



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF PALATINE PARK DISTRICT at the  
Village of Palatine Community Center Building, in Community Room B  
200 East Wood Street in Palatine  
May 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.



The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Gould.

### Commissioners Present

Sue Gould, President  
Greg Sammons, Vice President  
Joe Petricca, Treasurer  
Terry Ruff  
Jennifer Rogers

### Staff Present

Phil Costello, Superintendent of Finance	Joshua Ludolph, Asst. Supt. of Facilities
Gergana Minchev, Asst. Superintendent of Finance	Donelda Danz, Superintendent of Recreation
Michelle Eckelberry, Supt. of Dist. Services & Projects	Colleen Palmer, Asst. Supt. of Recreation
Dayell Houzenga, Asst. Supt. of District Services & Projects	Lisa Allie, Interim Secretary
Steve Nagle, Superintendent of Facilities	
Jim Holder, Superintendent of Parks & Planning	

### Visitors and Citizens

Steve Gillmann, Resident  
Gene Flynn, Resident  
M.P. Siddharth, Resident  
Tracey Crawford, NWSRA

### Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Ruff moved and Commissioner Sammons seconded that the agenda be approved. President Gould asked if any changes are needed. Commissioner Rogers suggested that New Business Item 5A. Presentation-NWSRA Annual Report be moved to Item 5D. to allow time for additional guest to arrive. By a voice vote, the amended agenda for the regular meeting of May 10, 2022, was approved.

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Terry Ruff, Greg Sammons, Joe Petricca

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

### Approval of Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the previously distributed items posted on the consent agenda. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the consent agenda be approved as presented. By a roll call vote, the following items on the consent agenda were approved: Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2022, and Approval for Warrant #10, Financial Report as of Closing April 30, 2022, and Approval of Resolution #22-05-Authorization of New IMRF Agent. The result of the roll call vote follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Terry Ruff, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

### Visitors and Citizens Comments

Mr. Steve Gillman, President of Auburn Woods Homeowners Association, resides at 1087 North Auburn Woods Court. Mr. Gillman thanked the board for the opportunity to speak; he stated that he is pleased to see the tennis court renovation take place as he uses the courts himself and they need repair. His concerns are with the court being striped for Pickleball and as president of the Auburn Woods Homeowners Association he wants to express that their board on behalf of the residents support the concerns that have been mentioned. The most serious concern is the noise issue and the quality of life on the residents, but that it may also have a negative impact on the resale of their homes. The courts are busy at various times every day and concerned that pickleball players waiting to play will use the tennis courts to warm up or practice; not only will this increase the noise level but will make it difficult for tennis players to use the courts. Mr. Gillman continued to say that he hopes that the Park Board will consider their request or at least consider remedies to help deaden the sound. He thanked the board for consideration of their request, for hearing their concerns and offered to take questions.

President Gould asked if there is a compromise they could work out and suggested a time restriction; Mr. Gillman agreed with the time restriction and added that they'd like something to deaden the sound. The board thank Mr. Gillman

Mr. M.P. Siddharth "Sid" of 105 W Hamilton Drive in Palatine said that he used to coach tennis at Palatine and often sees kids he's taught over the years in addition to seeing all kinds of families playing tennis at Palatine Hills especially at night because it's the only lit court in Palatine. Even when the court was in disrepair people, we're playing there sometimes without a net; it's a very friendly comradery among players; young & old. Mr. Siddharth said that the constraint at Hamilton is in the morning when they are unable to meet the demand; he suggested stripping courts at Eagle or Community Center as they are closer to the Pickleball courts at Hamilton for the overflow. He hopes that Palatine Hills can remain as a tennis court as his other concern is the tension of the tennis and pickleball groups having to share the courts. Mr. Siddharth offered to answer any questions; no questions we're asked. The Park Board thanked Mr. Siddharth for coming.

Mr. Eugene Flynn of 1059 North Auburn Woods Court in Palatine wanted to give update as from his comments at the last meeting. He spoke to Bear, Head of Palatine Picklers and shared his suggestion about using Eagle for pickleball and Bear told him that is workable as the constraint for Pickleball is in the morning, so Eagle courts not having lights doesn't cause an issue for Bear. Mr. Flynn mentioned that he sent Director Clark a note about this. In closing, he stated that if pickleball continues to accelerate there is always the option to stripe courts at Schultz Park in the future, but harder to take that away if they are striped now; he also mentioned the added cost of sound abatement at Dutch Schultz. Mr. Flynn thanked everyone for listening and asked if there were any questions or comments, no questions or comments were made.

President Gould thanked the visitors for coming and appreciates all the comments and thoughts on the issue. All comments received will be a part of the official record for the May 24, 2022, board meeting.

### New Business

Tracey Crawford, Executive Director of Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) just celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> year as Director in 2021 and NWSRA will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024.

NWSRA is the largest special recreation association in Illinois and only state in the country that has a special recreation association; serving 17 communities is challenging, but they have an incredible innovative Full-

Time staff of 46; they lost 20 over covid, but slowly rebuilding and currently at 44 Full-Time staff. They provide over 2,000 recreational programs and receive about 14,000 registrations annually. Ms. Crawford also mentioned that they finished their Strategic Plan during COVID and is excited about the added value of diversity; they also created a diversity statement which will be on their website. Among the many programs and services mentioned was the sensory Snoezelen rooms where individuals are allowed to set up the environment to their needs, very helpful in deescalating aggressive behavior and decreasing seizures. Ms. Crawford then spoke about the Strategic Plan and how their Succession Plan is helping them develop staff that will learn and grow with them. Unfortunately, they are struggling with space for all their programs; they now have 5 dedicated programming spaces with a 6<sup>th</sup> opening next month; keep a look out for the open house invitation coming out. In addition to these spaces, Ms. Crawford helped get a state bill passed that allows High Schools in Illinois to work with their local Special Recreation Association (SRA) to provide a training program. This allows high school students to graduate as certificated to work with people who have disabilities. NWSRA will be launching this as a pilot program this summer with about 10 students. Financially they had to increase their PT staff wages currently at \$13.50-\$14.00 an hour, depending on job descriptions could be more. They we're able to survive COVID with all hands-on deck for Full-Time Employees; the staff went above and beyond. In closing Ms. Crawford spoke about Special Leisure Services Foundation (SLSF) which is responsible for fundraising and raised close to \$800,000 to totally rehab their new location at the Vogeley House; this was all done through fundraising during COVID. Ms. Crawford ended by offering to answer any questions.

Commissioner Rogers asked if there is a specific High School, they currently work with and Ms. Crawford explained that they started with Rolling Meadows High School, but that it is now open to any High School within the 17 communities they serve. The Park Board thanked Ms. Crawford for her presentation.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of Ordinance #22-04-Declaration of Surplus Property. Superintendent Holder advised the Board that the list was updated yesterday. Commissioner Sammons asked about the market for trucks; Superintendent Holder advised that they use an auction and that the numbers are low; he's hoping to get a lot more. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Ruff seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Ordinance #22-04-Declaration of Surplus Property. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Terry Ruff, Jennifer Rogers, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: None  
Motion passed.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of Purchase-Eagle Preschool Windows. Commissioner Sammons inquired about the number of windows; Asst. Superintendent Ludolph confirmed that there are 6 windows. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Ruff seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Purchase of Eagle Preschool Windows. The motion was approved by a roll call vote the result follows:

AYE: Terry Ruff, Jennifer Rogers, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Susan Gould  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: None  
Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of Intergovernmental License Agreement with District 15-CARE Program. Commissioner Sammons asked if it looked like the last one; Superintendent Danz confirmed that the agreement is the same as last year. President Gould commented on the value of the program. Commissioner Sammons moved and Commissioner Ruff seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Intergovernmental License Agreement with District 15-CARE Program. The motion was approved by a roll call vote the result follows:

AYE: Terry Ruff, Jennifer Rogers, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Susan Gould

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

#### Departmental Reports

The Park Board reviewed the previously distributed written Parks and Planning Department Report. Superintendent Holder's highlights included the abatement work at both locations has been completed and that the demolition work is out to bid; Finch Park playground equipment will be removed by Kids Around the World the week of July 11<sup>th</sup> with the demolition to being the following week and delivery of new equipment scheduled on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Paving project #1 of ADA path is completed, just needs a little restoration on the side. Dutch Schultz demolition of tennis courts is completed, clay base done last week, started bringing in the aggregate base materials today. Paving project #2 should be out to bid sometime next week; engineering plans almost completed. First round of interviews for Assistant Superintendent started with one more on Thursday, has some good candidates; 2nd round of interviews will be in the next week or two. Rain is keeping staff busy; only had to move a few games for Casey Pohl tournament so they we're able to complete the tournament. Grass growing like crazy; Aquatic Center to open this weekend.

Commissioner Ruff asked whose idea it was to add the rock to parks signs; Superintendent Holder replied that it was the between the new Horticultural Manger, Matt Rauch, and himself as they are trying to make the level 2 parks easier to maintain. Commissioner Ruff added that is looks nice and President Gould agreed and said that it looks clean.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed written Finance and Customer Service Report. Superintendent Costello stated that the annual audit is closing out and will be presented at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting; the board will be given a copy to review prior to the presentation; Superintendent Costello has been working on assessing the 2018 net pension pay down strategy; he polled 56 members of the GFOA and all 8 that have responded so far are recommending that we do it, including Arlington Heights. Strategy for investments is to ladder them so that we can maintain the seasonal cash flow, he will also incorporate the delay of tax proceeds which will also feed into the capital projects so we can put together a 10-year cash flow model. They're also working with Fifth Third; our P-card program provided \$11,425 in 2021, a 45% increase over 2020. He would like to make it easier for the cardholders to use with the benefit of better control over vendor we use and a tremendous cost savings due to everything being done electronically. As for customer service we had a 16% registration increase for spring & summer; have also hired a Full Time Customer Service Coordinator which will help our efforts to have a more dependable front desk schedule at our facilities. The Board thanked Superintendent Costello for his report.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed written Facilities Report. Superintendent Nagle indicated that the golf revenue for April is up compared to April of 2021; Rachel Lara and ICompete started a Young Professionals Board with their first Fundraiser on May 7<sup>th</sup> which exceeding their goal; stables group lessons have significantly increased up over 2021 significantly; fitness member onboarding will start asking where they heard about us to help with Marketing; Jeff Greene has a

full schedule at Cutting Hall.

Commissioner Sammons asked about the pump at Golf Course; Superintendent Nagle explained that the main pump station at the golf course hole 18 has a very old variable drive; the vendor is lending us a replacement at no charge until the part can be ordered and delivered.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Clark was absent; no highlights presented.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Sammons attended the foundation event on Saturday, it was a fun event with the Trivia, which was a good Plan B. He also checked out a few baseball games at the Casey Pohl tournament; said that the fields looked good. He also mentioned that the retention pond at the golf course looks horrible and asked if we own that. Superintendent Holder stated that we have a contract and that they we're out this week looking around. He needs to talk to them to see what's going on.

Commissioner Petricca commented on the outstanding maintenance work at the baseball fields.

Commissioner Ruff attended the last ten minutes of the foundation event. President Gould added that she was there for about half an hour minutes and won a basket.

President Gould stated that we need to add Pickleball to the next agenda to discuss when Director Clark is back and asked everyone to give it some thought. She would like to work out a compromise of some sort.

Commissioner Petricca added that he likes how Mr. Flynn reached out to speak with Bear about his concerns. Commissioner Ruff asked if there was a rack system; Superintendent Holder explained that Pickleball uses a different type of system; discussion ensued. President Gould suggested everyone take a ride to look at Eagle as the houses are not as close and that is always a concern when the houses were there first. Further discussion ensued pros and cons of courts at Dutch Schultz versus Eagle.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Park Board on this date, Commissioner Rogers moved that the regular meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

AYE: Terry Ruff, Greg Sammons, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Jennifer Rogers

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clark  
Park Board Secretary Pro-Tem

Attest:

Approved:

Michael Clark  
Secretary Pro-Tem

Susan Gould  
President

2022 Remaining Park Board Meetings

June 14, 2022  
June 28, 2022  
July 12, 2022  
July 26, 2022

August 9, 2022  
August 23, 2022  
September 13, 2022  
September 27, 2022

October 25, 2022  
November 8, 2022  
November 21, 2022  
December 13, 2022