

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT
August 22, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

President Jeremiah Johnson
Vice President Anton Mathews
Treasurer Jacqueline Herrera Giron
Commissioner George Bridges*
Commissioner Janet Kilkelly

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

*Left the meeting early

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director Jay Lerner
Executive Assistant Sally Sandine, Director of Community Relations Shelby McDonald, Director of Finance & Operations Jon Beckmann, Director of Recreation Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Sports, Fitness and Aquatics, Kaitlin Fischer, Director of Parks Quincy Bejster, and Attorney Mandi Florip.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda Items which included the Minutes of the July 11, 2023 (Board of Commissioners Meeting), March 13, 2023 (Recreation Advisory Meeting Minutes), July 11, 2023 (Closed Session Meeting Minutes), Bills, Payroll, Financial Statements, and Authorization to Receive Bids for Rose Park Baseball Field Improvements.

Motion by Treasurer Mathews, seconded by Commissioner Kilkelly to approve the Minutes of the July 11, 2023 (Board of Commissioners Meeting), March 13, 2023 (Recreation Advisory Meeting Minutes), July 11, 2023 (Closed Session Meeting Minutes), Bills, Payroll, Financial Statements, and Authorization to Receive Bids for Rose Park Baseball Field Improvements.

Treasurer Herrera Giron asked if the roll call within the minutes could be recorded with a notation stating if a Commissioner arrived late and/or left early. She stated that while it is reflected at a later point in the minutes, it should be noted on the first page to show the factual participation. President Johnson stated that he would be amenable to the proposed alterations. Vice President Mathews stated he supports this.

The minutes will be amended as noted. The motion was amended to include the alterations discussed.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Bridges, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson
NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Rizzo stated that he has noticed a problem with homelessness at Hinkston Park. He has noticed people washing their clothing at McDonalds and laying them out to dry on the park property. He has also noticed drug dealing and panhandling on park property. He stated there has been camping equipment and sleeping bags on the grounds. He stated that Go Wauk was a great event with a good turnout.

Pastor Julie Contreras stated that she was attending to be a voice for the Latino community. She stated that Latino members do not vote so their interests are not being represented. She noted that the cost the Park District was considering spending on the golf facility was disappointing and sad. She said that the District should consider a soccer facility that is open to the public. She stated that Waukegan soccer was the national soccer champion but there is no reflection in the Park District. She thanked the Board and asked the District to remember who they are serving.

Tony Maiome was concerned about the comments made in the newspaper regarding the building of the golf facility. He has coached golf at the high school for many years. He noted that the Bonnie Brook Golf Course and the high school have given the students a free opportunity to learn the sport of golf. Golf clubs are given to the students free of charge. This type of venue would have given families an opportunity to play golf in a non-intimidating venue. He is thankful that Bonnie Brook has a good practice facility. He noted that it is not about color, it is about opportunity. This would have provided black and brown children the opportunity to learn golf.

Susan Schwab stated that her entire family has grown up playing golf. She noted that there is no longer a program for kids to learn golf. They have to wait until there is a coach that will teach them. Kids need a golf facility that they can use all year round. She stated that the Waukegan school students could have gone to this facility during the school day to learn the game. She noted that the golf course at Bonnie Brook is very diverse in patrons who use the facility. She also stated that the article was disappointing and painted Waukegan in an unfriendly light.

Jeffrey French noted that he was disappointed that the golf venue is no longer being considered. He stated that golf is a sport you can play all year round. He wishes he had the opportunity when he was younger. He is disappointed that the Park District did not give black and brown youth the opportunity to learn the game of golf. He stated that he hopes the District will reconsider.

Michael Merritt stated that he returned to Waukegan after his military service. His kids grew up with Waukegan families that they are still friends with today. He urged the District not to continue a racial divide.

Attorney Florip read a letter from Chris Regas.

Ryan Martinez stated that he is very supportive of the golf complex coming to Waukegan. This would be a great opportunity for Waukegan and he has heard nothing but positive feedback for the facility. His son is on the Waukegan High School golf team.

Treasurer Herrera Giron thanked the citizens of Waukegan for attending the meeting and sharing their opinions.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- A. Introduction of new staff: Asia Becton, Recreation Specialist of Fitness, and Jonathan Cochrane, Recreation Specialist of General Recreation

Mr. Beverly introduced Asia Becton to the Board. She introduced herself and provided a background of her education and expertise. Mr. Beverly also introduced Jonathan Cochrane. Jonathan also introduced himself to the Board and provided an overview of his background of his education and experience. He is looking forward to working on programs that will get kids outside and moving.

- B. OSLAD Grant – Public Input for Dugdale Park Renovation

Mr. Bejster noted that it is OSLAD grant season and staff has been working on preparing the grant. Staff believes that Dugdale Park is an excellent candidate for this grant. They kept the design consistent with the feedback received during the public input meetings previously. Highlights include two parking lots, a basketball court addition, a new backstop, seating area, improved restrooms with full ADA accessibility, a new picnic shelter, new playground equipment, fenced dog area, soccer field renovations, and a 7/10 mile walking path surrounding the park.

Vice President Mathews noted that he is very excited about these renovations.

VII. PROGRESS REPORTS

A. Executive Director Lerner: Mr. Lerner presented his report. He also stated that the District is in the process of being reaccredited, which is why there are numerous policy updates.

B. Attorney Report: Attorney Florip noted that the Park District closed on the property located at 542 S. McAlister at the beginning of August. We have a closing scheduled for Thursday, August 24th for 3323 Bristol Road, which was the result of the closed bid auction we previously held. She is finalizing the court documents to be filed for the Boys and Girls Club property. She thanked Kaitlin and Errick for working so closely with her on a few different Field House patron incidents.

C. Legislation/ IAPD Update: Attorney Florip highlighted several new bills which have recently been signed into law.

- D. Division Reports:

D1. Recreation: Mr. Beverly presented his report. He stated that Dandelion Wine had an excellent turnout. They are working hard on Carnegie. Touch a Truck went well in conjunction with the Police Department and City. Oakwood Cemetery Walk is coming up.

Superintendent of Recreation – Ms. Fischer stated that the Field House membership count is at 8,546. Yoga at the Beach will continue through September. Glow Walk went well with over 187 participants. This past Saturday was family swim night with 62 participants.

Mr. Beverly stated that incidents have decreased by 48% since Signal 88 started. Adding Signal 88 coverage at the Field House has limited the amount of interactions staff have had to handle themselves. Vice President Mathews noted that he is impressed with the high level of professionalism exerted by Signal 88. He commended Mr. Beverly and his staff on this. Treasurer Herrera Giron asked if they send a statistical report. Staff noted that they send a daily report. She further asked if they could prepare a report of incidents that have occurred since they began. Commissioner Bridges commended staff on the new memberships. Vice President Mathews asked about enrollment in the financial literacy course. Mr. Beverly noted only 4 participants took advantage of the course, but

they intend to offer it again in September. He stated that the District needs assistance from parents to get kids to take the course.

D2. Parks: Mr. Bejster presented his report. He highlighted that the concrete is complete at Bevier Park and they are hoping to finish fencing by next week. New light poles will be installed soon. The basketball courts were poured and require 30 days to set, and then will need to be painted. Playground equipment is delayed until mid-September. The new windows were installed at the ARC building. The doors will be installed in early September. They had an excellent community service day with students from Rosalind Franklin. There were a lot of downed trees that the Department has been working on cleaning up.

Commissioner Kilkelly stated that she received a call about people living in the ravine at Bowen Park. Mr. Bejster noted that he is working with the Police Department and Signal 88 to remove them from the park at night. Commissioner Kilkelly also said that she received a call about the condition of the bathrooms at Hinkston Park. Mr. Lerner stated that the bathrooms are on the capital plan to be renovated. Ms. McDonald noted that the District applied for a specific grant that would allow for this renovation. Commissioner Kilkelly also asked for clarification about children catching turtles at Bevier. Mr. Bejster stated that residents can catch and keep up to 6 turtles as pets.

Treasurer Herrera Giron asked if the homeless people in the parks are the same individuals that continue to come back and if the District is working with service organizations to get them help. Staff has worked with local organizations.

D3. Community Relations: Ms. McDonald presented her report. The District received \$150,000 from the ARPA funds, which will go toward the ARC building. The IAPD awards have been submitted. They are working on OSLAD, which will be due September 15th.

D4. Finance and Administration: Mr. Beckmann presented his report. Staff is finishing the audit for the park district, golf, special recreation district, and a special grants audit. He noted that Ms. Mendez is working on the fund transitions and submitted the budget for the GFOA Award.

Youth and Family Golf Opportunities – Mike Jesse presented a junior golf initiative to the Board, indicating that they would like to do an open house at Bonnie Brook to invite the community to visit. There will be free instruction and tours. They would like to host a family golf day at Greenshire once a month. They are also looking to get an indoor and outdoor traveling training system for new players. He discussed cost effective training for junior players to learn the sport.

Commissioner Kilkelly asked if the play numbers are down this year. Mr. Jesse stated that they are not. The District budgeted higher, but has surpassed last year's numbers. President Johnson thanked Mr. Beckmann for making the adjustment for the individual that needed an accommodation. Commissioner Kilkelly thanked Mr. Jesse for taking up this task to get more exposure to residents. Mr. Lerner stated that this program will start at a very young age, to offer golf to younger children. The program would include a practice and play component. The club has 24 sets of junior clubs so participants do not need to purchase clubs. First Tee is no longer a viable program in the area. The closest program is in Mundelein. Treasurer Herrera Giron asked why the program is not viable. Mr. Jesse stated it was likely a higher program cost and the longer duration of the program. He noted that the program the District is proposing is a shorter length, offering patrons a week by week option. Mr. Beckmann noted that the District has a large endowment for golf to support this program. Mr. Lerner stated that the costs will be affordable, as the District owns the golf courses. Vice President Mathews asked how soon the program would be implemented. Mr. Jesse stated that he would like to market the program over the summer and spring and the program would launch next summer.

VIII. REVIEW, DISCUSS, DECIDE

A. Motion to Approve Carnegie Change Order for Interior Doors

Mr. Aulisio noted that he is requesting a change order for the interior glass doors. This item was an alternate that was not accepted when the glass package was approved by the Board. This is the same design that the Historical Society was looking for. Vice President Mathews asked if there are any other change orders that he anticipates. Mr. Aulisio stated that he is unable to answer that, because as they open up the building there is always a potential for additional costs.

*Commissioner Bridges left the meeting at 5:41 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Kilkelly, seconded by Treasurer Herrera Giron, to approve Carnegie Change Order for Interior Doors not to exceed \$172,615 as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

B. Carnegie Project Update: Parapet Rebuild and Contingency Update

Mr. Aulisio provided an update on where they are at with the contingencies. The parapet work is now complete. He outlined the memo provided to the Board and highlighted possible additional costs. He attempted to identify other areas of concern that may result in a change order.

C. Motion to Approve Purchase of John Deere Tractor

Staff recommends accepting the purchase of one (1) John Deere 5067E Cab Utility Tractor through the Sourcewell Grounds Maintenance Contract #031121-DAC (PG NB CG 70) for the price of \$63,981.82 from Revels Turf and Tractor, LLC.

Motion by Commissioner Kilkelly, second by Vice President Mathews, to approve Purchase of John Deere Tractor, as presented.

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

D. Motion to Approve Purchase of Wiedenmann Deeptine Aerator

Staff recommends accepting the purchase of one (1) Wiedenmann XF-8 Deeptine Aerator through the Sourcewell Ground Maintenance Contract #031121-DAC (PG NB CG 70) for the price of \$59,500.00 from Revels Turf and Tractor, LLC.

Motion by Commissioner Kilkelly, seconded by Vice President Mathews, to approve Purchase of Wiedenmann

Deeptine Aerator, as presented.

Vice President Mathews asked what the lifespan is. Staff noted 15 years is likely.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

E. Motion to Approve Field House Control Desk Bid

Bids were received for this project on August 3rd. Four contractors bid and the low bidder was Stuckey Construction. The recommendation is to accept the low bid of \$208,900 from Stuckey Construction.

Motion by Treasurer Herrera Giron, seconded by Commissioner Kilkelly, to Approve Field House control desk bid, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

F. Motion to Approve Quote for Arbor Park Path Overlay

Staff recommends acceptance of the low quote of \$27,300.00 from Patriot Maintenance Inc. for the 2023 Arbor Park Path Overlay.

Motion by Vice President Johnson, seconded by Treasurer Herrera Giron, to approve quote for Arbor Park path overlay, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

G. Motion to Approve Purchase of Field House Sound System

Staff recommends to purchase: Atlas, Sound Tube, Shure and JBL products for the sound system in the Field House. The current sound system products for the Field House need to be updated and replaced. The sound system equipment is used by our staff, members, daily users, and Park District programs. The total cost is \$28,869.40 and

a sole source justification was presented to the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Kilkelly, seconded by Treasurer Herrera Giron, to approve purchase of Field House sound system, as presented.

Vice President Mathews asked the lifespan of the sound system. Mr. Beverly noted that everything will have a warranty. They are hoping to get 20 years of use from the equipment.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

H. Motion to Approve Field House HVAC RTU #7 and #8 Replacement

Staff recommends acceptance of the low quote of \$29,987.00 from McDonough Mechanical Services Inc for the 2023 Field House RTU #7 and #8 Replacement.

Motion by Treasurer Herrera Giron, seconded by Vice President Mathews, to approve Field House HVAC RTU #7 and #8 replacement, as presented.

Commissioner Kilkelly asked if McDonough did our other replacement. They did some of them.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

I. Motion to Approve Powell Park Playground Installation Bid

Staff recommends acceptance of the low bid of \$75,950.00 from Playgroundsafe LLC for the 2023 Powell Park Playground Installation. This price includes the base bid and alternates A and C.

Motion by Treasurer Herrera Giron, seconded by Commissioner Kilkelly, to approve Powell Park playground installation bid, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

J. Motion to Approve Bid for Bowen Park Playground, and Roosevelt Bridge and Amenity Recoating and Renovation

Staff recommends acceptance of the Red Feather Group's Bowen and Roosevelt Combined Base Bid of \$82,500.00 and the Roosevelt Alternate 1 Bid (Playground Benches and Garbage Cans) of \$5,900.00 for a Total of \$88,400.00.

Motion by Vice President Mathews, seconded by Treasurer Herrera Giron, to approve bid for Bowen Park playground, and Roosevelt Bridge and amenity recoating and renovation, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

K. Motion to Approve G.O. Limited Bonds 2023 Series Planning Letter, Schedule and Engagement Letter

This fiscal year we will be issuing debt on: 2023 Bond Series: This is the District's annual rollover bond to pay short-term outstanding debt with a capital proceeds component. Total cost is approximately \$18,700, which is \$600 more than last fiscal year.

This vote is to work with Speer Financial on facilitating the transaction according to the schedule presented to meet the legal requirements. Chapman and Cutler LLP will be Bond Counsel.

Motion by Treasurer Herrea Giron, seconded by Commissioner Kilkelly, to approve G.O. Limited Bonds 2023 Series Planning Letter, Schedule and Engagement Letter, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

L. Motion to Approve Gas Utility Agreement with Constellation

Staff and attorney reviewed the proposal and agreements for both gas and electricity. This agreement is a one-year term starting approximately June 2024 through June 2025. Constellation is the District's current gas provider. The approximate rate is \$0.4820 a therm which is a fixed rate. The budget for gas is \$87,250 yearly with a projected contract expense of \$71,560. This is an approximate savings of (\$15,690) or (17.9%). Staff received five other quotes. Staff wanted both agreements to expire at the same time gas and electric so both were one-year terms.

Motion by Treasurer Herrera Giron, seconded by Vice President Mathews, to approve gas utility agreement with Constellation, as presented.

Commissioner Kilkelly asked if the District will extend the single year term after the first contract expires.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

M. Motion to Approve Electric Utility Agreement with Dynegy Energy Services

Staff and attorney reviewed the proposal and agreements for both gas and electricity. This agreement is a one-year term starting approximately June 2024 through June 2025 (Quote # Q-02442127). Dynegy would be the District's new electric provider over Constellation. The approximate rate is \$0.06103 a therm which is a fixed rate. The budget for gas is \$347,350 yearly with a projected contract expense of \$201,695. This is an approximate savings of (\$145,655) or (41.90%). Staff received ten other quotes. Staff wanted both agreements to expire at the same time gas and electric so both were one-year terms.

Motion by Vice President Mathews, seconded by Treasurer Herrera Giron, to approve electric utility agreement with Dynegy Energy Services, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

N. Motion to Approve Interfund Transfers

Fund	From	To
Memorial/Endowment #43(16-11-11-583-9999)	\$17.50	
	Recreation (02-46-92-473-9999)	\$17.50

Purpose: The transfer is for one scholarship for the Bulldog Pups program that was issued for the summer of 2023 youth athletics programs.

Motion by Vice President Mathews, seconded by Commissioner Kilkelly, to approve interfund transfers, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

O. Motion to Approve Safety Manual

Motion by Treasurer Herrera Giron, seconded by Vice President Mathews, to approve safety manual, as presented.

On a voice vote of all ayes, the motion carried.

P. Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-24 for OSLAD Grant Application for Dugdale Park

Motion by Treasurer Herrea Giron seconded by Vice President Mathews, to approve Resolution 2023-24 for OSLAD grant application for Dugdale Park, as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

Q. Motion to Approve Updated/Reviewed Policies

- a. 1.01 Communication among Commissioners, Executive Director and Staff
- b. 1.05 Identity Protection
- c. 2.01 Fees and Charges
- d. 2.03 Investments
- e. 2.04 Payment of Bills
- f. 2.06 Economic Hardship
- g. 2.07 Economy of Resources
- h. 2.16 Replacement Check and Return
- i. 2.17 Comprehensive Review, Financial Management, Fiscal Stability
- j. 3.01 Mission, Vision, Values
- k. 3.03 Park Security
- l. 3.05 Participant Behavior Code
- m. 3.07 Affiliate Status
- n. 3.08 Safety and Risk Management
- o. 3.10 Golf Operations
- p. 3.11 Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI-DSS)
- q. 3.13 Volunteers
- r. 3.14 Communicable Disease
- s. 3.15 Internet, E-mail and Social Media Use
- t. 3.16 Cooperative Initiatives and Operations
- u. 3.17 Seasonal Program Statistics
- v. 3.18 Program Evaluation
- w. 3.19 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- x. 3.21 Solicitation, Distribution and Use of Bulletin Boards

- y. 3.24 Soccer Goal Safety and Education
- z. 3.25 Recreation Program Philosophy
- aa. 4.06 Discretionary Time for Exempt Staff
- bb. 4.07 Vacation Time
- cc. 4.08 Holidays
- dd. 4.09 Personal Leave
- ee. 4.10 Sick Time and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- ff. 4.22 Uniforms/Clothing

Motion by Commissioner Kilkelly, seconded by Treasurer Herrera Giron, to approve updated/reviewed policies, as presented.

Commissioner Kilkelly asked for clarification about the notes in the policy regarding the affiliate agreement. She asked that policy 3.07 include a change to align with current practice. The Board agreed with the proposed change.

Treasurer Herrera Giron asked for clarification about Policy 1.01 which requires Commissioners to speak with a department head versus going directly to the Executive Director. Mr. Beckmann noted that the policy has older language, and he is not aware why the language was crafted that way. She stated that it makes sense to go right to the Executive Director. The Board agreed with the proposed change.

Treasurer Herrera Giron asked what the guidelines are to give a discount or waiver, which are outlined in policy 2.01. Commissioner Kilkelly noted that the parameters change, based on what the program is. President Johnson stated that the discounts apply broadly so it may be hard to define the obligations. She asked if the discount granting could be tied to the mission of the District.

Vice President Mathews stated that he feels it would be somewhat restrictive if the District required that other organizations align with the mission of the Park District. Treasurer Herrera Giron noted that the way the policy is written may lend the opportunity for unequal treatment among staff. Staff noted that the policy is written broadly to be all inclusive and allow for wide distribution of discounts. Staff also noted that the organization structure would only lead to a single staff member being asked.

The motion was amended to approve the policies with the noted changes in Policy 3.07 and 1.01 and exclude Policy 2.01 from the motion.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Herrera Giron, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

Motion to approve Policy 2.01 as presented by Commissioner Kilkelly, second by Vice President Mathews.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Kilkelly, Mathews, and Johnson

NAY: Herrera Giron

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bridges

Motion carried.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

None.

X. NEXT MEETING

A. September 12, 2023 – Board of Commissioners Meeting

XI. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Treasurer Herrera Giron noted that she has oxygen and has been at times told that she may not have much more time on Earth. She stated that because of that, she purposefully selects where she spends her time. She was diagnosed with lung disease in 2019. Despite her doctor's recommendation, she decided that she would still like to be involved in some things. She selected the District because it brings her joy to be a part of a team that brings opportunities to a city she calls home. She doesn't take being part of this group lightly. She thanked Mr. Lerner and his staff. She noted that at the last meeting the Board talked about creating opportunities for younger people to be exposed to golf, and staff has done just that with what they have proposed this evening. She thanked Mr. Lerner for being a leader that listens and brings people together to create opportunities. She apologized to her fellow commissioners because she was the one that spoke about race, and she is sorry that it was taken out of context. She in no way meant to say that this Park District is excluding black and brown children from recreational activities.

Commissioner Kilkelly commended Mr. Bejster and his staff on the abundant compliments received from patrons. She noted that there has been a lot of Facebook action regarding the golf facility. She addressed several of the comments. She noted that she has served the Waukegan Park District for over 20 years, and in that time she has promoted the interests of the District, while keeping in mind the wants and needs of the community. She reviewed the mission statement of the Park District. She further noted that the decision to not proceed with the golf facility was a sound decision. She further addressed comments made by President Johnson and asked that her letter be included in the minutes as an attachment.

Vice President Mathews thanked the public for attending and speaking this evening. He appreciates community feedback. He congratulated the June and July employees of the month. He stopped by the community yard sale and commended staff on the event. He stopped by Greek Fest and thanked the CLC trustee who invited him. He thanked IAPD for an outstanding webinar entitled, Leading with Influence. He attended Seussical and it was packed, showing that the arts are alive and well in the community. The kids did a tremendous job performing. He stopped by the Greenwood block party. The Partners in Park Foundation golf outing was excellent. He noted that Touch a Truck was very well done by the Park District, Police, and the City. He congratulated the August member of the month who is a young, 94 years old. He thanked Abbott Middle School for allowing him to be there and welcome kids back to school. He wishes Waukegan Public Schools a good school year. He welcomed the new employees recognized this evening. He thanked everyone for their birthday wishes.

President Johnson apologized to President Kilkelly for his comment. He noted that his discord does not come from the fact that the project did not happen. His disappointment came from the District spending over \$100,000 on the project, hiring a consultant, staff attending countless meetings, and providing direction to staff to move forward on the project. He noted that there were no negative comments received at the public comment meeting. He stated that the decision to stop the project was fast and seemingly without reason. He is not going to allow this situation to impact how he does his job as President. He apologized if he came across as rude. He noted that the District had the opportunity to do something big and meaningful in the community. He asked the Board to

imagine the Waukegan Public Schools bringing their students to the facility each year. He again recognized that the Board made the decision and it is over now. As such, he noted that it is time to move forward and look ahead.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice President Mathews, second by Commissioner Kilkelly to adjourn.

On all ayes, the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandi Florip
Secretary

From: C Reegz <crega1090@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 2:14 PM

To: Attorney Mandi Florip <attorneyflorip@waukeganparks.org>; Jeremiah Johnson <jjohnson@waukeganparks.org>; Jay Lerner <jlerner@waukeganparks.org>

Subject: My letter to the park board – Chris Regas – attach to 08.22.2023 Minutes – read at the meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am emailing in regards to tonight's meeting. Would somebody do the honor of reading my letter that I emailed the park board and was published in the Waukegan news sun in my absence this evening? I'd love my voice to be heard in this matter. Please consider this. Thank you.

To the Waukegan Park Board, What an embarrassment to wake up this morning to read the headlines that the golf project was shut down and it was headlined by saying "golf in general has historically excluded black and brown people."

It seems as history will now repeat itself as you are now excluding black and brown people yet again by not giving the opportunity for black and brown people to play at this venue.

Imagine reading this headline in 30 years to see how badly it will age.

Please tell Wilson Cruz, Jeff French (whose sons business will be hosting a golf outing at Bonnie Brook September 24th), his brother in-laws, my childhood friend Reggie Johnson and Edwin Lagunas (who holds his golf outing at Bonnie Brook), all black and brown people (and the many more that I see weekly at our home golf course) why you're not affording this opportunity to the city.

Who has been the worlds number one golfer for the majority of the last 25 years? Oh that's right, Tiger Woods, a black man. Baseball also generally excluded black and brown people. Maybe it's time we got rid of all the baseball fields in this town. Thankfully, we had pioneers like Jackie Robinson to pave the way and break the color barrier.

Change has to start somewhere. You either want unity or divide and it seems to me each of you that voted "no" want divide. Everybody on the park board that made this a racial issue and voted this down just brought those barriers back up. You set us back and divided us once again. We (you) will hear from the outsiders, "look how Waukegan screwed something up again."

We bring a casino that preys on black and brown people to get taxes so the politicians can have their blood money but say no to golf. Each and everyone of you that voted "no" should be disgusted with yourself. It's a very bad look for you, the park board and the city of Waukegan.

And don't give me a financial reason why this wouldn't work. This facility would have people from Highland Park to Racine, WI coming to it. It would get its money back, make revenue and be a job opportunity for many black and brown people.

I am absolutely disgusted right now. This board dropped the ball and will forever have a black eye until each of you is voted out. Do yourselves a favor and resign.

Sincerely, Chris Regas

Jeremiah Johnson

Ironic she'd sponsor a hole at a golf course.



Uk• Reply 16h Edited

7

"i/ Janet E.Kilkelly

Jeremiah Johnson why wouldn't I sponsor the Waukegan Police Department - in

fact here is a list of other organizations I've sponsored so far this year. AAUW

Preschool

Black Lives Matter-LC Catholic Women's Club Cool Ministries Food Pantry Fat Cat Rescue Inc

Girl Scouts Troop 47411

Heart of the City ILMC Foundation Municipal Clerks of IL

Rotary Club of Waukegan Special Olympics

St Baldricks

St Demetrios Greek Church St Patrick's Church

St Paul's Armenian Church

Stay n Spay

Waukegan Band Foundation Waukegan Historical Society Waukegan Police Assoc Waukegan Public Library Fdtn Wkgn Knights of Columbus

Keith Turner Sixth Ward Janet E. Kilkelly WOW!

That's not only impressive, it's ADMIRABLE!

Thank you for your broad and unwavering support of so many organizations that have such meaningful impacts across our community.

You're a fine example of what it means to be a public servant.

Like Reply 14h

0

41JD Jeremiah Johnson

I fully respect you supporting the police. The irony comes in when it's at a golf course because you've said "I don't care about golf" and "I have never picked up a club in 30 years."

Like Reply 14h Edit

Mel Don Vanderverter

Jeremiah Johnson that's a stupid thing to say. She supports the community.

Like Reply 14h

0

f) Jeremiah Johnson

Mel Don Vanderverter I fully respect Janet but she said those things at the board table. That's why I remember them, hence the irony - given the recent decision towards a golf decision.

Like Reply 14h Edited

Mel Don Vanderverter

Jeremiah Johnson that may be but that has nothing to do with supporting the community, no matter where the location. You're better than that!

Oh it is true, I have never picked up a golf club, nor have I kicked a soccer ball, thrown a balina, made a basket, run in a 5k, sent a kid to B.A.S.E., shot a basketball, rappelled our climbing wall, spiked a volleyball, threw a baseball plus do I look like someone who hits the gym at the field house everyday? I have walked through the parks, attended events, reacionally and culturally, dined at Bonnie Brook Golf Course and supported our Special Recreation and was the board liaison to the Golf Course. I have served the Waukegan Park District with fiscal responsibility and integrity for over 20 years. In that time, I have promoted each and everyone of those interests with improved facilities and services. Balancing our mission and vision statement while keeping in mind the wants and needs of our community as a whole.

Values Statement

- **Accountability...** We will work to achieve the most effective and efficient use of our financial resources while striving for the best return on the use of our assets.
- **Excellence ...** we will strive for the best in everything we do.
- **Integrity...** We will practice steadfast adherence to a high moral and ethical code, and we will reliably deliver on what we say we are going to do.
- **Service Oriented...** We will focus our efforts on our customers and will operate the District based on the needs of the community.
- **Working Together...** We will work WITH one another.
- **Sustainability...** The Board and staff will use a collaborative and cooperative team based approach that results in the best possible decisions for the long term greater good of the entire community.

The recent decision to not proceed with a "Golf entertainment" project, was a sound decision, which I explained at the time of our vote. I will not put the burden of a 16+

million tax burden on our Park District community. President Johnson has the option of either creating an independent PAC and putting the question to the residents of the park district as a referendum or personally creating a consortium of investors to proceed with this venue at their own expense and not the taxpayers of the Waukegan Park District. Continuing with this diatribe because you didn't get what you want is divisive and not deserving of the position and status you hold on this board.