



Wheaton Park District

**Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday May 18, 2016 7:00 p.m.
City of Wheaton Council Chambers
303 W. Wesley Street Wheaton, Illinois**

CALL TO ORDER –President Hodgkinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Kelly, Mee, Morrill, Vires and were present.

Commissioner Schobel arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioner Frey was absent

PRESENTATIONS

1. Summer Events Schedule

Superintendent of Marketing & Special Events Kristina Nemetz gave a brief summary of the upcoming events.

June 2: Taste of Wheaton

June 18 : FishORama and Petanque Court Opening at Northside Park

July 3: Wheaton Fireworks

July 4: Wheaton Independence Day Parade

July 11, 18, 25: Music Mondays in the Park

July 21: Cosley Uncorked

August 6: Wheaton Brew Fest

August 26 & 27: Shakespeare in the Park

2. Park Facility Rentals

Nemetz stated that in addition to all the special events we are hosting this summer we know there are a lot of residents celebrating graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, weddings, and other types of gatherings. We encourage everyone to consider your Wheaton Park District parks and facilities when looking for venues to host your events. We offer fantastic park settings, turnkey event rooms, birthday party packages, pool parties, and evening driving range parties as well. Whether it is a large corporate event or a small family get-together, the Wheaton Park District has something to offer for all of your celebrations

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$1,051,000.52 for the period beginning April 13, 2016 and ending May 10, 2016.
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2016

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Morrill.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Vires, Schobel, Morrill, Mee, Kelly, Hodgkinson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2016-2020 Wheaton Park District Strategic Plan / Parks & Open Space Master Plan Presentation

A presentation was made to the board on the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan highlighting the seven charters:

Measurement, Survey & Analysis

Board Partnership, & Community Engagement

Internal Communication Excellence

Program and Recreation Services

Facility Planning for Profit and Sustainability

Greening Your Park District

Master Plan/Parks and Open Space

Comments by the board after the presentation ended include:

Commissioner Vires stated that it was exciting that staff gets to use their imaginations to work towards making the district better. He said the board will support what we can afford. He is excited about the ice rinks at CAC.

Commissioner Morrill complimented staff on the Strategic and Master Plan. He likes that full time and part time staff were involved. He thinks the board should formally approve this plan to show their support.

Commissioner Mee commended staff on the plan. He appreciated everyone's hard work. He agreed with Morrill on approving the plan.

Executive Director Benard commended the staff on all of the hard work and dedication that was put into this plan.

President Hodgkinson thought it was wonderful that so many staff members came to the board meeting tonight to show support of the plan. She stated that the board realizes this took a lot of staff's time. She congratulated staff on a job well done.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bids for Installation of Speed Tables in the Parking Lot of the Community Center

Commissioner Morrill moved to accept the bid from Abbey Paving in the amount of \$7,500 for the installation of speed tables in the parking lot of the Community Center. Seconded by Commissioner Mee

Commissioner Mee asked if this is a safety issue at the Community Center. Executive Director Benard stated it was. People drive too fast going through that parking lot. We need to slow people down but keep it where the Parks Department staff is able to maintain the parking lot through all seasons. Benard commended his staff on securing a good price for this.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Vires, Schobel, Morrill, Mee, Kelly, Hodgkinson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

REPORTS FROM STAFF

- 2015 Cosley Zoo Annual Report
- Department Reports
- Executive Director

Commissioner Vires commended staff on the Cosley Zoo Annual Report. He asked Zoo Director Sue Wahlgren about the relationship with the Forest Preserve District on the Blandings Turtles. Wahlgren stated that we have been working with them since 2001. We came in and helped them hatch 120 of them in a year. We release them as 2 year olds. She stated it is a constant learning process. The Forest Preserve District hatches them and we grow and nurture them. We do a lot of education and programming on the turtles.

Commissioner Schobel stated he enjoyed the report. He thought it should be on display at the Museum (administrative office) for the public to view.

Commissioner Morrill stated he would like to see a section on challenges or short term goals. He would also like an update on the Welcome Center and Master Plan in the future. Wahlgren stated she would provide them. Morrill congratulated Wahlgren and her staff on being accredited again by the AZA.

Commissioner Kelly commended staff on a job well done. When he first got on the park board the zoo operated in the red. That is no longer the case and revenue is up 20% over the last year alone.

President Hodgkinson commended the zoo as well. She encouraged the Cosley Zoo Foundation Board to provide an update report to the board on the Welcome Center and Master Plan.

Executive Director Benard asked the board to submit their comments on the personnel policy so that it may be approved at the June meeting. He requested the comments by the end of May. He stated that the U of I resident survey is closed. We had approximately 16 % of them returned. We will have a presentation at a subcommittee meeting and then the regular meeting once the results are in.

Commissioner Mee congratulated Arrowhead on the 10 year anniversary. He congratulated staff on the Go Fly a Kite Event. He commended staff for working with the Sheriff's department on the program at the Mary Lubko Center. He commended Director of Parks and Planning Sperl on how well the parks are maintained. He stated that he gets compliments all the time on how nice the parks look.

Commissioner Morrill stated that the Mary Lubko dedication was well attended. He stated that he would like to see the different training opportunities that staff has available. He congratulated the Play For All Foundation on securing the \$100,000 donation. He asked Athletic Supervisor Darrell Houston for an update on West Chicago and Winfield. He stated he liked Director of Parks and Planning Sperl's idea on the park ownership program. He thought it was a good idea. He asked Executive Director Benard about talking to the City of Wheaton about electric signs at CAC, AGC and Community Center. Benard stated that he will add this to his list of discussion items with the new City Manager. Sperl is looking into permitting of the electric sign and will provide a report at the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Mee commended Golf Director Bruce Stoller on the golf rounds increasing. He asked when we are getting the special golf carts. Director of Special Facilities Andy Bendy stated we are in talks with the attorney on the contract.

Executive Director Benard commended the athletic department on the soccer tournament that brought 199 teams to town. He commented on the positive economic impact of park district events.

President Hodgkinson commended Director of Marketing Margie Wilhelmi and the Mary Lubko Center Manager Linda Dolan on the Mary Lubko dedication. It was well done.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:12 p.m., Commissioner Morrill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mee seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.