



Wheaton Park District

**Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners
BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND FINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday November 6, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
DuPage County Historical Museum
Wheaton, IL 60187**

CALL TO ORDER –

President Kelly called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m., Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Frey, Commissioner Mee, Commissioner Pecharich, Commissioner Vires, were present.

Commissioner Welker was absent

Staff Present included: Executive Director Benard, Executive Assistant Siciliano, Director of Parks & Planning Sperl, Superintendent of Planning Hinchee, Director of Finance Simpson, Director of Athletics Lewandowski

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Finance and Administration

- 1. Insurance Renewal for 2025 / Health, Dental, Vision, Group Term Life and EAP –**
Review of insurance rates for 2025

Dave Meyer, President of CFM Insurance, Inc. Stated that they continue to be very pleased with the collaboration that we experience with Mike, Matt, Donna, and the team here at the Park District. They enjoy a fantastic working relationship, and they have all been great to work with. Meyer stated that they are pleased with the outcome of the renewal. Initially they received a +16% renewal action from BCBS back in early October. While they are seeing renewals that are far worse than this with other clients, double digit increases are never a good reason to celebrate. He said that the good news is that through several rounds of negotiations, they were able to effectively lower the medical increase down to +7.7% overall increase, which reduced medical premiums by approximately \$160,000 for this upcoming year. In addition, they were able to negotiate an additional \$25,000 administration credit with BCBS as well (\$185,000 total savings). Administration credits are nice because they are a discount that appears on one of your first month's billing statements and are fully realized at once. When you factor this into the renewal calculation, it drops the overall increase on the medical down to 6.4%. At

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the end of the day, a mid-single digit rate increase is fantastic in this inflationary market, and clearly beats today's medical inflationary trend factor of approximately +8.5%. They were able to accomplish all of this with no plan design changes, which means the employees can maintain the same excellent level of benefits that they have enjoyed for the past handful of years. The benefit levels, and the employee premium contributions, are at levels where the Park District employees should feel very well cared for. The plans that are offered are a fantastic attraction and retention tool in this competitive employee marketplace. It clearly differentiates you from other employers in the area. They did go out to market again this year, approaching the other primary competitors in this space Aetna, Cigna and UHC. UHC came in slightly lower, offering a 2.5% premium savings (approx. \$50,731). In reviewing those plans and rates, we assess that this premium difference would not be worth the disruption of a carrier change, which would include the networks of doctors and hospitals as well as Rx drug formulary list. They also included the former PDRMA plan in our benchmark survey this year. Meyer was pleased to report that BC/BS renewal costs are still \$324,000 below what PDRMA is offering in 2025. Keeping in mind those numbers are a year over year savings, so in the last 7 years, now 8 years with the renewal, those accumulated savings will surpass the \$2.5M threshold for the park district.

As far as the ancillary benefits are concerned, there was no increase to the dental, life/AD&D or Vision rates on the renewal (0% change) on all three lines of coverage, which are also with BC/BS. In summary, the recommendation to the board, to the sub-committee, is to renew with BCBS for the 2025 Plan year. There were no questions from the board.

2. **Health Insurance / Employee Contribution Rates for 2025** – Review of proposed employee contribution rates for 2025

Executive Director Benard stated that he is recommending maintaining the employee contribution rates at 5% of premium costs for HMO and 15% of premium costs for PPO for 2025. President Kelly, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Frey, Commissioner Mee, and Commissioner Vires agreed with this recommendation. Commissioner Vires stated that this model has encouraged most of our employees to stay on the HMO, which is a lower cost to the district. President Kelly asked if we are still doing the incentive if employees choose not to use our insurance. Benard said we are still offering the incentive. Benard recommended we keep the vision and dental the same which is dental is paid 100% for employee and family and vision is covered 100% for employee only, if they want family coverage they must pay for the family portion. Commissioner Pecharich didn't think the district should be paying 100% for the dental, that it should be the same as the vision coverage. She also thought the percentage that the employees pay should be increased. After much discussion a majority of the board reached consensus that all employee contributions to premium should be maintained as currently offered and recommended by Benard.

3. **Notice of Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Commissioners of the Wheaton Park District, DuPage County Illinois, to Adopt a Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Period Beginning January 1, 2025 and Ending December 31, 2025** – Review of Public Notice and Draft Ordinance No. 2025-09
Benard stated the budget and appropriation ordinance will appear on the December Park Board Meeting agenda for consideration. The related public hearing will be held November 20, 2024 at 5:00 pm. There were no questions from the board.
4. **Disposal and Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Wheaton Park District** – Review of Ordinance 2024-12
No discussion.
5. **Annual Meeting of the Illinois Association of Park Districts 1/25/25** – Review of Credentials Certificate and Identification of Delegate
No discussion.
6. **2025 Fee Proposal Rice Pool / Waterpark and Northside Pool** – Review of 2025 Proposed Rates for Season Passes, Daily Rates and Coupon Books
Benard stated that he is recommending the proposed rate increases to maintain an operating subsidy for the pool operations of 20% or lower. In 2024 the subsidy was just over 25% with cost of labor increases being the primary reason for the higher subsidy in 2024. Benard reported that even with the proposed increases our research indicates that we will remain fairly priced by comparison to other local peer park districts. President Kelly asked Director of Athletics & Facilities Lewandowski if there is a maximum on how many kids are allowed in a family membership. Lewandowski said there is no maximum. No further discussion.
7. **Cosley Zoo Fees** – Review of Proposed Changes to Non - Resident Zoo Access Fees
Benard reported that the zoo is operating budget is met through property taxes, non-resident adult admission fees, donations and program revenue. The recommended fee increase for non-resident adults is \$2 or \$12 per visit and \$1 or \$10 per visit for non-resident senior citizens beginning January 1, 2025. Park District Residents and children will continue to access the Zoo with no admission fee. No discussion.
8. **Cosley Zoo Age Designations** – Review of Proposed Changes to Cosley Zoo Access Age Designations
Benard reviewed the recommended changes to zoo admissions age designations. Beginning January 1, 2025, children will be defined as up to 11 years old, adults will be defined as age 12-59 years and senior citizens will be defined as 60 years and older. No discussion.
9. **Cosley Zoo Fall Carnival Rides** – Review of JBR Fundways payment of \$44,415.60
Benard reported that the zoo earned \$14,805. No discussion.

Buildings and Grounds

1. **Community Center Renovation Project Phase II** – Review of Change Order No. 6
President Kelly reviewed the change order contemplated which includes a deductive change order in the amount of \$7,500 and voiding a prior additive change order amount of \$4,243.42. The prior board approval of the additive change order will be rescinded.
2. **Wheaton Sanitary District Northside Park Interceptor Project** – Review of Release of Easement Agreement, Amendment to License Agreement and Refund of Fees Paid by Sanitary District for Tree Removal
Benard stated the sanitary district had paid the park district for the removal of trees. As the interceptor project progressed, it was determined that the trees did not need to be removed resulting in the required refund. No discussion.
3. **Blanchard Building Parking Lot Renovation Project** – Review of a Professional Services Proposal for Design Services from Wight Engineering
Benard stated a grant will cover 100% of design and construction costs for this project. No discussion.
4. **Asphalt Repair Projects** – Review of Change order from Chicagoland Paving
Benard stated this deductive change order is a result of the plans for full replacement of the Blanchard Building parking lot instead of a spot repairs. No discussion.
5. **Portable Restroom Rental** – Review of Bid Results
Benard stated staff was not satisfied with the bid results which included irregular responses. Follow up with bidders revealed that additional clarifications concerning scheduling of rentals would yield better results. Staff recommends rejection of all bids and a re-bid in December. Commissioner Barrett said he has had some residents request different placements of the portable restrooms around Memorial Park. Benard stated we are intentional about where they are placed related to servicing the units and complying with the ADA concerning access routes.
6. **Cosley Zoo Staff and Overflow Parking Area Project** – Review of Quotes for Geotechnical Services
Benard stated that this will be paid through our Capital Projects fund and reimbursed by the Cosley Foundation. Director of Parks & Planning Sperl stated that costs are projected to come in well below \$20,000. President Kelly recommended staff approve the current low quote and pay based on unit cost of visits.
7. **Community Center Parking Lot Renovation Project** – Review of Pedestrian Access Proposal
Benard reviewed the proposal of adding a sidewalk and pedestrian striping to improve pedestrian safety walking from the parking lot to the building. The Board concurred.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 6:09 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) Commissioner Frey seconded.

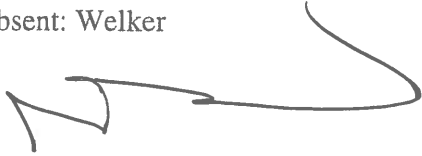
Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mee', written over the 'Absent: Welker' line.