024 Main Events Calendar and reported renewed efforts by the Village of Mount Prospect to be more inclusive of events on the north side of town. Commissioners congratulated Powles on the format and ease of viewing.
  - Commissioner Rezek asked if there are Mount Prospect events not included on this calendar. Powles replied yes, the calendar provided only includes events that have River Trails Park District presence.
  - Commissioner Hoban inquired about the Blazing Trails Pop Up and Storytime in the Park programs. Powles explained that Storytime in the Park is an event coordinated with the Mount Prospect Library. The Blazing trails Pop Up was added to two of the dates to extend the time. Commissioner Parra expressed her approval of the reading events and suggested additional reading in the park opportunities.
  - Commissioner Hoban inquired to the early closing date of the Last Splash Bash. Director Fahnstrom replied the date is due to lack of staff as the school year begins.

- d. Miscellaneous Communications – Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom
  - Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom reminded the Board that SEI filings must be completed no later than May 1, 2024.
  - Fahnstrom also outlined opportunities for Board Members to attend events and earn Board Development Units. Registration for the entire series is due by April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**VIII. Old Business**

- a. Paycom – Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom and Superintendent of HR and Finance David Oswald
  - Director Bret Fahnstrom gave a brief recount to the conversion from the Board Meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Based on the initial conversation or information presented, Board Members requested additional details and a comparative review of the potential services researched. Fahnstrom congratulated Superintendent Oswald on the resulting analysis.
  - Superintendent David Oswald presented the research and how the District came to ultimately choose Paycom as the preferred vendor.
  - Commissioner Parra led a conversation on clarification between the top three vendors and congratulated Oswald as the presentation is easy to understand, thorough and relevant.
  - Commissioner Hoban inquired about the start up versus annual costs between Paycom and Paycor and noted that after hearing staff explanation it seems Paycom will be more efficient and not as cumbersome as our current Human Resources Information Systems methods.
  - Commissioner Lussem moved to approve the Paycom contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rezek, Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra, Robert Hoban III,  
Melissa Ackerman  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: None

- b. Annual Park Tour - Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom
  - After a discussion about schedules, it was determined that the Annual Park Tour will be held in place of the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. The time will be changed from 7pm to 6pm to allot for more time outdoors.

**IX. New Business**

- a. Purchase of Ford E Transit Parks Truck - Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley
  - Superintendent Hanley presented the Board with the option to replace one of our existing fleet vehicles; the 2003 GMC Sierra with 73,566 miles with a 2022 Ford E Transit vehicle with only 116 miles. This vehicle will be used for Trades, housed at The Zone.
  - Commissioner Ackerman applauded Hanley for finding a great option with fuel savings capabilities, under the approved budget amount.
  - Commissioner Hoban inquired how the decision was determined that the current vehicle was at the end of its usable life for the District. Hanley gave examples of the current vehicle wear, rust, repairs, and increased maintenance schedule.
  - Commissioner Parra inquired about the process to sell the current vehicle.
  - Due to the lower mileage, energy efficiency and low maintenance schedule, it is the staff recommendation to approve the purchase of the Ford E Transit for \$29,888.

**X. Commissioner Comments**

- a. Commissioner Ackerman inquired about the weeding schedule for Woodland Trails, relocating the compost bin away from the walking path and relocating the debris pile by the putting green. Superintendent Hanley informed the group that Spring ~~wedding~~ weeding is beginning the following week. He has received complaints about the compost bin and debris pile and the crews are working on a solution for both areas.
- b. Commissioner Parra asked Hanley to review the concept of the compost area. The compost area should be organic material only, for use of the community garden. Parra also inquired about additional planting at Aspen Trails Park. Hanley confirmed that wildflowers and plants will be coming soon.

**XI. Executive Session**

- a. None

**XII. Action as a Result of the Executive Session**

- a. None

**XIII. Adjournment.** There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Parra made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoban and approved by comment consent.

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President

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Secretary