



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 20, 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, Mee, Pecharich Welker Vires were present.

Commissioner Frey was absent

PRESENTATIONS

Kaitlin Lizik Annual Giving & Events Manager wished the board Happy Holidays. On behalf of the Wheaton Park District’s marketing and events team, she shared updates on how they are wrapping up 2024 and gearing up for the new year.

Lizik stated that all three of our foundations are getting ready for their year-end fundraising efforts, including Giving Tuesday on December 3.

The Cosley Foundation has had an incredibly successful year celebrating the zoo’s 50th anniversary through all our events, including our first-ever gala. We will continue celebrating the zoo’s 50th anniversary while honoring Sue Wahlgren’s retirement throughout our year-end fundraising initiatives.

The Play for All Playground and Garden Foundation are celebrating their 10th anniversary of inclusive play and our newest amenity, the 5 to 12-year-old playground, which just opened last week. We are exceptionally proud to say that we’ve reached our annual \$50,000 matching grant this year, generating over \$100,000 towards inclusive play.

The DuPage County Historical Museum Foundation just hosted *An Evening with Geoffrey Baer*, a sold-out event at the Museum hosting over 100 people. She stated this event was a great way to introduce new people to the Museum.

Lizik stated the special events team and Wheaton Lions Charities are running their way into winter, with their annual Reindeer Run 5K taking place on December 7. A portion of the proceeds will support the DuPage County Historical Museum.

The rest of 2024 is truly bright, with the Cosley Zoo Festival of Lights and Christmas Tree Sales beginning on November 29, and the park district and City of Wheaton’s partnership for Light Up Wheaton holiday decorating contest for residents. She said that We’re kicking off the new year with our bi-annual Mad Fore Plaid mini golf event, hosted in partnership with the Wheaton Public Library, on Friday, January 17. The library will transform into an 18-hole mini golf course with appetizers and bars on every floor. She invited everyone to join us for this unforgettable event! We will also be bringing Casino Night back to the DuPage County Historical Museum on March 14. She said there will be a new theme for this event that will be revealed later in the year.

The special events team is also gearing up for another full year of events, including our signature events Superhero Fun Run, Cream of Wheaton, Memorial Park Concert Series, and HOPTober Fest. We said that they are excited to see everyone at these events in 2025.

Lizik thanked the board for their continued support of the Wheaton Park District, our events, and our foundations. She wished everyone a happy holiday season!

Commissioner Pecharich asked Lizik how long she has been with the park district. Lizik said for around a year and a half. Pecharich said that she has done an excellent job and wanted to thank her and her department for all the hard work that goes into all these events.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$1,346,470.30 for the period beginning October 16, 2024, and ending November 12, 2024
- B. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes October 23, 2024
- C. Approval of Local Government Efficiency Committee Meeting Minutes November 6, 2024
- D. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes November 6, 2024
- E. Approval to Appoint Michael Benard as Delegate to the Illinois Association of Park District's Annual Meeting January 25, 2025
- F. Approval of Quote for Apparel Purchase for Basketball Program – BSN Sports \$25,357.50
- G. Approval of Amended Subcommittee Meeting Schedule for the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners
- H. Approval of Closed Session Minutes dated 8/14/23, 9/13/23, 10/4/23, 10/25/23, 11/8/23, 12/6/23, ~~1/10/24, 1/17/24, 2/7/24, 2/21/24, 3/6/24, 3/20/24, 4/3/24, 4/17/24, 6/19/24, 7/10/24, 7/17/24, 8/21/24, 10/23/24, & 11/6/24~~

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda items A, B, C, D, E, F, G & H, striking all the 2024 Closed Session Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Employee Insurance Benefits Renewal for 2025

Commissioner Mee Approve the following:

- a. Blue Cross Blue Shield Employee HMO and PPO Health Insurance Program
- b. Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental PPO Plan
- c. Dearborn National Vision Plan, Group Term Life, AD&D, and Voluntary Life
- d. ComPsych Employee Assistance Program

At a cost of Approximately **\$2,258,513.16** (not including employee contributions toward health care and vision) for the 2025 plan year.

Seconded by Commissioner Vires. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

2. Health Insurance / Employee Contribution Rates for 2025 –

Commissioner Vires moved to Approve Employee Contribution Rates of 5% of Premium Costs for HMO Coverage and 15% of Premium Costs for PPO Coverage for 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

President Kelly clarified that this is the same percentage rate employees were assessed in 2024.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

3. Ordinance 2024-12

Commissioner Barrett moved to Adopt Ordinance 2024-12 Approving the Disposal and Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Wheaton Park District Seconded by Commissioner Vires.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

4. Rice and Northside Pool Fees 2025

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve of 2025 Fee Proposal for Pool Memberships and Daily Fees as presented:

Season - Individual Res \$125 / Non Res \$179

Season - Each Additional Family Member Res \$65 / Non Res \$89

Season - Senior Individual (60+) Res \$110 / Non Res \$157

Season - Senior Couple (60+) Res \$153 / Non Res \$218

Daily Adult – Res \$12.00 Rice / Res \$11.50 Northside

Daily Adult – Non Res \$16.00 Rice / Non Res Northside \$15.50

Daily Child (to 17) & Senior (60+) – Res \$9.50 Rice / Res \$9.00 Northside

Daily Child (to 17) & Senior (60+) – Non Res \$12.50 Rice / \$12.00 Northside

6 Visit Guest Booklet \$72.00

20 Visit Guest Booklet \$240.00

Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

President Kelly said that these rates are slightly increased. Executive Director Benard said that was correct, but we are still within the marketplace of other pools in the area. We will have a Black Friday sale where passes will be deeply discounted.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

5. Cosley Zoo Fees –Proposed Changes to Non - Resident Zoo Access Fees

Commissioner Mee moved to approve increasing zoo access fees for non-resident adults by \$2 or \$12 per visit and \$1 or \$10 per visit for non-resident senior citizens beginning January 1, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

President Kelly clarified that Wheaton Park District Residents will still access the zoo with no admission fee.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

6. Cosley Zoo Age Designations

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve of the Proposed Changes to Cosley Zoo Access Age Designations as follows: 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. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey

7. Cosley Zoo Fall Carnival Rides

Commissioner Barrett moved to Approve Payment to JBR Fundways for carnival ride services at Cosley Zoo in the Amount of \$44,415.60. Seconded by Commissioner Vires.

President Kelly asked what percentage we receive from ticket sales. Benard said 25%. Commissioner Mee stated JBR Fundways does a good job, and we've used them for a long time.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Mee, Pecharich, Vires, Welker, Kelly
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Frey

8. Community Center Renovation Project Phase II

Commissioner Pecharich moved to rescind Change Order #6 approved October 23, 2024 in the amount of \$4,234.42 and approved of a new Change Order #6 which includes a deductive change order in the amount of \$7,500 and voids a prior additive change order amount of \$4,243.42 with Stuckey Construction. Seconded by Commissioner Mee.

President Kelly said that this is the final change order for this project. There are several small projects yet to be completed outside of the contract scope.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Mee, Pecharich, Vires, Welker, Kelly
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Frey

9. Wheaton Sanitary District Northside Park Interceptor Project

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the Easement Agreement for the Release of an Easement in Lincoln Marsh Forest Preserve and an Amendment to a License Agreement for Temporary Access and Work Activities within Lincoln Marsh Forest Preserve with the Wheaton Sanitary District and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Benard stated that this easement concludes this project. The Park District will reimburse the Sanitary District approximately \$140,000 paid for related tree removal that, through a project scope modifications, did not need to be removed.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Mee, Pecharich, Vires, Welker, Kelly
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Frey

10. Blanchard Building Parking Lot Renovation Project

Commissioner Vires moved to approve the proposal in the amount not to exceed \$38,800 from Wight Engineering for the Blanchard Building Parking Lot Improvements. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Benard stated that the proposal is design work. Construction will start in the spring.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Mee, Pecharich, Vires, Welker, Kelly
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Frey

11. Asphalt Repair Projects

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the deductive Change Order #1 from Chicagoland Paving for the Fall asphalt project in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Commissioner Mee. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

12. Portable Restroom Rental

Commissioner Barrett moved to reject all bids and direct staff to rebid the work. Seconded by Commissioner Welker.

Commissioner Mee asked when the new bidding process will begin. Director of Parks & Planning Sperl stated we will open the new bids on Tuesday.

Motion passed by voice vote.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Executive Director Benard thanked Director of Parks & Planning Sperl and his team who have been working hard installing the ice sheets at the Central Athletic Complex. If the weather cooperates, the goal is to open the ice rinks the week of Thanksgiving.

Benard recognized Special Event Manager Carolyn Wilkin and her team on their great work on the Summer Concert Series, the Cream of Wheaton, the Fourth of July and the upcoming Reindeer Run.

Benard acknowledged Aquatic & Safety Manager Max Yoshikawa and his team for a successful and safe pool season.

Benard thanked Director of Recreation Beyer for all of her Team's hard work. He recognized that the customer services team will be very busy soon with Winter program registration.

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS / BOARD DISCUSSION

President Kelly informed the board that the December subcommittee will start at 4:30 pm to accommodate any board member wanting to attend a meeting with Berg Engineering who will review Community Center HVAC recommendations prior to the regular subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Mee congratulated Aquatic & Safety Manager Max Yoshikawa On receiving the Illinois Professional Development Series Certificate through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security. Mee also commented that he was pleased to see an increase in revenue in both pools from 2023-2024.

Commissioner Vires said that Arrowhead Golf Course closed yesterday, and he congratulated the Director of Arrowhead Operations Novak and the entire Arrowhead Golf team for the just under 70,000 rounds of golf played this year. Vires also congratulated Commissioners Barret, Kelly and Welker on their upcoming re-election to the Park Board and thanked them for their service.

Commissioner Mee commented that there are a lot of indoor Pickleball play days scheduled. Mee asked Benard if there were any plans for more courts. Benard stated that there are no plans to construct additional outdoor pickleball courts in 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:37 p.m., Commissioner Vires moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey