**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 FIFTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024, AT 7:00PM**

1. The President called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and directed Crista Altergott, Administrative Assistant and Risk Management to call the roll. Upon roll being called, the following Commissioners answered present: Leah Lussem, Nancy Parra, Melissa Ackerman and Robert Hoban III. Commissioner Jennifer Rezek was absent. Also present were Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom, Superintendent of Finance & HR David Oswald, Superintendent of Parks Mike Hanley and Superintendent of Communications & Marketing Christine Powles.
2. Visitors Comments
   1. none
3. The Agenda for September 5, 2024, was submitted for approval. Commissioner Ackerman moved to approve said agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parra and approved by common consent.
4. Decennial Committee. No action currently.
5. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 15, 2024. Commissioner Ackerman moved to approve said minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoban. Commissioner Parra called for discussion to review item IX.b, bullet #2. Commissioner Ackerman requested a change to item VIII.a, bullet #3. Both items have been updated in the minutes. Commissioner Parra moved to approve said minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman and approved by common consent. Commissioner Rezek abstained.
6. Approval of the Treasurer’s Report for July 2024. Superintendent of Finance & HR David Oswald presented the information which included year to date revenues and expenses. Commissioner Rezek moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for July 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackerman and approved by common consent.
7. Communications
   1. Bi-Annual Foundation Update – Executive Director, Bret Fahnstrom

* Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom presented details concerning the River Trails Parks Foundation which has grown over the years. The growth is in part due to moving reserve funds to an account to accumulate interest earnings to pay for annual maintenance items.
* The new Pizza Puzzle Palooza event was a hit with teams eating an 18-inch pizza, drinking 2 pitchers and completing a 300-piece puzzle. 11 teams registered for this fundraising event and the event has a net profit of just over $1,000.
* More individuals used the Lions Club donation for swim lessons in 2024. Growing the service by including transportation was discussed.
* The Trusty Turtle Race was held in August and over 400 turtles were sold. Fahnstrom thanked the Board Members who were able to participate in the event.
* Th 10th Annual OCR is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2024.
  1. 2024 Levy & 2025 Budget Calendar (Draft) – Superintendent of Finance & HR, David Oswald
* Superintendent David Oswald presented the timeline of events to meet requirements for 2024 Tax Levy, 2025 Budget and Appropriations (B & A) and 2025 General Obligations (GO) Bonding. The timeline presented meets all compliance obligations and statutory guidelines. It also provides for at least two viewings of every fund.
* Commissioner Hoban asked for confirmation on the date the Levy must be done as the last Tuesday in December is the 31st. Director Fahnstrom will make an inquiry into the county.
  1. 2025 Consolidated Election – Executive Director, Bret Fahnstrom
* The 2025 Consolidated Elections will be held on April 1, 2025. The only Board Member up for election is Leah Lussem.
* Commissioner Hoban inquired on the number of signatures needed. Director Fahnstrom believes the minimum to be 25 but will verify the actual number required. We generally suggest a candidate get 40 minimum just in case.
* Director Fahnstrom and Administrative Assistant/Risk Manager Crista Altergott will work with the county to provide packets of updated information regarding the Consolidated Election.
  1. IAPD Legislative Updates – Executive Director, Bret Fahnstrom
* Executive Bret Fahnstrom reviewed the most recent Legislative updates and how they apply to River Trails Park District. One item of interest is SB 2781 / Public Act 103-0923 (Ventura, R. / Huynh, H.) which establishes the Healthy Forests, Wetlands and Prairies Grant Program through IDNR with the goal of restoring degraded forest lands and native prairies. Commissioner Parra finds this grant timely given the District’s recent adoption of the Tree Protection Policy.
  1. Miscellaneous Communications – Executive Director, Bret Fahnstrom
* Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom presented the What’s Happening Calendar for September, October, November and December 2024. Key dates are included for Board Meetings, Programs and Special Events.
* Director Fahnstrom also presented a thank you letter in response to a recent donation provided by River Trails Park District.

1. Old Business
   1. Tamarack Trails Park Master Plan and OSLAD Submittal – Executive Director, Bret Fahnstrom

* Executive Director Bret Fahnstrom presented the background history and the newest proposal to the Tamarack Trails Park Master Plan which included Board approval of the original plan in 2022. Since then, the plan has been redesigned based on community feedback.
* Staff presented revised concepts to a community meeting on August 20th. The meeting included community members and Commissioner Robert Hoban III. The community feedback was very clear about wanting the layout featured in Concept 2B which includes 4 dedicated pickleball courts, 2 overlay (temporary pickleball courts, a mix of modern and traditional playground features, chess area, baggo area, a shelter and should include a full court basketball court.
* Commissioner Parra inquired if there will be swings for older individuals. Director Fahnstrom replied that the current plan features swings only for smaller children aged 2-5 but other swings could be added. Fahnstrom will verify the age guidelines for the swings.
* Commissioner Parra likes the chess and baggo areas as not everyone may be interested in active leisure. Parra also spoke about the importance of pickleball court netting and inquired if the water fountains will include a doggie bowl. Director Fahnstrom replied affirmative to both items.
* Director Fahnstrom believes the recent changes to the Tamarack Trails Park Master Plan to be a better use of funds and the existing footprint f the area. The concept includes OSLAD worthy improvement which if the OSLAD grant is received, will significantly reduce the amount of costs paid by the District. If the OSLAD grant is not received Fahnstrom suggested two options; wait to complete work until the next grant cycle or break up improvements into smaller segments to reduce the financial burden.
* Director Fahnstrom will take the Board’s suggestions and comments back to the architect and will revisit the playground layout, but the Board will not see the revisions before the submittal on Friday, September 13, 2024.
* Commissioner Hoban moved to approve the Tamarack Trails Master Plan as recommended by staff and discussed. Jenifer Rezek seconded the motion. The President directed Crista Altergott, Administrative Assistant and Risk Management to call the roll. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

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

Melissa Ackerman

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

* Commissioner Hoban moved to approve Tamarack Trails Park Renewal project be submitted for an OSLAD grant. Jenifer Rezek seconded the motion. the President directed Crista Altergott, Administrative Assistant and Risk Management to call the roll. Upon the roll being called, the Commissioners voted as follows:

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

Melissa Ackerman

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

1. New Business
   1. None
2. Commissioner Comments
   1. Commissioner Hoban thought the Last Splash Bash was a great event. He received positive feedback about the event overall, but some thought the event was too short. Hoban liked the public meeting for Tamarack as it shows democracy in action and is a good example of civic education. He requested an update on the Willow Trails survey.
   2. Commissioner Parra said it is good to see the community engaged at the community meetings and congratulated the work done at Weiss.
   3. Commissioner Ackerman inquired about the work being done at Weiss and the best time to see the improvements once everything has been completed. Director Fahnstrom replied October would be best as branding has yet to be completed.
   4. Commissioner Lussem alerted the Board that the 505K is scheduled to run through Sycamore Trails Park this Saturday. Superintendent Hanley will make sure to have his team do a pre-run cleanup.
3. Executive Session
   1. None
4. Action as a Result of the Executive Session

* 1. None

1. Adjournment. There being no further business to discuss President Leah Lussem adjourned the meeting at 8:10p.m.

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President Secretary