

**Park District of Franklin Park  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, October 22, 2024; 7:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
9560 Franklin Avenue  
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131  
MINUTES**

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

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

**Roll Call**

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

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, Ice Arena Manager; and Thomas Hoffman, Attorney.  
Also Present: Jennifer Costa, Parks Services Assistant.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

No additions, corrections or deletions to the Agenda.

**Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Park Commissioners to sell not to exceed \$1,820,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of land purchased or condemned for parks and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of costs of issuance**

President Vonesh asked for written or oral comments from the Commissioners. There were none.

President Vonesh asked for written or oral comments from the Public. There were none.

President Vonesh asked for additional comments from the Public. Director LoCascio and Superintendent Bersani explained why the not to exceed amount was higher than in previous years.

President Vonesh asked for a motion to Finally Adjourn the Bond Issuance Notification Act (BINA) Public Hearing.

**Finally Adjourn the Public Hearing**

Motion #1 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner O'Connell to finally adjourn the Bond Issuance Notification Act (BINA) Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

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

President Vonesh declared the hearing finally adjourned.

**Recess for Public Comment at 7:04 p.m.**

President Vonesh recessed for Public Comment at 7:04 p.m.

**Reconvene at 7:05 p.m.**

President Vonesh reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

**Presentation / Approval of the Special and Closed Board Meeting Minutes dated September 24, 2024**

Motion #2 by Commissioner O’Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to approve the Special and Closed Board Meeting Minutes dated September 24, 2024.

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

**Presentation / Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated September, 2024 in the amount of \$737,803.52**

Motion #3 by Commissioner O’Connell, second by Commissioner Zinga to approve the September, 2024 Manual Bill Listing in the amount of \$737,803.52.

The Manual Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

**Presentation / Approval of System Bill Listing dated October, 2024 in the amount of \$60,868.04**

Motion #3 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner White to approve the October, 2024 System Bill Listing in the amount of \$60,868.04.

The System Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

**Correspondence**

Thank you note from Manny Carrera from the Village of Schiller Park Recreation Department for to the Park District and Superintendent Wick for generous support during their Health Fair Event.

Director LoCascio shared that the Parks Department has assisted in many community events in the last month.

**Reports of Officers and Commissioners**

Commissioner O’Connell thanked everyone for all their work with the Parade. A lot of fun was had by all. Commissioner O’Connell expressed concern regarding dogs and alcohol use. A discussion was held regarding what to do when people don’t follow no dogs or no alcohol ordinances at our events / parks. The ordinance code is being reviewed. Director LoCascio stated to let staff know, they can handle and call the police if escalated. We can have a police presence.

Commissioner Casas stated a great job on the Fall Fest event and the sponsors. She attended the Leyden Concert and it was nice to see so many alumni that stayed local. The Park District purchased a table for their gala on February 8.

Commissioner Zinga echoed comments that the event was very nice. There was a lot of people and very well run.

Commissioner White also commented very nice event other than the train. He agrees with Commissioner O'Connell that there should be a police present due to the size of the event.

President Vonesh also commented great event. Good day and well organized. He thanked staff.

### **Staff Reports:**

#### *Director*

Director LoCascio shared that we were First Amendment Audited. We had everything ready and everything prepared. He commented how we were prepared.

Director LoCascio attended a PDRMA Legal Webinar and Fair Standards Labor Act was discussed being changed January 1. We have identified four employees that it would effect. Staff will meet tomorrow to discuss and staff will report to the Board at the November Board Meeting.

Director LoCascio discussed potentially doing an ADA Audit of our facilities and parks. Anything that is identified would help future plans. The Board approved getting a proposal.

#### *Superintendent of Parks*

Superintendent Wick reported that four of our seasonal employees did not have school last two days so they helped split wood, cleaned up that area and restocked the Ice Arena wood supply for the start of the season. They also blew out the stone in the Ice Arena park lot and added stone chip.

Parks staff has been busy wrapping up projects. Still needing to be completed are re-landscaping the gazebo at North Park, new fascia boards on the Sunflower Nature Center and changing the lights on the over hangs to LED bulbs.

Leyden Make-a-Difference Day will be out on Saturday cleaning and mulching North Park.

Archery Program started Saturday with eight participants; the kids seem to have a lot of fun.

#### *Marketing & Communication Manager*

Manager Saponieri presented the Placer.ai software to the Board and the tracking of our facilities, parks and special events.

Manager Saponieri is working on expanding the Sponsorship Package for 2025 and adding new events.

The Susan G. Komen Event had a great turnout and we doubled the amount that we raised from last year.

#### *Superintendent of Finance/Technology*

Superintendent Bersani discussed how each Fund's revenue & expenditures are proportionate to budget, with the exception of Recreation & Pool exceeding budget due to programming being intensive in the summer.

She is trying to finalize the audit in a timely fashion and keeping up with miscellaneous IT tasks.

*Superintendent of Recreation*

Superintendent Visteen reported that the Parade and Pumpkin Fest went well. The Leyden League Volleyball League is up and running with their first game coming up.

*Ice Arena Manager*

Manager Deak reported the Fusion, Starr Blades, Boys Club and Panther Hockey families will be participating in Trick or Treat at the Park this Saturday, followed by our annual Scary Skate from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

We are hosting 22 games of the CCM World Invite Tournament next weekend. Games are from 7:15 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with two additional games on Sunday. We hope to see a successful weekend of concession and vending sales.

Manager Deak acknowledged how grateful she is to her part-time staff for their help in covering shifts, ordering supplies and keeping the front desk and concession operations running smoothly since Jasmine's departure.

*WSSRA*

Director LoCascio reported our share went down from approximately \$152,000 to \$137,000. Next meeting is in November.

**Unfinished Business**

*Ice Arena/Pool Roof Replacement*

Motion #5 by Commissioner O'Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to approve Payout #5 to WB Olson, Inc., in the amount of \$84,680; for Ice Arena Roof Replacement.

Director LoCascio reported final payment should be next month.

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

*Personnel Policy Updates – Section 7 and 8*

Motion #6 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner O'Connell to approve Personnel Policy Updates to Sections 7 and 8, as recommended by staff.

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

*IAPD/IPRA State Conference January 23-26, 2025*

Let Maria know your stay length.

**New Business:**

*IAPD Annual Business Meeting*

Motion #7 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner Zinga to designate Daniel LoCascio, Director to serve as delegate to the Annual Business Meeting of the IAPD to be held on January 25, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

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

*Park District of Franklin Park Staff / Commissioners Christmas Party, December 13 at the Centre at North Park.*

Mark your calendars invites will be going out shortly.

*Conduct Ordinance*

Director LoCascio reported that the Ordinance has not been updated since 2007. The Board received a draft with proposed revisions. A discussion was held. The Board wanted to be clear that dogs should not be allowed at parks, even if on a leash. Director LoCascio stated that was not the intention and read the previous wording. We will make sure the language is clearer.

**Suggested Motions**

No suggested motions.

**Required Signatures**

Manager Laskowski received the required signatures.

**Closed Session to discuss Land Acquisition 2(c)5**

Motion #8 by Commissioner O’Connell, second by Commissioner Casas to enter into Closed Session at 8:37 p.m. to discuss Land Acquisition 2(c)5.

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

**Rise Out of Closed Session**

Motion #9 by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Zinga to rise out of Closed Session at 9:37 p.m.

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

**Take action, if any, on matters discussed in Closed Session**

No action needed.

**Adjourn at 9:58 p.m.**

Motion #10 by Commissioner Casas, second by Commissioner Zinga to adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

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

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Joseph E. Zinga, Secretary