

Round Lake Area Park District
Regular Board Meeting
April 14, 2022
6:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING:

Robert W. Rolek Community Center
814 Hart Road
Round Lake, IL 60073

I. ROLL CALL

Park District Board President Paul Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were Sarah Green, Timothy Pasternak, Nick Metropulos, and Christine Gentes. Staff in attendance included Executive Director Bob Newport, Business Services Director Carl Hauser, Superintendent of Recreation Katie Gamroth, Finance Department Manager Jennifer Baker, and Superintendent of Parks Ane Olivares.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Jenny Simpson addressed the board and asked why all the special recreation stuff happened and stated that 24 people had left the program, the working environment was miserable, and that the board had done nothing to change that. She stated that since Superintendent of Recreation Gamroth's arrival at the park district many staff had left. She said that many Round Lake special recreation participants had left. She added that she should have seen a lawyer for herself personally for what was done to herself and Jessica Findley. She felt a lot had been taken away from the special needs family and that it will all come out. She concluded by saying that she would continue to come to the board meetings until changes are made and that she felt she was owed an explanation.

Martin Simpson stated that treatment of staff was horrendous and asked if there would be any movement. He said he watched how the program came apart and how the board allowed Bob Newport and Katie Gamroth to make changes and bring in another agency to run special recreation. Executive Director Newport stated at this point that at the advice of his own attorney that he did not have to listen to any libelous or slanderous statements and left the meeting. Mr. Simpson continued saying that he was frustrated that they could only talk to the board but receive no responses during the meeting as he wanted to have a dialog. He added that he believed that the new agency just wanted to use Round Lake's facilities and not make Round Lake better and that everything was being outsourced.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Executive Director Newport changed Consent Agenda Item 3 of the posted agenda to read: Approval of, But Not Release of, Special Board Meeting Executive Session Minutes of March 24, 2022.

MOTION: Commissioner Green moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2022, as amended.

SECOND: By Commissioner Pasternak.

VOTE: By roll call. All ayes. Motion passed.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

A. Round Lake Area Library

Commissioner Hollingsworth stated that he had received a request from the Round Lake Area Library to speak with the Board. Library Board President Anne Richmond and Executive Library Director Jim DiDonato stated that the library usage had grown over time. They added that the library needed more space to serve residents based on community studies and that the expansion of the existing building would be more expensive than a new building. They indicated that the land the current building was on was gifted to the park district in 1982 and, in 1985, the land was granted to the library with a covenant in place that the land would revert to the park district if it were no longer used as a library. Commissioner Hollingsworth noted that the goal was to preserve the land for the Ellis and Hart families and that one covenant would expire this year regarding the use as a park in the original donation agreement. DiDonato stated that they would like to sell the building to recover their costs for the building only, as the land was donated, so that they could build a new library facility and that they were inquiring to see if the park district board would consider removing the reversion covenant. They added that they would keep within the spirit of the use of the land as a public campus/recreational-educational area and have had introductory discussions with other agencies, but that the covenant was an obstacle. Executive Director Newport added that in 1985, the park district board put the covenant in place and that the current board could wave that and could possibly add a covenant to restrict the use going forward to keep it in a government or similar public use agency.

Richmond noted that a referendum was to be voted upon at the April 2023, general election for the funding to build a new library facility elsewhere in the community. She said that they did not have a figure to be used for the referendum but noted it could be upwards of \$20 million. She added that current architect estimates to improve and make repairs to the building and update equipment would add to the library's budget in the coming years. In addition, the option to add a second story to the existing building would be close to \$30 million. Commissioner Gentes asked about the option of a second location and Richmond responded that costs of a second building and staffing would increase their budget and operating costs. Commissioner Gentes asked what would happen if the referendum did not pass in 2023 and they responded that they would try again the following year. Commissioner Pasternak asked how long it would be before the library would move out of the building and they responded that if the referendum passed it would be approximately five years. Richmond then concluded that they were not sure what direction they could take until the covenant was changed as that

was an issue. Commissioner Hollingsworth stated that the park district would need to review the agreement and what the library wanted to do with the building and would remain open to the option of removing the covenant to allow the selling of the building if future use was kept within a public campus, recreational/educational area. Hollingsworth asked the library staff to also talk with Executive Director Newport going forward to discuss ideas and needs as part of a proposal so that the park district board could decide on the covenant restriction.

B. Ordinance 2022-04-01 Regular Meeting Ordinance for 2022-2023

Executive Director Newport presented the Regular Meeting Ordinance for the Fiscal Year of July 2022 through June 2023 and recommended its adoption. Commissioner Gentes noted that she would be unavailable for the December 8, 2022, meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Green moved to adopt Ordinance 2022-04-01 Regular Meeting Ordinance for fiscal year 2022-2023.
SECOND: By Commissioner Metropulos.
VOTE: By roll call. All ayes. Motion passed.

C. Annual Investment Policy Review

Executive Director Newport presented the Investment Policy for review, as required. He stated that no changes were made and that this was the annual review of the policy. Commissioner Pasternak asked what the hardest challenge was of the policy. Business Services Director Hauser stated that finding good interest rates currently and having the expertise to invest in some of the products included in the policy. He added that staff does not have adequate knowledge of some of the products and that the district would have to hire an investment manager beyond what staff used through IPDLAF to purchase certificates of deposit at banks throughout the country. Finance Department Manager Baker added that IPDLAF provided a list of certificates of deposits available to purchase on a first-come basis amongst all agencies that are part of IPDLAF and the ability to reinvest in a certificate is not an option. She added that recently staff had also invested in the term rate product offered through IPDLAF.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Pasternak asked what approach or process the board could follow to address emails received from the public as no previous policy existed since commissioners did not have park district emails in the past. The Board discussed the legalities surrounding the Open Meetings Act, the question as to whether all received the same email or just an individual commissioner, and whether they could then share that with the other commissioners. Commissioner Hollingsworth pointed out that a single commissioner cannot speak for the entire board. They decided that they could send an acknowledgement of receiving the email, advise the sender that they could attend the public meetings, and that the executive director has an open-door policy and could direct staff to assist in answering questions.

Commissioner Pasternak asked how the transition to SRACLC was proceeding. Superintendent of Recreation Gamroth stated that it was going well with SRACLC staff onsite working on registration information and that another parent meeting was upcoming. Gamroth also stated that staff had received good feedback from participants and parents and that two of the park district's current staff had been signed on to work for SRACLC. Commissioner Pasternak asked if there was a means to provide weekly highlights, upcoming events, and what's new information. Commissioner Hollingsworth stated that the district does have an E-newsletter. Gamroth stated that it could be done, and the electronic newsletter was available for staff to submit information and that the information could also be included in the monthly board meeting materials.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2022.
- B. Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2022.
- C. Approval of, But Not Release of Special Board Meeting Executive Session Minutes of March 24, 2022.
- D. Approval of Cash Expenditure Transactions for the Month of March 2022.

MOTION: Commissioner Pasternak moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

SECOND: By Commissioner Metropulos.

VOTE: By roll call. All ayes. Motion passed.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

1. Monthly Statements

Finance Department Manager Baker provided the monthly financial statements for March 2022.

B. Program and Facility Monthly Reports

1. Recreation Report/CDC Report/Marketing Report

Recreation staff provided written reports. The Board reviewed with staff the Easter events offered by the park district and Gamroth noted that the bunny programs were not as popular as last year when there were covid restrictions in place and that there were seven private egg search rentals that went well. Gamroth added that staff is looking next year to offer some other options instead of the egg hunts other local public entities are doing. Gamroth added that painting quotes had been received for the walls in the Neighborhood Museum area at the community center and discussed equipment changes coming to that space. Gamroth also noted that Sports Center rentals are increasing and that there are some new organizations involved.

2. Parks Report

Superintendent of Parks Olivares provided a written report. She added that the final walk through is upcoming at the Sports Center Park so that the splash pad area can become operational.

3. Renwood Report

Golf course staff provided written reports.

4. Risk Management Report

HR Manager Ruehrdanz provided a written report.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Commissioner Metropulos moved to go into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. in accordance with the Open Meetings Act Chapter 5ILCS Section 120/2 (c)(1) for the Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of an employee.

SECOND: By Commissioner Pasternak.

VOTE: By roll call. All ayes. Motion passed.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:14 p.m. and the Regular Board Meeting reconvened.

X. CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL EVALUATION AND COMPENSATION

No action.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Gentes moved to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2022.

SECOND: By Commissioner Metropulos.

VOTE: By Roll Call. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Park Board President Hollingsworth adjourned the Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2022, at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

/s/Paul Hollingsworth
Paul Hollingsworth, Park Board President

/s/Carl Hauser
Carl Hauser, Board Secretary

May 12, 2022
Date Approved