



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 18, 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. Frey, Mee, Pecharich Vires were present.

Commissioner Barrett and Welker were absent

PRESENTATIONS

Rob Sperl Director of Parks & Planning gave an overview of the 2024 Capital Projects. He thanked his planning team which includes Steve Hinchee, Superintendent of Planning, Brian Morrow, Planner and Megan Greene, Assistant Planner. The larger projects included: Arrowhead Golf Course RTU replacement and loading area improvement for \$560,000 coming from Arrowhead fund balance reserves. Briarpatch Renovations - this project included 2 Backstops, exercise equipment, 3 pickleball courts, playground surfacing, shelter renovations and landscaping. The total Project cost was approximately \$1,000,000 and was paid in part by outside funding from an OSLAD grant for \$317,500, Accessibility Funds for \$110,000 and a DCEO grant in the amount of \$200,000 for a total of \$627,500 in outside funding. The Central Athletic Center Kale Gym Floor replacement cost \$170,000 from Fund Balance reserves. Central Athletic Center Field 31 Infield Lights project was completed for \$77,000 from Fund balance reserves. The Cosley Zoo Condition Assessment is nearly complete at a cost of \$33,000 with \$25,000 being paid by a Cosley donor. Community Center Phase II renovations totaled approximately \$4,000,000 over the last two years paid for by bond Proceeds and fund balance reserves. Cosley Zoo Restroom Improvements cost approximately \$130,000 and was paid from fund balance reserves. The Danada South Sensory Playground project 5–12-Year-Old Play Area project total cost was \$500,000 and was paid for with funds raised by the Play for All Foundation and constructed by park district staff. The Cosley Parking Lot cost for this year was \$1,000,000 of the total \$2,000,000. The project is being paid for with funds raised by the Cosley Foundation. Hurley Gardens Central Fountain replacement cost was \$65,000 over the last two years with expenses being reimbursed by a grant administered through DCEO. Northside Park Pickleball Additions totaled \$156,000 and is paid through fund balance reserves. The Northside Pool Entrance Improvements totaled \$166,000 and were paid from fund balance reserves. Rice Pool Condition Assessment cost \$22,500 and is paid from fund balance reserves. The Rice Pool Access Improvements cost \$78,000 and was paid from fund balance reserves.

Sperl stated that all together we had over \$4,000,000 in major capital projects and another \$2,000,000 in other capital projects. Sperl stated that we make it a point not to defer maintenance and to keep the district top notch for our residents and patrons. He asked the board if they had any questions. Commissioner Pecharich asked what kind of testing is done to make sure that we are compliant with city and county regulations regarding stormwater detention for the Cosley Parking lot. Sperl said that before the project is started the engineers must prove to the city and county that the runoff volume is to code, and our as-built surveys will verify it. Pecharich congratulated Sperl and his staff on an impressive year.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$1,661,178.10 for the period beginning November 13, 2024, and ending December 10, 2024
- B. Approval of the Minutes from November 20, 2024 Public Hearing Concerning the 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Wheaton Park District
- C. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes November 20, 2024
- D. Approval of Local Government Efficiency Committee Meeting Minutes December 4, 2024
- ~~E. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes December 4, 2024~~
- F. Approval of the 2025 Subcommittee & Regular Meeting Schedule for the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners
- G. Review of an Environmental Report Card for the Wheaton Park District

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda striking Item E. Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Pecharich Vires, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance

Commissioner Frey moved to Adopt Ordinance 2024-09 Making a Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation of Funds for the Wheaton Park District for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025 Seconded by Commissioner Vires

Executive Director Benard stated that the total budget figures across all funds are estimated at \$57,648,018 and an appropriation is \$69,177,622.

Commissioner Pecharich stated that she appreciates the work that staff put into the budget, but she is not in support of the budget due to item #2 which is the tax levy, we have made budget decisions based off this levy. Her concern is the tax levy itself. Although she understands we need a lot of resources for all the things that we do she is not going to be able to support the budget due to the tax levy.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Vires, Kelly

Nays: Pecharich

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

2. 2024 Tax Levy Ordinance

Commissioner Mee moved to Adopt Ordinance 2024-10 Levying and Assessing the Taxes of the Wheaton Park District, DuPage County, Illinois for the Tax Year 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Vires.

Commissioner Pecharich said the tax levy itself would have liked to have seen us have either no tax increase or a smaller increase. She stated this was not something that she could support. Commissioner Mee said we cannot function properly without taking our opportunity to levy taxes as we have in the past, we need to support our capital projects as well as operations.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Vires, Kelly

Nays: Pecharich

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

3. 2024 Tax Levy Abatement Ordinance

Commissioner Vires moved to Adopt Ordinance 2024-11 Abating the Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Tax Year 2024 to Pay Debt Service on the General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2019A, of the Wheaton Park District, DuPage County, Illinois. Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Pecharich Vires, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

4. Resolution 2024-06

Commissioner Frey moved to approve A Resolution Concerning the Release of Certain Closed Session Minutes and Semi Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Mee.

Benard recommended that we not release any minutes that have not been previously released.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Pecharich Vires, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

5. Consulting Agreement for Strategic Planning and Community Attitude and Interest Survey

Commissioner Mee moved to Approve the Proposal from Berry Dunn in the Amount of \$90,762. Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Pecharich Vires, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

6. 2025 Portable Restroom Supply and Servicing

Commissioner Pecharich moved to Approve the Base Bid from Floods Royal Flush in the Amount of \$65,390 with an option to Renew in 2026 and 2027 at the Prices Outlined in the Contractor's Proposal Seconded by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Frey asked if we used them before. Director of Parks & Planning stated that they are our current vendor.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Pecharich Vires, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

7. Park Picnic Permit Policy

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the Addition of Cancellation Fees within the Wheaton Park District Picnic Permit Policy Effective January 1, 2025 Seconded by Commissioner Frey.

President Kelly asked Sperl if there are frequent cancellations. Sperl stated there are.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Pecharich Vires, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

8. Illinois Association of Park Districts & Illinois Park and Recreation Association 2025 Educational Conference and Exposition

Commissioner Mee moved to Approve Commissioner Bill Barretts' Attendance to the Illinois Association of Park Districts & Illinois Park and Recreation Association 2025 Educational Conference and Exposition January 23-25 at cost not to Exceed \$1,200 Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich Motion passed by voice vote.

9. Cosley Zoo Staff and Overflow Parking Area Construction Project

Commissioner Vires moved to Approve the Proposal for Additional Design Services from Wight Engineering at a cost not to exceed \$13,000. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

10. Youth Baseball and Softball Uniforms and Equipment Purchase

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the Bids for the Vendors, Products and Prices for the 2025 Baseball and Softball Uniforms and Equipment Purchases per Staff Recommendations (*see detail after agenda*) Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Frey, Mee, Pecharich Vires, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett, Welker

REPORTS FROM STAFF

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Executive Director Benard thanked the board and staff for all their support during 2024.

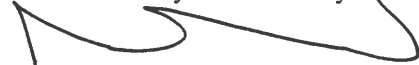
Commissioner Vires gave kudos to the special events team for the Reindeer Run which hosted 1,300 runners. He also thanked Director of Parks & Planning Sperl and his staff for all the projects they take care of. We fill out our debt service extension base and sell bonds to put money into our accounts to use for these projects. The money has to come from somewhere and we can't levy for capital projects. He was impressed with the number of grants that staff have applied for and received. He stated that the park district runs its departments like entrepreneurs who were facing increasing costs as they go along. He wants the residents to be satisfied with the projects we do. He looks forward to what 2025 brings.

Commissioner Pecharich stated she had the privilege to be at Arrowhead for several Christmas parties and the staff at Arrowhead is top notch. She could tell everyone at Arrowhead was enjoying themselves while being there. She was glad to be a part of the All Staff Awards, it was great to see how much staff has worked at the district for so long.

Commissioner Mee thanked Benard and staff for a phenomenal 2024. He was impressed with the pool sales, golf rounds and banquets gross revenue. He was pleased to see that more families took advantage of the Leisureship program this year than in 2023. He commented that the zoos revenue was \$395,000 as opposed to \$353,000 last year.

Commissioner Frey stated that athletics is doing an exceptional job.

President Kelly wished everyone a Merry Christmas.



ADJOURNMENT

At 5:29 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Vires.