



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 17, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

Summer Camps- Jamie Martinson, Superintendent of Recreation Programs

Jamie presented:

It's hard to believe our summer season at the park district kicks off in just a few weeks.

Every summer the recreation department takes great pride in offering some of the best and affordable day camps in and around the Wheaton Community- and it is evident the community agrees since most of our camps filled up within the first 12 hours of resident registration opening back in February.

2023 is looking to be a great camp season- We passed our American Camp Association 5-year site visit last summer, which awards us accreditation status through 2027. The site visit is extremely detailed, where nearly 400 components of day camp operations are scrutinized and graded.

Camper enrollment is up over 19% from 2022, with over 3100 campers enrolled in recreation day camps.

We are fully staffed, with over 50% of last year's staff returning- Many of which are Wheaton residents and former campers, excited to give back to their community and help create lasting memories for our campers and families.

With summer camp starting in just 2 and a half weeks, we have a lot of work to do to prepare for the arrival of our campers- and we can't wait to make 2023 another great year for our camp families and community.

Board Questions/Comments:

Linda Pecharich asked Jamie if we had a wait list. Jamie said yes, we try to accommodate all and/or suggest another camp or program.

Ray Morrill commented that he was impressed with the camp staff training topics.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$601,491.79 for the period beginning April 12, 2023, and ending May 9, 2023
- B. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$415,811.27 for the period beginning April 12, 2023, and ending May 9, 2023
- C. Approval of the Closed Meeting Minutes March 15, 2023
- D. Approval of the Subcommittee Meeting Minutes April 12, 2023
- E. Approval of the Closed Meeting Minutes April 12, 2023
- F. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes April 19, 2023
- G. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes May 3, 2023
- H. Approval of the Amended 2023 Meeting Schedule of the Wheaton Park District
- I. Review of Official Canvass and Abstract of Votes for Wheaton Park District Commissioners Consolidated Election April 4, 2023

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Vires. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Kelly, Mee, Morrill, Pecharich Vires Frey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Swearing in of New & Re-Elected Park District Commissioners by Judge Christine Cody of the 18th Judicial Court.

Judge Christine Cody swore in Bob Frey, Terry Mee, and Linda Pecharich as Commissioners for the Wheaton Park District for a four- year term, and Ray Morrill for a two-year term.

2. Motion to Elect John Kelly President and John Vires Vice President of the Wheaton Park District (Change of Gavel)

Commissioner Mee moved to elect John Kelly President and John Vires Vice President of the Wheaton Park District. Seconded by Commissioner Morrill. Motion passed by voice vote.

Discussion: Terry Mee thanked Bob Frey for his years of service as President.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Kelly, Mee, Morrill, Pecharich Vires Frey

Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

3. Motion to Appoint Michael Benard Executive Director / Secretary and Sandra Simpson Treasurer of the Wheaton Park District

Commissioner Vires moved to appoint Michael Benard as Executive Director / Secretary and Sandra Simpson as Treasurer. Commissioner Pecharich seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

4. President to Appoint Foundation Park Board Liaisons and Subcommittee Chairpersons
 - a. Cosley Foundation
 - b. DuPage Museum Foundation
 - c. Sensory Garden and Playground Foundation
 - d. Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee
 - e. Finance Subcommittee

President Kelly said he would like the board to think about the various board liaison and subcommittee positions and communicate with him concerning their desire to serve. He will make the appointments at the June meeting. He added that he would be happy to remain Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee and John Vires is willing to remain Chairman of the Finance Subcommittee unless other board members would like those positions.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Rice Pool Filter Room Exterior Repair Project**

Commissioner Vires moved to approve Change Order #1 from Bergland Construction for a Contract Amount Net Increase of \$900. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Kelly, Mee, Morrill, Pecharich, Vires & Frey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. **Finance Policies**

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve Proposed Amendments to the Finance Policies of the Wheaton Park District as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Vires. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Kelly, Mee, Morrill, Pecharich, Vires & Frey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. **Local Government Efficiency Act – Review of Resolution 2023-04 Forming a**

Committee on Local Government Efficiency to be Approved at the Special Meeting of the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners on June 7, 2023.

President Kelly stated that the purpose of this Resolution is to form a committee in compliance with this new law. He must pick two members from the community to serve on this committee and recommends the DuPage Museum Foundation and Cosley Foundation Presidents. Mike will communicate with them to make sure they are available and willing to serve. President Kelly reiterated that all 7 board members and the Executive Director will also serve on the committee.

4. Cosley Zoo Strategic Plan

Commissioner Mee moved to accept a Proposal from Public Communication Inc. for Strategic Plan Consulting for Cosley Zoo. Seconded by Commissioner Frey.

Commissioner Morrill confirmed that this project will be funded by the Cosley Foundation.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Kelly, Mee, Morrill, Pecharich, Vires & Frey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. National Recreation and Parks Association Educational Conference and Exposition

Commissioner Morrill moved to approve Commissioner Attendance October 10-12, 2023, Dallas Texas at Cost Not to Exceed \$3,000 per Commissioner. Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Kelly, Mee, Morrill, Pecharich, Vires & Frey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

REPORTS FROM STAFF

- **Executive Director**

Executive Director Benard complimented the Recreation Department on a well-executed and attended Go Fly a Kite Event and the Athletic Department for hosting 129 teams over the past weekend in the Wheaton United Invitational Tournament. He stated that the team will be training hundreds of pools, camp, and parks seasonal staff over the coming weeks.

- **2022 Cosley Zoo Annual Report**

Zoo Director Wahlgren Stated that Cosley Zoo was visited by people from all 50 states in 2022. A First!

Vice President Vires asked Wahlgren how the turtles were doing since they were released. Sue responded that they're tracked (12-15 years) after releasing and it has been successful. Vires added kudos to Wahlgren and Campaign Manager Cathy Mousseau in the huge increase in fundraising since 2018.

Commissioner Morrill commented Wahlgren on a great report. He said it was a report that people will want to read.

Commissioner Mee commented that the report says it all, has good information and graphics. He complimented Wahlgren and her staff in their response to Avian Flu. He asked if it is something we monitor? Wahlgren stated it was and they continue to monitor it and so far, it has been avoided in our area. Mee asked how the shell fungus is going with the Blanding's Turtles? Wahlgren said they will implement a treatment protocol in June.

Mee complimented the zoo's impressive statistics of 150,000 + visitors, 8 countries, 2 territories.

Commissioner Pecharich asked Wahlgren what was the one thing that she thought stood out to our zoo visitors. Wahlgren responded that she felt it was the accessibility of the exhibits and the cleanliness.

- Monthly Department Reports – Finance, Special Facilities, Marketing, Development, Events, Recreation, Athletics, Parks and Planning

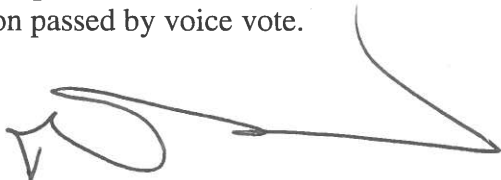
Commissioner Morrill complimented the athletics team on taking first in the park pursuit contest. He complimented recreation on the cancellation rate being so low at 11%. He mentioned the \$500,000 grant for the Cosley Zoo parking lot and congratulated the team.

Commissioner Mee – complimented athletics on the Park Pursuit first place. He mentioned that Pickleball and Rams Football numbers are up as well as Parks Plus Fitness membership numbers. He added that he attended the Kite Event and even though the weather was not great, it was well-attended. He said that he is always impressed how friendly and helpful the front desk staff are at the Community Center. He asked Director of Parks & Planning Sperl how long Deb Seymour has been with the park district since she's retiring. Rob responded 20 years. He mentioned the 5-star rating that Arrowhead has on Open Table. He told Director of Special Facilities Bendy to keep up the good work.

Commissioner Pecharich complimented Director of Recreation Beyer and her team on a great job with the all-staff Pinewood Derby team building event.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:28 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Vires seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized 'V' or 'W' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a loop.