

Round Lake Area Park District
Regular Board Meeting
January 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING:

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. CONSIDERATION OF & POSSIBLE ACTIONS ON ANY REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING

None.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

V. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Scott Jewett stated that he was speaking on behalf of three families in his comments. He has been involved in SRSNLC programming for over 20 years. His son Zachary has Downs Syndrome and has been involved in district programs to improve his life. Jewett wanted to make sure the organization has his child's best interest in mind, and he is looking for transparency. Jewett was particularly interested in knowing how the potential move to SRACLC would impact children and not just participants in the Today Club. He believed it was best to get the public together to find a solution, and to work with them and not against them.

Joe Prindle has been a Special Olympics coach for many seasons, since he was 16 years old. Prindle reiterated what Jewett stated about going to the community to help determine the health and wellness opportunities for families. He would like the board to allow for more time for public input and to be transparent.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Sarah Green moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of January 13, 2022, as presented.
SECOND: By Commissioner Timothy Pasternak
VOTE: By roll call. All ayes. Motion passed.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

A. Resolution 2022-01-01 "A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Certain Surplus Personal Property (Shore Lander Boat)"

Executive Director Newport noted that the boat was given to the Park District by the Huebner Management Foundation. Its intended purpose was for the boat to be used for lake security. The Park District does not have any water rights, and the boat has not been used for this purpose recently. The Village of Round Lake Beach does have water rights, and is interested in using the boat for its intended purpose. Staff has spoken with the Huebner Foundation and they are in favor of this use.

MOTION: Commissioner Tim Pasternak moved to approve Resolution 2022-01-01 Authorizing the Sale of Certain Surplus Personal Property (Shore Lander Boat)

SECOND: By Commissioner Nick Metropulos

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

MOTION: Commissioner Tim Pasternak moved to enter into an Intergovernmental Sales Agreement with the Village of Round Lake Beach

SECOND: By Commissioner Sarah Green

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

B. Presentation by/Introduction to SRACLC

Executive Director Newport noted that with the resignation of the District's SRSNLC Manager, staff members were reviewing all of the District's options. Executive Director Newport commented that the District knows what it can offer; but, we don't know what the other special recreations associations can offer. Staff has researched and met with outside organization SRACLC, and they were in attendance to present what a traditional SRA is like, and how joining their organization would benefit the Round Lake Area Park District residents. Executive Director Newport introduced Executive Director of SRACLC John Buckner.

Executive Director Buckner provided the board with a packet that included the 2019 Annual Report and a Scope of Service for review. Executive Director Buckner introduced SRACLC Superintendent of Recreation Kelly Smith and SRACLC Administrative Operations Manager Cassie Wodrich. Executive Director Buckner provided an overview of what a traditional SRA is, including: SRACLC's philosophy, the program, the financial benefits of pooling, and utilizing member district resources.

Commissioner Gentes asked which communities were a part of SRACLC. Executive Director Buckner responded by naming SRACLC current member agencies, and noted that Round Lake borders on two of them.

Superintendent of Recreation Smith expanded on the benefits of the variety of programming that SRACLC was able to offer with more full-time and trained staff.

Superintendent of Recreation Smith commented that programs are offered by SRACLCL in facility space to which they have access. The more facility space Round Lake has to offer SRACLCL, the more programming that will be offered in Round Lake. Superintendent Smith explained how SRACLCL develops programming from start to finish with focus groups through an evaluation process. Executive Director Buckner noted that SRACLCL would not come in and take a successful program out of the community.

Administrative Operations Manager Wodrich discussed how SRACLCL goes about providing inclusion for participants, and how SRACLCL staff works with parents, as well as member districts, to find an aide, if needed. Wodrich also described how SRACLCL is a resource to District staff by offering support and training to help all participants be successful.

Executive Director Buckner finished the presentation with his goals, which include treating every agency as equally as possible, and shrinking the geographic size of the agency for programming with transportation options. He noted that SRACLCL's fiscal year end is approaching, and he is currently working on two budgets, depending on what Round Lake chooses to do.

Commissioners Gentes asked about the Special Olympic programs that SRACLCL runs. Superintendent of Recreation Smith commented that SRACLCL currently offers 13 competitive sports and will transport participants to away games. Executive Director Buckner noted that Special Olympics programs will continue to be offered, just under the SRACLCL name.

Commissioner Metropulos asked how SRACLCL will incorporate the district's Today Club into their adult day programs. Executive Director Buckner described the two adult day programs that SRACLCL currently runs in Mundelein and Vernon Hills. The SRACLCL programs were started through a grant and ran two days per week and now run four days per week. Programming focuses on recreation and leisure, fitness and health, and social skills. The program includes daily trips out into the community. Executive Director Buckner noted that if Round Lake were to join SRACLCL, there would be a third site at Round Lake, creating a North location for the day program.

Commissioner Metropulos asked how SRACLCL goes about getting feedback from participants, and how that gets incorporated into programming. Superintendent of Recreation Smith explained that SRACLCL has focus groups in which staff encourage participants to share and provide feedback. There are specific focus groups for specific programs.

Commissioner Gentes asks how many times per year focus group are held. Superintendent of Recreation Smith commented that typically focus groups are held two times per year, with an approximately 30% participation rate. Families can provide feedback daily when picked up or dropped off at a program. Administrative Operations Manager Wodrich also noted that Google forms are used to collect feedback, as well.

Commissioner Gentes asked if SRACLCL has a foundation. Administrative Operations Manager Wodrich answered that there is a foundation in place to help raise funds to reduce

fees, purchase special equipment, and provide transportation. A Holiday Tree Festival is a large fundraising event for the foundation. Administrative Operations Manager Wodrich noted that this past year, the money was used to help make a park used for summer camp more accessible. Executive Director Buckner noted that the foundation is a different agency and has different board members. SRACLC does not use the foundation to provide core elements in daily programming. Funding is used for special amenities like the new sensory room located at the School for Young Learners in Vernon Hills.

Commissioner Gentes asked Executive Director Buckner how they choose a project for the foundation. Executive Director Buckner explained that he likes to work with each community over time. This past project was located at a spot that is heavily utilized by SRACLC programming.

Commissioner Green commented that change is hard, and there is a familiarity to programs currently offered, and the relationships our participants have with staff. Executive Director Buckner commented that SRACLC intends to run much of the current programming offered through SRSNLC-Round Lake, and there will be more opportunity because SRACLC has more options. SRSNLC- Round Lake staff are welcome to continue to work under SRACLC following their policies and procedures. Executive Director Buckner noted that SRSNLC – Round Lake participants have come to SRACLC programs, and vice versa.

Commissioner Metropulos asked if that the district's Today Club program would still exist. Executive Director Buckner responded that the idea would be to have a third location in Round Lake, thus adding a North, location.

Commissioner Metropulos asked what professional certifications SRACLC requires of staff. Executive Director Buckner responded that professional staff members possess CPRP and/or CTRS, depending upon their role. Superintendent of Recreation Smith noted that the five full-time programming staff members have bachelor's degrees and are working toward CPRP or CTRS certifications, if not already held. All staff members are CPR certified and have completed Handle With Care training.

Commissioner Green asked how SRACLC would be ready to take on Round Lake participants regarding sign up and limited program spaces. Executive Director Buckner commented that SRACLC has grown from one site to two for the adult day program, and that they are ready to take on more. SRACLC would want to add on additional full-time staff, and if need dictates, more staff. SRACLC would be committed to providing comprehensive recreation services to the Round Lake area communities.

Commissioner Gentes asked the SRACLC team if they had any questions for the board. Executive Director Buckner stated that a timeline for Round Lake's decision was important. He noted that the SRACLC fiscal year ended on April 30, and they would like to be prepared to budget and plan programming appropriately. He added that Summer Camp programs were also approaching, and a decision sooner rather than later would benefit how that would be programmed.

Commissioner Pasternak asked about the SRACLC volunteer base. Administrative Operations Manager Wodrich responded that SRACLC works with many volunteer groups and mentioned that the high school honor society is one. Executive Director Buckner commented that volunteers are utilized for their expertise in a program.

Members of the audience requested that their questions be answered at this time in the meeting. Park Board President Hollingsworth directed the audience to speak with individual staff members directly at another time if they had additional questions, as the time for the public to ask questions is during the “Audience Comments” portion of the meeting.

Executive Director Buckner provided SRACLC staff contact information to the park district board and audience members, if there were any further questions.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Comments

None.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021.
- B. Approval of Cash Expenditure Transactions for the month of December 2021.

MOTION: Commissioner Nick Metropulos moved to approve the Consent Agenda of January 13, 2022.

SECOND: By Commissioner Sarah Green

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

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

1) Monthly Statements

Finance Department Manager Jennifer Baker provided the monthly financial statements.

B. Program and Facility Reports

1) Recreation Report

Katie Gamroth and the Recreation Department staff provided written reports. Superintendent Gamroth thanked the Parks Department for their efforts in December to make the recreation special events possible.

- 2) Golf Report
Brad Rouse and Sandy Bemis provided a written report. Executive Director Newport noted that Renwood was open a couple of days in December.
- 3). Parks Report
Ane Olivares provided a written report.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Sarah Green moved to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of January 13, 2022.

SECOND: By Commissioner Nick Metropulos.

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

Park Board President Paul Hollingsworth adjourned the Regular Board Meeting of January 13, 2022, at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

/s/Paul Hollingsworth
Paul Hollingsworth, Park Board President

/s/Katie Gamroth
Katie Gamroth, Assistant Board Secretary

2/10/22
Date Approved