

**Park District of Franklin Park  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Tuesday, April 25, 2023; 7:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
9560 Franklin Avenue  
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.**

President Zinga called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Physically Present: Commissioners Joseph E. Zinga, AnneMarie Casas, Mark K. White and Susan E. O'Connell.

Absent: Commissioner Michael A. Vonesh.

Present: Daniel LoCascio, Director of Parks and Recreation; Maria Laskowski, Human Resources Manager; Nathan Wick, Superintendent of Parks; Catherine Saponieri, Marketing & Communications Manager; Stephanie Bersani, Superintendent of Finance & Technology; Liz Visteen, Superintendent of Recreation; Carla Deak, Interim Ice Arena Manager; Melissa Renta, North Park Manager and Attorney Thomas Hoffman.

Also Present: Rocco Castellano, Castellano Designs; Ed Kosten, Franklin Park Resident and Jennifer Costa, Parks Services Assistant.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda**

Commissioner White asked for Nepotism Policy to be moved to after Closed Session.

**Administer Oath of Office to Susan E. O'Connell and Mark K. White**

President Zinga administered Oath of Office to Commissioner O'Connell and Commissioner White.

**North Park / Ice Arena Windows and Doors Project Discussion with Rocco Castellano from Castellano Design**

Rocco Castellano from Castellano Design discussed the benefits of having a Construction Manager for the North Park / Ice Arena Windows and Doors Project, due to lack of bids received. Mr. Castellano reviewed W.B. Olson's Proposal. A discussion was held.

**Presentation / Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated March 28, 2023**

Motion #1 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated March 28, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Zinga, yes; White, yes; O'Connell, yes; Casas, yes. Motion carried.

**Presentation / Approval of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes dated March 28, 2023**

Motion #2 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner O'Connell to approve the Closed Session

Meeting Minutes dated March 28, 2023, as presented by Director LoCascio.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners White, yes; O'Connell, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes. Motion carried.

**Presentation / Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated March, 2023 in the amount of \$196,754.06**  
Motion #3 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner White to approve the March, 2023 Manual Bill Listing in the amount of \$196,754.06.

The Manual Bill Listing was reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners O'Connell, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; White, yes. Motion carried.

**Presentation / Approval of System Bill Listing dated April, 2023 in the amount of \$53,378.15**  
Motion #4 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner White to approve the April, 2023 System Bill Listing in the amount of \$53,378.15.

The System Bill Listing was reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; White, yes; O'Connell, yes. Motion carried.

#### **Correspondence**

No correspondence.

#### **Reports of Officers and Commissioners**

Commissioner Casas is very excited about new programs, and is very impressed.

Commissioner Casas reported that Leyden High School was due to perform at Orchestra Hall, and had to move to OPRF. The administration handled the situation very well. A discussion was held regarding Teen Camp trips.

Commissioner Casas reported Spring Fever Competition this past weekend was very well attended. The Starr Blades now have a third team. The "Festival of Franklin" Spring Ice Show is May 19.

Commissioner O'Connell thanked Assistant Costa for planting all of the tulips and hard work. She thanked staff for their hard work on Earth Day.

Commissioner O'Connell commented North Park front redesign looks very nice so far.

Commissioner White thanked staff for their hard work on Earth Day. He suggested working with Vipers Baseball next year and see if they could start their parade a little later like past years. It would have been nice to have them at Earth Day. Commissioner White commented the front of North Park looks wonderful.

Commissioner Zinga echoed comments on Earth Day. Nice job by staff.

#### **Recess for Public Comment at 7:33 p.m.**

President Zinga recessed for Public Comment at 7:33 p.m.

Ed Kosten addressed the Board on the Panthers. He coached Hockey for 9 seasons. His grandkids are playing, and would like to coach. He knows coaches are needed. Not impressed how his grandkids are

progressing, and he would like to help out. Interim Manager Deak informed him to reach out to Hockey Director Niedziela. Mr. Kosten stated he did that last year, and did not hear back. Past Assistant Manager Monroe also led him to believe he would be able to coach and help, and then hears nothing. Director LoCascio stated that there has been a staff transition, and with Interim Manager Deak here and now aware, she can talk to Hockey Director Niedziela. Interim Manager Deak asked Mr. Kosten to email Hockey Director Niedziela and herself and they will schedule a meeting.

Assistant Costa thanked the Board for attending and helping at Earth Day.

**Reconvene at 7:43 p.m.**

President Zinga reconvened from Public Comment at 7:43 p.m.

**Staff Reports:**

*Director*

Director LoCascio will be in Springfield for Parks Day and the Legislative Conference Monday night to Wednesday. He has reached out to our Legislators that he will be there.

*Superintendent of Finance/Technology*

Superintendent Bersani reported that we are working hard on the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget. Audit will begin end of May, early June for preliminary work.

*Superintendent of Recreation*

Superintendent Visteen reported that we are rolling out E-Pact for Day Camp and summer programs. It will be very user friendly for the parents. Staff will be trained on the software tomorrow.

The month of May is training for all Summer Staff. Pool training will be at East Leyden. Doing pretty good on Summer Staff Hiring. Commissioner Casas likes the two week sessions for the Day Camp.

*Interim Ice Arena Manager*

Interim Manager Deak a shout out to Skating School Director Raucci for everything she is doing. Spring Fever Competition this past weekend went great, and moving right into Ice Show. Board congratulated Raucci.

Interim Manager Deak is learning a lot about the Budget. She thanked Director LoCascio and Superintendent Bersani for their help and patience with the Budget with her and Ice Arena staff. The Board appreciates all of Interim Manager Deak's efforts.

*Superintendent of Parks*

Superintendent Wick reported that the 7120 truck was switched over and staff is out cutting grass. They are trying to stay ahead of weeds. He thanked Assistant Costa for all the work she did on Earth Day and sending emails to participants. Thanked Supervisor Menolascina for his help with Earth Day in his absence. Assistant Costa reported that new bees were supposed to arrive Saturday, but due to storms in Texas, new bees should be arriving by Saturday. Superintendent Wick shared that due to issues with Anderson Pest Control, we will be switching to DTG Pest Control. Parks staff is getting ready for Summer. Manager Menolascina started cleaning the Pool, and will start filling with water Friday and through the weekend. Halogen is coming out on Monday to review the startup process. Illinois Pump will be out the end of next week once Pool is filled. A discussion was held regarding summer staffing. Parks and Pool will be sharing some staff this summer. Manager Menolascina paused lighting installation until after Pool is open.

*Marketing & Communication Manager*

Manager Saponieri shared the Park Passport Adventure. The will be promoted in May. Manager Saponieri will be attending Parks Day next week in Springfield. We have QR Codes in three parks. We have had: 83 lawn sign scans and Day Camp page in Brochure was scanned 16 times. Manager Saponieri shared the Hoot Suite Social Media Service 2022 year in review. Through our all social media pages 609,000. Fan and followers 6,000, seeing positive numbers. Director LoCascio stated Manager Saponieri is doing a great job.

Early Bird Pool Passes sold 300.

*North Park Manager*

Manager Renta introduced herself to the Board. The Board welcomed Manager Renta to the Park District.

*WSSRA*

Director LoCascio stated he will be attending the Derby Gala May 6. The next WSSRA meeting is May 9.

**Unfinished Business**

*North Park Entry Walkway*

Director LoCascio reported that the sidewalks and curbs were poured with the nice weather. A-Lamp has been great to work with. Superintendent Wick reviewed the project.

*Ice Arena & North Park Window/Door Replacement Project Construction Manager*

Director LoCascio explained the Resolution to the Board.

Motion #5 by Commissioner O’Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to adopt Resolution #22-23-8/R, a Resolution Pursuant to Section 8 of the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Zinga, yes; White, yes; O’Connell, yes; Casas, yes. Motion carried.

*Efficiency Committee*

Director LoCascio provided potential candidates to the Board. Recommends having a Special Board Meeting by June 9, to approve bids and Efficiency Committee. Once the Board makes a decision let Director LoCascio know and he will reach out to the individuals. IAPD has sent out the templates.

*2023-2024 Proposed Budget*

Discussed under Superintendent of Finance.

*Parks Foundation*

A discussion was held regarding the Parks Foundation. Commissioner White suggested taking a step back and regrouping. It was decided to have a Parks Foundation meeting to regroup and have a fresh start. A discussion was held.

**New Business:**

*Auditor Proposal*

Motion #6 by Commissioner O’Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to accept Sikich’s proposal for the 2023-2025 Audits, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners White, yes; O’Connell, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes. Motion carried.

*Intergovernmental Agreement*

Motion #7 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with School District 212, as presented by staff.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners O’Connell, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; White, yes. Motion carried.

**Suggested Motions**

There were no suggested motions.

**Required Signatures**

Manager Laskowski received the required signatures.

**Closed Session to discuss Pending Litigation 2(c)11 and Personnel 2(c)1**

Motion #8 by Commissioner O’Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to enter into Closed Session at 9:27 p.m. to discuss Pending Litigation 2(c)11 and Personnel 2(c)1.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; White, yes; O’Connell, yes. Motion carried.

**Nepotism Policy**

Nepotism Policy was discussed in Closed Session due to Personnel matter of discussion.

**Rise Out of Closed Session at 10:29 p.m.**

Motion #9 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Casas to rise out of Closed Session at 10:29 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Zinga, yes; White, yes; O’Connell, yes; Casas, yes. Motion carried.

**Adjourn at 10:31 p.m.**

Motion #10 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner O’Connell to adjourn at 10:31 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners White, yes; O’Connell, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes. Motion carried.

---

Michael A. Vonesh, Secretary