

Round Lake Area Park District
Regular Board Meeting
October 14, 2021
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 and Timothy Pasternak. Commissioner Nick Metropulos arrived at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner Christine Gentes was absent. Staff in attendance included Executive Director Bob Newport, Business Services Director Carl Hauser, Superintendent of Recreation Katie Gamroth, Finance Department Manager Jennifer Baker, Superintendent of Parks Ane Olivares, Superintendent of Golf Course Maintenance Sandy Bemis and Special Recreation Manager Jessica Jeffery-Findley.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no comments from the members of the audience present when asked. The Board reopened the audience comments after the agenda items were completed and those comments are below before adjournment.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No changes to the posted agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Green moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of October 14, 2021, as presented.

SECOND: By Commissioner Pasternak.

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

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

A. Hainesville Road LCDOT Project featuring the addition of sidewalks and a Bike Path

Executive Director Newport introduced a preliminary plan by the Lake County Department of Transportation for the widening of Hainesville Road and the use of the District's Renwood Golf Course for stormwater detention. He noted that the presented options would minimize disruptions to the playability of the golf course.

Superintendent of Golf Course Maintenance Bemis discussed the plan further by first noting that the pond north of Shorewood and Hainesville Roads near the third hole green would increase and that the existing cart path would be raised above the proposed water line. In addition, the existing pesticide building adjacent to the pond would need to be moved to comply with existing code, tree and landscape screening would be planted along the roadway, and pond landscaping would include low maintenance and water quality plantings.

Bemis next addressed the proposed plan's effects on the ponds south of Shorewood and Hainesville Roads. She said that the pond south of the 15th green is being made deeper and will have an equalizer pipe connected to the pond north of the green. She stated that the pond north of the green would be made larger and deeper and result in the removal of some trees that would be replaced. Commissioner Pasternak asked if the park district would have input on new trees and she said yes. She added that right now the plans are preliminary, so the pond depth would be determined later and that the areas used are mainly out of play. Commissioner Hollingsworth asked her if she liked the proposed plan and she said yes, as the other proposed plan was more disruptive to golf course playability, as greens would have to be moved and would have been a more expensive project. Commissioner Hollingsworth asked what the proposed timeline would be, and she stated the project would most likely begin in calendar year 2024. Commissioner Metropulos asked if the park district would have any cost contribution to the proposed project. Executive Director Newport responded that the district's contribution would be the use of district land for water retention and the installation of the bike path along Hainesville Road. He added that the installation of the sidewalk on the residential side of Hainesville Road and the bike path by the golf course were needed in the community for safer foot traffic.

B. Sports Center Park Construction Update

Superintendent of Parks Olivares stated that the tennis court had been painted and the splash pad concrete had been poured, as were all other asphalt areas. She added that there were pictures in the Parks Report and that the project was still on track for an end of October completion. Executive Director Newport added that all reports for the final payment could then be filed for the grant at the next quarterly filing period in January, 2022.

C. Skate Park/North Shore Park Update

Superintendent of Parks Olivares stated that parks staff had started the dismantling of the existing equipment. She added that the new equipment installation team was scheduled to be onsite in two weeks.

D. Renwood Golf Course Driving Range Project Update

Executive Director Newport was hopeful for the project to start this fall so that the new heated range bays could be used this winter. He noted that a recent meeting with Camosy staff to discuss the project status and timeline was cancelled. Commissioner Hollingsworth asked if use of the bays would be weather dependent. Superintendent of Golf Course Maintenance Bemis said no, that the bays could be used year-round, as they would only be heated when in use and would turn off automatically after a set time.

E. IAPD Legal Symposium

Executive Director Newport stated that if any commissioner was interested in attending the in-person or virtual webinar to let him know and he would register them.

F. IAPD Annual Meeting Credentials

Executive Director Newport stated that a commissioner would need to be appointed to attend and vote on behalf of the district at the IAPD annual meeting on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Metropulos was selected to be the district's delegate and Executive Director Newport would be the alternate.

MOTION: Commissioner Pasternak moved to appoint Commissioner Metropulos as the District's representative for the IAPD annual meeting.

SECOND: By Commissioner Green.

VOTE: By roll call. All Ayes. Motion Passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Comments

None.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2021.

B. Approval of Cash Expenditure Transactions for the Month of September, 2021.

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 September, 2021. Business Services Director Hauser provided an update on the refunding of the Series 2012B bonds by noting that the estimated interest rate would be 1.36% compared to the existing 2.60% and that the estimated dollar savings exceeded \$226,000.

B. Program and Facility Monthly Reports

1. Recreation Report/CDC Report/Marketing/Facilities Report

Recreation staff provided written reports. Superintendent of Recreation Gamroth added that the Family Fishing Event held on September 4, 2021, went well and she thanked staff.

2. Parks Report

Superintendent of Parks Olivares provided a written report.

3. Renwood Report

Golf course staff provided written reports.

4. Safety Report

Staff provided a written report.

Executive Director Newport asked the Board to reconsider reopening the Audience Comments section. The Board agreed to allow the audience time to speak.

Brenda West of 642 Longview Drive, Antioch

Brenda West inquired as to what Gamroth's goal was with the Special Recreation's T.O.D.A.Y. Club, as it was her perception that no answers were provided at a recent parent meeting held with staff. Special Recreation Manager Jeffery-Findley stated that staff meets with the parents of participants once or twice per year to discuss any upcoming changes, such as pricing or time changes. West expressed concern that Jeffery-Findley and Special Recreation Supervisor Simpson would experience burn-out because the program's part-time program coordinator position that was in the current budget has not been brought back. She also had concerns with the number of people on the program wait list and stated that staffing changes are hard on program participants.

Jeffery-Findley stated that until the recent increase to 21 participants, the program was limited to 18 due to Covid-19 guidelines and facility space limitations where the program was held. She added that she had met with Gamroth and Newport about splitting the program in the future to have a focus on life skills and job focus units allowing for two programs and more total participants. She added that after meeting with Gamroth and Newport that moving forward registration will be open first to residents of the park district or those within SRSNLC member agencies before the program is open to non-residents. Newport stated that Gamroth had also been working in direct supervision with program participants and wanted the program to succeed as well as having a part-time staff person return to work in another capacity, as the coordinator position was being managed successfully by Jeffery-Findley. Jeffery-Findley added that she had not communicated the program staffing plan properly to parents. Newport added that both full-time staff positions were covering the 25 hours per week that the T.O.D.A.Y. Club ran. He added that the both district's Special Recreation staff opted to be furloughed at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, even after administration asked one to stay on and assist with reopening and planning when

that time came. Newport also commented that Ganroth had directed Special Recreation staff to make T.O.D.A.Y. Club a priority upon returning from furlough. Commissioner Hollingsworth said that staffing was an ongoing issue for all departments within the park district and the goal from the start of Covid was to use existing full-time staff first, again allowing for the park district to be ready when we are able for a full return to programs. He added that the program was running well, so a staffing change was not needed.

Bo Thompson of 1300 Edgewater, Antioch

Bo Thompson stated that the Zoom program option offered early on was awesome; however, she was concerned that the need for this program was increasing. She stated that the non special recreation program they were utilizing previously was closed permanently. She felt that the park district was missing out on an opportunity with the program's capacity limit and needed to market the program. She also had concerns with the monthly registration process.

Newport stated that there was no need to market the program, as there was already a wait list. He added that the park district's program is a recreation program, which is different from the program they attended previously. He said that the park district does not have a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist on staff and was looking to add the position this fiscal year. Commissioner Metropulos stated that he understood demand for the program was changing and that current need for a part-time coordinator had also changed. He added that he was confident that Gamroth wanted the program to succeed and that the need for those being underserved would not go away.

Jeffery-Findley added that the district would continue to have a waitlist with the program capacity of 21, which was a good limit to run a safe, quality program. She added that the program registration priority moving forward was to serve park district residents and those within the SRSNLC member agencies first. Commissioner Pasternak asked about the demand and how many users could benefit. Thompson responded that the need is there, but capacity of existing programs was an issue and stated well over 100 people could sign up if the program would expand.

Commissioner Metropulos asked why the registration process was monthly. Newport responded that it was due to the monthly cost of the program to users and the need to have proper staffing for the program. Jeffery-Findley added that the current program costs approximately \$36 per day. Commissioner Green asked if the park district's capacity was lower now than in the past. Jeffery-Findley responded that it was lower, as it had been approximately 28 to 32, and that she had concerns about going over the current 21 participant limit, as it would affect the district's ability to provide participants with a quality experience and the ability to find qualified staff. She added that the park district did not offer a one-to-one ratio needed for some participants to benefit in the program's environment; but, instead had a ratio of one staff to six participants.

Commissioner Pasternak said that he did not see a need to market the program if there was already a waitlist and that adding to that list would frustrate more people. Jeffery-Findley added that she had not marketed the program, as word-of-mouth about the program had been enough to fill the program and have a waitlist. Commissioner Green stated that the focus of the park district was to serve Round Lake Area Park District taxpayers. Commissioner Metropulos stated that input he heard from the audience was that the program was running well, that Jeffery-Findley was enjoying the coordinator role, and that

if, and when, the park district had more resources, they could explore expanding the program in the future. Newport said that he had received a call from the Antioch recreation department about the Special Recreation Service of Northern Lake County, as well as other Antioch residents, and said that he encouraged them to discuss the possibility of joining SRSNLC with their local officials.

The Board thanked the audience for attending the meeting and providing input on the program.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Green moved to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of October 14, 2021.

SECOND: By Commissioner Pasternak.

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

Park Board President Hollingsworth adjourned the Regular Board Meeting of October 14, 2021, at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

/s/Paul Hollingsworth
Paul Hollingsworth, Park Board President

/s/Carl Hauser
Carl Hauser, Board Secretary

December 9, 2021
Date Approved