



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 15, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

City of Wheaton Council Chambers 303 W. Wesley Street Wheaton, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER –President Kelly called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, and Vires were present.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Summer Camps**

Preschool and Camp Manager Kelly Nielsen Presented.

Every summer the recreation department takes great pride in offering some of the most desirable and economical day camp options in our area. Nielsen said that given that most of our camps are full within days of registration opening, and some fill within a matter of minutes. She thought it is obvious that not only do the community members love what we offer, but they rely on our camps and put them at the top of their list.

We are kicking off our season with the first ever Ice Cream Social, this will allow campers to meet their counselors before camps even start, which should make the first day of camp a little easier for those who may be nervous. There are already 230 kids signed up to attend. Camp enrollment is up to a whopping 3,420 campers, this is up 28% from last year. Staff added Camp Goodtimes which is being held in the new Blanchard Building. This new camp has allowed us to enroll almost 500 additional campers this summer between the ages of 5 and 8. Part of what makes our camps so enticing are the fun visitors and field trips. This summer we have some new things planned, like going to a Kane Co. Cougars game and a visit to Enchanted Castle as well as having a company come out to hold an interactive science show. Because ice cream and summertime go hand in hand, we are even having a vintage ice cream truck make a pit stop to hand out ice cream in July.

Nielsen stated that we are fully staffed with 70 top notch counselors with half of those who are returning from last year. 80% of our camp staff are Wheaton residents and some are even former campers themselves, many working at the very same camp they attended when they were younger.

- **Recognition of Cosley Zoo Director Sue Wahlgren for 40 Years of Service**

Executive Director Benard congratulated Sue Wahlgren for 40 years of service as our Cosley Zoo Director. Benard stated that Sue has also decided to retire in January 2025. She will be recognized at that time for her retirement. Wahlgren has improved the quality of life of those who she serves, impacting literally millions of people over the past 40 years by connecting them with animals and nature. Very few people achieve this level of service impact. Wahlgren was presented with a plaque and received a standing ovation.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$646,064.58 for the period beginning April 10, 2024, and ending May 07, 2024
- B. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$898,723.90 for the period beginning April 10, 2024, and ending May 07, 2024
- C. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes April 17, 2024
- ~~D. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes May 1, 2024~~
- E. Approval of 2025 Wheaton Park District Budget Development Calendar

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda striking Item D for the Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes May 1, 2024, Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, and Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

SELECTION OF A PERSON TO FILL A VACANCY IN PUBLIC OFFICE

1. Park Board Appointment

Commissioner Pecharich moved to appoint Angela Welker to the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners to complete a vacated term. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Motion carried by voice vote.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS & LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

1. Commissioner Mee moved to Elect John Kelly President and John Vires Vice President of the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Commissioner Vires moved to Appoint Michael Benard Executive Director / Secretary and Sandra Simpson Treasurer of the Wheaton Park District. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion motion carried by voice vote.
3. President Appointment of Foundation Park Board Liaisons and Subcommittee Chairpersons
 - a. Cosley Foundation Board Liaison-Commissioner Pecharich
 - b. DuPage Museum Foundation Board Liaison-Commissioner Barrett
 - c. Sensory Garden and Playground Foundation Board Liaison- Commissioner Welker
 - d. Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Chair-President Kelly
 - e. Finance Subcommittee Chair- Commissioner Vires

NEW BUSINESS

1. Wheaton Park District Financial Policies

Commissioner Vires moved to approve proposed amendments to the Financial Policies of the Wheaton Park District Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, and Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: Welker

Absent: Frey

2. Ordinance 2024-04

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve Ordinance 2024-04 approving the disposal and sale of personal property owned by the Wheaton Park District. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. President Kelly asked if the vehicles would be auctioned off. Executive Director Benard stated they would be.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, and Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: Welker

Absent: Frey

3. National Restaurant Association Show

Commissioner Vires moved to approve Commissioner Mee's attendance to attend the National Restaurant Association conference at a cost not to exceed \$330.00 per commissioner. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Motion passed by voice vote.

4. Recruitment of New Zoo Director

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve an agreement with Uptrend to conduct a search for the new Director of Cosley Zoo at a cost of \$25,000 plus reimbursable expenses. Seconded by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Vires stated that we would be conducting a nationwide search.

Commissioner Mee asked when we would start the search. Benard said in July.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, and Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: Welker

Absent: Frey

5. Design of Museum *Enduring Values* Permanent Exhibit

- a. Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the Joint Agreement Between the County of DuPage, Wheaton Park District, and Taylor Studios for Professional Design Services at a cost not to exceed \$75,000. Seconded by Commissioner Mee. President Kelly confirmed that the park district will be reimbursed the \$75,000. Benard stated it will be in the next motion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, Vires and Welker,

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

- b. Commissioner Mee moved to approve a Reimbursement Agreement with the DuPage County Historical Museum Foundation. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. Rice Pool Existing Conditions Audit

Commissioner Mee moved to approve a professional services agreement with FGMA/Councilman Hunsaker in the amount of \$21,500 plus reimbursable expenses for Rice Pool existing conditions audit. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Vires stated that the pool is aging, and the board is interested in seeing what needs to be done to the pool. This is the first step in the process. Motion passed by voice vote.

7. Waste Hauling

- a. Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the bid from Groot Industries for waste removal for a three-year contract at a cost of \$49,337.92 for year one plus an allowance of \$18,600 for anticipated tonnage. Second and third years of contract are subject to a maximum of a 5% increase. Seconded by Commissioner Mee. President Kelly asked Director of Parks and Planning Sperl what the tonnage allowance is. Sperl stated two tons per dumpster, and we will go over this.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, Vires and Welker,

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

- b. Commissioner Mee moved to approve the bid from Groot Industries for composting for a three-year contract at a cost of \$5,319.00 for year one. Second and third years of contract are subject to a maximum of a 5% increase. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.
- c. Commissioner Mee moved to approve the bid from LRS LLC for recycling services for a three-year contract at a cost of \$5,772.81 for year one. Second and third years of contract are subject to a maximum of a 3% increase. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

8. Maintenance Management Software

Commissioner Vires moved to approve a 3-year contract renewal with TMA Systems at a total cost of \$56,806.42. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Executive Director Benard stated that it's \$56,806.42 for the three-year contract, not an annual cost.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, Vires and Welker,

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

9. Sensory Garden Playground

Commissioner Pecharich moved to accept the quote from Play Illinois for an amount of \$29,715.00 for the purchase of a shelter kit for Danada South Park.

Seconded by Commissioner Vires.

Commissioner Mee asked if there were any scheduled events that would require the shelter. Benard stated that we recognized a need for a shelter at the park for rentals. We are currently using a tent until the permanent structure is built. This cost is reimbursable from the Play For All Foundation per our reimbursement agreement with them.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, Vires, and Welker,

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

10. Central Athletic Complex

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve Change Order #1 from HDI Enterprises, LLC for the Central Athletic Complex Main Gym Floor Refinishing Project in the amount of \$6,500.00. Seconded by Commissioner Mee. President Kelly said that the contractor who did the Kale gym floor is giving us a good price to do the floor now, it will lessen the impact to the community since we won't have to close the building twice. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Briar Patch Park Renovation

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$47,110 with A. Jules Construction. Seconded by Commissioner Vires.

Director of Parks & Planning explained the process for this project, He said that in the long run it will make sure we have better surfaces that will last as long as they can. President Kelly stated that the engineers were helpful with this project.

Executive Director Benard stated that this will be paid for entirely by two grants, OSLAD and Member Initiative Piece from Representative Terra Costa Howard through DCEO. Benard said we are still under the budgeted amount.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Pecharich, Vires, and Welker,

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

12. Community Center Interiors

Commissioner Mee moved to approve Change Order #5 in the amount of \$7,278.55 Stuckey Construction. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Welker abstained; All others Aye, Motion passed by voice vote.

13. Northside Pool Locker Rooms

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve Change Order #1 from the Red Feather Group for the Northside Pool Locker Room Access project in the amount of \$7,654. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion.

Commissioner Welker abstained; All others Aye, Motion passed by voice vote.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

- Executive Director Benard welcomed new board member Angela Welker to the board. He also congratulated Dan Novak on his new role as Arrowhead's Director of Operations, and Adam Lewandowski as the Director of Athletics & Facilities. He commended Arrowhead staff for serving 1,100 people on Mother's Day and the Recreation Department for registering 875 people within the first 24 hours of resident registration which is up significantly from 665 last year. He also commended the Athletics and Parks Departments for a job well done with the Wheaton United Soccer Tournament May 10-12. We hosted 109 teams, 1,800 players, and had approximately 4,500 spectators for 178 games on 17 fields. He thanked parks staff for their hard work getting the pools ready to open Memorial Day.

President Kelly asked Director of Athletics and Facilities Lewandowski if pool pass sales would catch up since sales are down a little bit from last year at this time. Lewandowski said they would. Many people buy passes after the pool opens.

Commissioner Mee said the zoo's annual report was a tribute to her leadership. He recognized Wahlgren and her staff for accreditation which we are continuously approved for. He thanked the zoo's generous donors and the partnerships that the zoo maintains. Revenue in 2023 was the highest over the 5 years from 2019-2023. He thanked the Cosley Foundation members for their work and support.

Commissioner Welker stated she was excited to be here and to serve with the board, she stated she is happy to speak to anyone anytime looks forward to serving the community.

Commissioner Vires welcomed Commissioner Welker and stated that when he first started on the board, Wahlgren gave him a very thorough tour of the zoo. He said on the surface people think it's a petting zoo, he said it's not, it's an elite institution which is AZA accredited. Only 10% of facilities are accredited. He said that it is the happiest spot in DuPage County. He told Wahlgren that she is a real asset to the community.

Commissioner Pecharich welcomed Commissioner Welker, and congratulated Wahlgren on her 40 years of service. She stated that the zoo is what it is because of Wahlgren. Pecharich asked Director of Parks & Planning Sperl what we are doing about the cicadas. Sperl stated that the trees we plant are typically larger and won't be impacted by them, so therefore we are not bagging them.

Commissioner Mee recognized the Athletics Department for taking 2nd out of 55 in the Park Pursuit Challenge. He was happy to see that all the athletic programs, Parks Plus Fitness Center memberships are all up. He commended the Recreation Staff for the Kite Event, which was well attended. Mee asked Benard if there was any news on the arson at Lincoln Marsh. Benard stated there was no resolution, the police are still investigating.

Commissioner Barrett welcomed Commissioner Welker. He congratulated Wahlgren, he said she showed a remarkable example of commitment to the zoo and our community.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:48 p.m., Commissioner Vires moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Vires', written in a cursive style.