

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021 at 4:30pm
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
1324 GOLF ROAD, WAUKEGAN, IL 60087

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34pm.

II. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

President Jacqueline Herrera Giron
Vice President Janet Kilkelly
Treasurer Jeremiah Johnson

Commissioner Anton Mathews

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Commissioner George Bridges

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director Jay Lerner
Executive Assistant Sally Sandine, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Jon Beckmann,
Superintendent of Recreation Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Parks Quincy Bejster, and Attorney
Mandi Florip.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. 2021 Memorial Endowment Scholarships

Motion by Vice President Kilkelly, Second by Treasurer Johnson to seat Commissioner Bridges.

On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bridges was seated at 4:35 pm.

Staff presented the 2021 Memorial Endowment Scholarship recipients:

The recipients are:
Alexis Valdovinos Case Western Reserve University
Briana Lopez College of Lake County
Erica Espinoza Connecticut College

Kathy Colin University of Richmond
Nancy Miranda University of Pennsylvania

Mr. Richards introduced the recipients, presented their ceremonial oversized checks, and arranged photos for the recipients with the commissioners.

V. REVIEW, DISCUSS, DECIDE

A. Motion to Approve Change Order for Victory Park

Staff recommends approval of the attached AIA Change Order to our agreement with Integral Construction for the 2021 Victory Park Renovation along with the related Change Order Resolution. Staff presented a summary of the changes, reasons, and costs. The six Change Order Requests (CORs) were provided.

As construction began, issues arose that staff identified and packaged together in one request for the Board to consider.

Motion by Treasurer Johnson, Second by Vice President Kilkelly to change order for Victory Park, as presented.

Commissioner Bridges asked if the change order amount was legally allowable. Staff confirmed. Vice President Kilkelly asked for clarification about the change order monetary amounts. She also asked about the safety aspect of the fencing included within the change order.

Staff provided an update on construction regarding equipment being delivered, concrete work, and underground work.

Commissioner Bridges thanked staff for listening to resident feedback and including that in the change orders. President Herrera Giron noted that it is meaningful to have an enclosed area given the fact that there is a busy road in close proximity.

AYE: Mathews, Bridges, Johnson, Kilkelly, and Herrera Giron

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

B. Midlane Ribbon Cutting Date

There have been a few delays, but staff is comfortable identifying July 7th as the ribbon cutting date at either 11am or 1pm for both Hilltop and Friendship Parks. The Board decided on July 7th at 11am.

C. Discussion on Park Security Options

Staff developed ten (10) options related to additional security at Bowen Park. Still being developed are cost estimates with additional narrative. Staff will share the full report at the Board Meeting and e-mail

out details before the meeting for reference. They are working with several vendors, contacting various Park Districts, and reviewing with PDRMA, which is why cost estimates will not be ready until closer to the board meeting.

Staff noted that there is a large amount of information within the ten proposals and described each option, including cost, where available. Staff performed a great deal of research including speaking with other park districts about deterrents they have employed.

Options include installation of: cameras in five specific locations, automatic gates at the three entrances, manual gates at the three entrances, cameras and automatic gates, cameras and manual gates, extending park patrol until 3am, adding a security company, additional lighting including motion sensor lights, larger park hours signs, or implement a road counting machine.

Currently there is an automated speed limit machine which also counts the number of vehicles that enter. This has provided staff with an idea of how many cars are coming into the park after 10 pm. On Saturday night, there were four cars that went through the park at 10 pm.

Staff recommends the District purchase a car counter to analyze how many vehicles are entering the parks after hours.

President Herrera Giron asked if there is measurable data that staff can obtain from other park districts to show what was happening prior to the implementation of the deterrents. Staff noted that most other districts have only recently deployed deterrents. Mr. Lerner stated that the majority of city parks are not gated. Gates are generally reserved for rural areas, such as forest preserves.

Staff stated that many of the options require lead time, so implementation may not be until September.

Commissioner Mathews inquired about which parks would be targeted for research with a car counter. He also asked for information on how a private security firm would operate within our parks. Staff explained the options available and stated that the District could modify their duties, as necessary. Commissioner Mathews asked what power they would have. Staff stated that the police department would need to be called if an arrest were to be made.

Commissioner Bridges asked for clarification about the gating protocols by forest preserves versus city parks. He is interested in evaluating the Waukegan Police Department's history of calls and park visits. He also stated that the addition of lighting would be beneficial.

Vice President Kilkelly asked for clarification about the current park patrol hours. She asked what abilities a security company would have. Staff stated that the security company would be using their best judgement and would call the Police Department in dangerous situations. She is supportive of gathering data. She also is supportive of additional lighting and signage.

Commissioner Mathews echoed Commissioner Bridges in requesting to see Waukegan police data from paid park patrol, as well as normal beat patrol data at parks.

President Herrera Giron noted that adding the security company would be in addition to the existing park patrol hours contracted with the police department. She asked if they provide data of incident collection. Staff stated that they provide reports the next day of all activity.

The Board discussed the current MOU with the Waukegan Police Department. President Herrera Giron asked if hiring police departments for extra park patrol is common practice among park districts.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Upcoming Board of Commissioners Meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 4:30 pm

Mr. Lerner stated that he received a call from Senator Johnson notifying him that there is a \$3 million award in the state budget for the Carnegie project. She believes the funds will be available in 3-6 months.

Mr. Beverly thanked Mr. Lerner for establishing the relationship with Senator Johnson.

VII. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mathews wished a happy belated Father's Day to all of the fathers and a belated birthday to Ms. Sandine. He thanked staff for all of their reports. He noted that the team at the SplashZone has been doing great, especially in the heat. He stopped by Juneteenth over the weekend and was proud of the event. He thanked all who were involved and thanked the community for supporting the event.

Commissioner Bridges asked if the District is helping the City for the Fourth of July fireworks.

Treasurer Johnson stated that it was good to see everyone in person.

Vice President Kilkelly extended her appreciation to the staff. She is thankful to be back and have everyone here, healthy. She thanked everyone for all that they did over the last year and a half.

President Herrera Giron thanked the staff for all of the work done, especially through the pandemic, to keep community members involved in creative ways. She wished a happy belated birthday to Ms. Sandine and Commissioner Bridges.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Bridges moved, seconded by Commissioner Mathews to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandi Florip
Secretary