



# Wheaton Park District

## Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 19, 2021 5:00 p.m.

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

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

### PRESENTATIONS

- **Summer Day Camps** - Jamie Martinson, Preschool and Camps Manager gave a brief update on our very exciting summer camp season. She congratulated our Wide Horizons Preschool Students on their upcoming graduation tomorrow and Friday. She stated it was a school year we will never forget, and we are so proud of our team for safely operating a 9 month-long preschool program for over 70 students during a pandemic, and so, with the end of preschool means summer camp is just a few weeks away. More than ever we are so excited for the start of the summer season at the Wheaton Park District. Things are looking more “normal” as every day passes. Her staff has been busy planning, adapting and staying creative with the ever-changing guidelines.

Martinson stated that after our modified summer in 2020, we are thrilled to be bringing back all our popular camps, taking place at all locations throughout the district, from Toohey Park, to the Lincoln Marsh, Community Center, Central Athletic Complex and Northside Park, campers are ready to take over our facilities, 70% of Full Day Camps are full, with over 1,809 campers Enrolled. This equates to over \$300,000 of gross summer camp registration revenue. These enrollment statistics really show the level of trust our community has with us, and how much they count on us to offer these high-quality camp programs every summer. We are excited to be invited to Rice Pool and Northside Pool for our campers to swim every week, we have safe special visitors planned in lieu of offsite field trips, including magicians, Cosley Zoo and the Lincoln Marsh. Martinson stated that even though many of our full day camps are full, we still have some availability in specialty camps. She encourages anyone interested in enrolling or anyone who has questions to contact me directly at 630-510-5138. She stated they are looking forward to another fun, safe summer!

**100-year Anniversary** - Margie Wilhelmi, Director of Marketing, Special Events and Development stated that the official year long anniversary celebration kicked off this month to commemorate the date the park district was established May 28, 1921. A special exhibit, Wheaton Park District: Celebrating 100 Years, opened on May 8 at the DuPage County Historical Museum depicting the history of the district. The exhibit features a timeline showcasing the expansion of the district through its various land acquisitions, facility and park offerings and the tremendous growth of programming and athletics over the last century. With Several other Recreation Activities, Pop-Up Events and Facility Promotions will take place throughout 2021 and into 2022. We will begin collecting items, photos and stories to go into a Time Capsule that will be buried at Memorial Park at the end of the celebration year, early in 2022. Wilhelmi spoke about the different marketing elements and timelines, as well as branding on our websites and

emails. She stated that all staff are encouraged to wear their anniversary shirts on Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> in honor of Founders Day. She also asked the commissioners to wear their shirts to the ribbon cutting event on Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

Anjali Bharadwa 361 Whirlaway Court, Wheaton, IL

Anjali Bharadwa's presentation to the board is as follows:

I have come here today to talk to you about the program run by the park district for the Wheaton Wing and Midwest FC travel team. My 2 daughters started playing for the Wings back in 2015 and have played travel soccer since. From a financial view that means about \$35,000+ we have put into the park district between fees and taxes. My oldest daughter started when she was 8 years old and now plays for the Wheaton Warrenville South's JV team as a freshman. My 2nd daughter started at 7 years old that same year. Over the course of the past 6 years, we have seen some major failures in the way our club is run, with an especially downward turn in recent years. Likely it will not be news to you to note how many teams have disappeared from the Wings in search of better coaching, administration or both. For convenience, town spirit, and realistic expectations of what soccer means to my daughters' futures we have tried to stick it out on the Wheaton teams. Unfortunately, my daughter's 2008 team was one of the teams that decided to leave, and we were left scrambling for a new team. The 2007 girls had a team with spots open as several players were leaving also looking for better opportunity. As part of the Wings community for 4 years, a decent soccer player, and knowing many girls on the team, it seemed like the right fit to have her join that team instead. She was denied a spot. We were given excuses as to why, including the team being full even though another player who was even younger, and did not come to try outs was given a spot after we were denied. After some effort, my 2008 daughter found a new home with the Glen Ellyn Park District team who placed her on the highest-level team for her age, affirming what we already knew that she is more than capable to play with the 2007 girls.

This year we are having new difficulties with our oldest daughter, a 2006 player. Although her teammates from South were playing together on a team, and the team she was placed with was not a good fit for reasons I should not go into in this public forum but known to the administration, Wheaton Park District has refused to let her on the team with girls she is already playing with. With the excuse that she is not good enough to be a sub on their team. I recognize most parents believe their kids are better athletes than they are, but the fact that she is already on a team with these individuals and has played with future pro coaches for the past 6 years under this park districts guidance tells me that either they are wrong or that our coaches are useless.

My point in bringing you this information is not to allow my daughter to play with her friends and teammates. The Midwest FC administration has dug in their heels and I see little chance of them doing the right thing. In fact, many of those girls are now also deciding to leave as they no longer want to deal with the lack of leadership from this organization. My point is that our park district has lost its way in serving the community and the community isn't having it. The district is treating our kids as objects and being narrow minded. Not looking to what the residents actually want and what is in the best interest of the kids. Wikipedia defines team members as a group that set goals, make decisions, communicate, manage conflict, and solve problems in a supportive, trusting atmosphere in order to accomplish their objectives. Being on the team is more than simply soccer.

You might be thinking, well this is a competitive travel team, we are trying to get these kids college scholarships as we are constantly told and how that is how our administrators got their experience. That sounds good except for the fact that only 2% of high school athletes receive college scholarships. On top of that, that is not what parents are looking for. The majority of the parents are looking for a team for their kids to step up from park district in house leagues, learn how to be in a team and be a part of something that joins them with the community, and enhance their athletic capability with professional coaches at the same time. Children should be looked at as a human and not just pay days or objects. This is after all what the park district is here for right? To serve the community.

Today my 2008 daughter has aged out of Lakers and is again selected for the highest level team at Midwest FC so back in the Wheaton Park District's hands. I also have a young son who hopes to play for the Wings one day as well. I encourage this board to take a hard fresh look at our program and recognize that the time has come for change for how our travel team program is run. Thank you.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$467,440.08 for the period beginning April 14, 2021 and ending May 11, 2021
- B. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$273,162.15 for the period beginning April 14, 2021 and ending May 11, 2021
- C. Approval of the May 5, 2021 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- D. Approval of the April 21, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hodgkinson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.  
Seconded by Commissioner Fahey.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Fahey, Hodgkinson, Kelly, Mee Morrill, Vires, Frey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Swearing In of Commissioners Elected April 6, 2021
  - o William Barrett
  - o Kevin Fahey
  - o John Kelly

Judge Paul Fullerton swore in William Barrett, Kevin Fahey, and John Kelly as Commissioners for the Wheaton Park District for a four- year term

Executive Director Benard acknowledged Commissioner Hodgkinson for her tremendous work as the Executive Director of WDSRA and as a Wheaton Park District Commissioner. President Mee stated that Hodgkinson was a phenomenal commissioner and thanked her for her service. Commissioner Hodgkinson thanked the board and staff and the people of Wheaton that appreciate their park district.

2. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- o President
- o Vice President

Commissioner Mee moved to elect Bob Frey as President, John Kelly as Vice President, Commissioner Vires seconded.

President Mee appreciated the support of staff and the commissioners during his two years as President. He thanked the board for their time and support. President Elect Frey thanked the board for electing him and he welcomed Bill Barrett to the board. Motion passed by voice vote.

3. Annual Election of Officers

- o Executive Director / Secretary
- o Treasurer

Commissioner Fahey moved to appoint Mike Benard as Executive Director / Secretary and Sandra Simpson as Treasurer. Commissioner Morrill seconded. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

4. President to Name Foundation Park Board Liaisons and Subcommittee Chairman

- a. Cosley Foundation
- b. DuPage Museum Foundation
- c. Sensory Garden and Playground Foundation
- d. Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee
- e. Finance Subcommittee

President Frey named the following commissioners as Park Board Liaisons and Subcommittee Chairman.

Cosley Foundation: Ray Morrill

DuPage Museum Foundation: John Vires

Sensory Garden and Playground Foundation: Ray Morrill

Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee: John Kelly

Finance Subcommittee: John Vires

5. Graf Park Shelter Concrete Replacement Project – Motion to Approve a Contract with Continental Construction in the Amount of \$28,800 plus a 10% Contingency for a Total Potential Cost of \$31,680

Commissioner Vires moved to approve a Contract with Continental Construction in the Amount of \$28,800 plus a 10% Contingency for a Total Potential Cost of \$31,680  
Seconded by Commissioner Fahey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Community Center Parking Lot Replacement Project – Motion to Approve a Contract with Wight Engineering in the Amount of \$20,300 for Preliminary Plans and Cost Estimates

Commissioner Fahey moved to approve a Contract with Wight Engineering in the Amount of \$20,300 for Preliminary Plans and Cost Estimates. Seconded by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

7. Beer and Wine Sales in Memorial Park During Concerts and Events – Motion to Approve the Sale of Beer and Wine at Memorial Park During Wheaton Park District Hosted Concerts, Special Events and Rentals Held June 1 through October 31, 2021

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the Sale of Beer and Wine at Memorial Park During Wheaton Park District Hosted Concerts, Special Events and Rentals Held June 1 through October 31, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Vires. No discussion Motion passed by voice vote.

8. Annual Review of Wheaton Park District Finance Policies – Motion to Adopt the Amended Finance Polices of the Wheaton Park District

Commissioner Vires moved to a adopt the Amended Finance Polices of the Wheaton Park District Seconded by Commissioner Fahey. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

9. Ordinance 2021-01 - Disconnection of Certain Property from the Wheaton Park District

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve Ordinance 2021-01 - Disconnection of Certain Property from the Wheaton Park District Seconded by Commissioner Morrill. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Non

Abstain: None

Absent: None

10. Resolution 2021-05 - Amendment to the Wheaton Park District Cafeteria Plan with Dependent Care Flexible Spending Arrangement

Commissioner Fahey moved to approve Resolution 2021-05 - Amendment to the Wheaton Park District Cafeteria Plan with Dependent Care Flexible Spending Arrangement. Seconded by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Non

Abstain: None

Absent: None

11. National Recreation and Parks Association Educational Conference – Motion to Approve one Commissioner’s Attendance at the 2021 National Recreation and Parks Association Educational Conference at a Cost Not to Exceed \$2,336

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve one Commissioner’s Attendance at the 2021 National Recreation and Parks Association Educational Conference at a Cost Not to Exceed \$2,336. Seconded by Commissioner Morrill. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

**REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Commissioner Mee congratulated Zoo Director Sue Wahlgren on her annual report, he thought it was excellent. He was impressed with the net revenue in 2020 being more than in the previous four years.

Commissioner Fahey thought it was a great report also. He was impressed that in 2020 there were 145 visitors from California and different states.

Commissioner Morrill thought it was a great report and asked Wahlgren if there was any way of knowing how many of the 3,000 Blanding’s Turtles that were released, survived. Wahlgren stated they don’t have an exact number but they did have a lot of success with it.

President Frey congratulated the zoo on an excellent job during such a bad year.

Commissioner Morrill asked Benard if there were outdoor pickleball memberships. Benard stated there are not.

Commissioner Vires, Fahey, Kelly and Barrett thanked Commissioner Mee for his service as the President for the last two years

Commissioner Vires thanked Commissioner Hodgkinson for her service. He stated she is a very kind person.

Commissioner Fahey stated it was a pleasure serving with Hodgkinson. She made him feel comfortable when he was new to the board. Her passion for parks was apparent. She will be missed.

Commissioner Mee thanked Executive Director Benard and his staff for managing the park district so well.

Executive Director Benard thanked Director of Recreation Beyer and her staff for coordinating several successful vaccination clinics with Positive Health Services. Benard also stated that we have sold approximately 3,000 tickets to the Memorial Park Concert Series.

Commissioner Fahey thanked his family for coming to support him on his swearing in tonight.

President Frey thanked Commissioner Hodgkinson for her service on the board.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:40 p.m., Commissioner Morrill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fahey seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Morrill', written over the text of the adjournment.