

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

Administration Center
2000 Belvidere Road
Waukegan, Illinois
November 22, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

President George Bridges called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

President George Bridges
Vice President Janet Kilkelly
Treasurer Patricia Foley
William Sarocka
Marc Jones

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director Greg Petry
Superintendent of Finance & Administration Jim Glogovsky, Superintendent of Cultural Arts Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Parks Michael Trigg, Superintendent of Recreation Jay Lerner, Community Relations Manager Teddy Anderson, Executive Assistant Sally Sandine, and Board Attorney George Bridges.

III. PUBLIC PORTION

Margaret Carrasco, Waukegan, Illinois appeared and thanked the Board for the District's recent Spanish and English job postings in local area newspapers. She again asked the Board to equally allocate Park District funds throughout the District.

Chris Blanks of Black Abolition Movement for the Mind (B.A.M.M.) addressed the Board and stated contractors that work on the Park District's projects should reflect the diversity of the city and requested that the Commissioners continue to work on getting more minority contractors participation.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Approval of 2016 Estimated Tax Levy.

Mr. Glogovsky presented his memorandum containing the four options for the 2016 Estimated Tax Levy including a detailed scenario of the various proposals and the factors that should be considered in deciding which option to approve. Mr. Glogovsky stated he is now recommending

option three (3), which would not increase any dollar amount for the residents of the District this coming year and the District would collect the same amount of dollars extended last year. Motion by Commissioner Kilkelly, seconded by Commissioner Foley to adopt the original tax levy as proposed by Mr. Glogovsky.

Commissioner Kilkelly asked for clarification from Mr. Glogovsky as to which option he was recommending. Mr. Glogovsky stated he is recommending option three (3) because of his discussion with President Bridges, wherein President Bridges indicated he would not support any increase in the dollar amount beyond last year's extension. Mr. Petry stated he is also recommending the Board approve the original tax levy proposal. He stated in the long-term it is the best option for the District to capture a small amount of money, in order to keep up with expenses, cost escalation, and inflation. He further stated this option will result in a decrease in the tax rate and most importantly a reduction in the amount a homeowner will pay.

Commissioner Kilkelly asked if the original tax levy proposal would result in a decrease in the amount of taxes paid by District's residents. Mr. Glogovsky stated the District will receive an increase with the original proposal; however, based on the EAV going up, the average household will realize a decrease in the actual dollar amount of the taxes due. Commissioner Sarocka asked if the reduction in taxes based on an increasing EAV a decrease would occur for all options. Mr. Glogovsky stated it would.

President Bridges stated the District has approximately \$8.5 million in a "rainy day" fund and that the Board cannot continue to increase the taxes on our taxpayers. President Bridges stated if a property tax freeze is put in place by the Legislators, it means, someone else would be doing the job to protect our taxpayers, when this Board should be protecting the District's taxpayers.

Commissioner Foley stated a \$7 million reserve fund may not be enough to address the needs within the capital improvement programs. She stated over the years many of the projects desperately in need of capital improvement have not been undertaken because of the lack of funds, and that the \$7 million reserve may simply not be enough to cover those needed improvements.

Commissioner Jones stated he has considered both sides of the discussions and in his opinion option three (3) will satisfy both sides. He stated this option will not increase the tax burden on the taxpayers and still give the District the ability to recoup some of the funds in the event there is a property tax freeze.

President Bridges asked Mr. Glogovsky what would be the actual amount realized by the District if the EAV went up to 10%. Mr. Glogovsky stated if the Board chose option three (3), the District would receive the same extension as last year because he would abate the debt extension bond funds \$360,000. He further stated because the actual amount could fluctuate, he also has the ability to issue a discretionary cut to cover any additional amount. President Bridges asked Mr. Glogovsky if the discretionary cut had to be passed this year or next year. He stated he has three (3) days after the extension amount is established to issue a discretionary cut during the first week of April of every year.

Commissioner Kilkelly then read a prepared statement regarding her position on the 2016 estimated tax levy and asked that it be attached and incorporated in the minutes. There was no objection, and the statement is incorporated and made a part of these minutes. There being no further discussion. On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Foley
NAY: Jones, Sarocka, Bridges
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Motion failed.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Foley to adopt option three (3) 2016 estimated levy. President Bridges stated he wanted the minutes to reflect that the abatement ordinance be filed at the same time as the levy ordinance. President Bridges stated he was advised the discretionary abatement deadline is March 15 and he asked Mr. Glogovsky to look into it and report back. On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Foley, Jones, Bridges
NAY: Kilkelly, Sarocka
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

B. Belvidere Park Aquatic Project.

Mr. Petry presented a discussion point memorandum regarding the Belvidere Park Aquatic Project. He stated because of the significant preliminary planning that must be completed, he asked Legat Architects and William Architects to partner together to create a joint proposal for the conceptual phase of the aquatic project.

Doug Holzrichter of PHN Architects, appeared before the Board and stated that PHN Architects, William Architects and Legat Architects will partner together to develop what is essentially a master plan for the Belvidere Park Aquatic Project. He presented the preliminary aquatic facility program that was developed in 2012 and discussed the various concepts of that plan. He advised the Board that while the plan needs to be updated, he believes it is still relevant today.

President Bridges asked Mr. Holzrichter if the pool is to open in June 2018, when must the hole be dug. Mr. Holzrichter stated if that's the goal, then they must have concrete finished by December 2017. He further stated the District would have to apply for permits no later than May or June of 2017. Commissioner Foley stated she believes it is too soon to establish a hard timeline, as this involves the renovation or removal of several buildings.

C. Cultural Arts Discussion.

President Bridges moved this to the January 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting.

D. Approval of the Amended 2016-17 Salary Schedules.

Mr. Glogovsky presented the revised 2016-17 Salary Schedule for Board approval. He stated the salary schedule was revised in response to the FLSA new overtime rules, that became effective December 1, 2016. He stated he had added Salary Schedule C in response to the Department of Labor's revised Independent Contractor and Employees classification rules. He informed the Board most of the questionnaires have been returned and that seven individuals who were formerly classified as being Independent Contractors will be converted to Employees.

Motion by Commissioner Foley, seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve of the Amended 2016-17 Salary Schedules. There was no discussion on the motion. On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Foley, Jones, Sarocka, Bridges

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

E. Approval of the Amendment to the IGA between the Park District and the Waukegan School District.

Attorney Bridges advised the Board the IGA needed to be amended because the insurance provision of the agreement was not in conformity with the District's policy with PDRMA. Motion by Commissioner Sarocka, seconded by Commissioner Foley, to approve the amendments to the IGA, between the Waukegan Park District and the Waukegan School District. There was no discussion on the matter. On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Foley, Jones, Sarocka, Bridges

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

V. COMMISSIONERS QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

All the Commissioners thanked Mr. Glogovsky for his hard work and effort in preparing the various tax levy proposals.

President Bridges voiced his displeasure with the Executive Director and asked to have the Executive Director's contract placed on the next meeting's agenda for review, under closed session. Attorney Bridges advised President Bridges, the Board couldn't just review the Executive Director's contract in closed session. President Bridges stated he wanted the contract placed in the board packet for the Commissioners to review. Commissioners Foley and Commissioner Kilkelly questioned President Bridges as to why he wanted the Director's contract on the agenda. President Bridges responded and reiterated he wanted the Director's contract placed on the agenda.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Bridges moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George Bridges
Secretary

JANET E. KILKELLY
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Bridging D.C. 's Starkest Divide

CAN A PARK OVER THE ANACOSTIA RIVER SPUR A REVOLUTION IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT?...

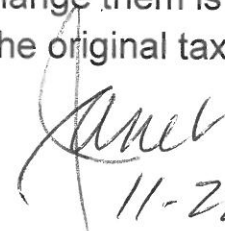
“Equity and inclusiveness: I don’t think it’s too strong to say this is one of the critical issues of our time. How does money, time and resources go back to support the local community?”

But a funny thing happened on the way ... and home prices shot up by 27 percent in 2015.

Parks stabilize neighborhoods – offer areas of green space along with leisure and recreation and offer families’ alternatives within our community. If the results are to have a zero levy thus giving back to our community an average of \$10 savings on a Waukegan household’s Park Dist tax equaling to est. 20¢ a week, I believe we can do a better service by providing services and facilities at a level they have come to value and seek for their families.

Personally, after working hard to establish the Waukegan Park District as an organization we can all be proud of...thru the referendum...working on the tax inequities with Springfield that penalized the Park Dist due to their own efficient and conservative practices. We have worked hard and have earned the National Gold Medal for park districts in our category by constantly refining and delivering a sound value to all the residents of the Waukegan Park Dist. Without the sound management and fiscal responsibility of the practices we have employed in our recent history, to scale back and to start to dip into our reserves which are earmarked for a number of projects for the community but to use as operating monies (est. of new Aquatic facility = 1years loss) will be a disservice to our overall community. In addition it could jeopardize our bond status, hinder future capital developments, i.e. a new Ganster pool plus Kirk Park overhaul and limit new initiatives for our youth and girls via STEM, or threaten newly established advantages for our youth e.g. the youth employment mentorship program from this past summer.

To quote from President George Bridges letter from September 19, 2016, “Commissioners have the responsibility to set goals and policies that meet the current and future needs of our citizens.” The Waukegan Park District needs to continue to be a leader and a sanctuary, for all and to short change them is a disservice to our community. My hope and vote would be to the original tax levy.


11-22-2016

