

**BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT**  
**Workshop Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2018**

Vice President Vastalo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Commissioners present at roll call: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud. Absent: President Hix.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to appoint Commissioner Sue Vastalo as President Pro tem in the absence of President Hix. Commissioner Traczek seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud. Nays: None. Absent: Hix. Motion passes 4/0.

Motion Commissioner Vastalo, second Commissioner Allen to approve agenda as submitted. Roll call: Ayes: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud. Nays: None. Absent: President Hix. Motion passed 4/0.

**Review of Ordinances, Resolutions, Action Items**

Executive Director Ron Oestreich reviewed the following resolution and action item:

- Resolution 18-06 awarding a contract in the amount of \$141,738 to Hacienda Landscaping, Inc. of Minooka, Illinois for the Hidden Oaks Conservation Area ADA Improvements.
- Motion to reject all bids for Replacing Package Roof Top Heating & Air Conditioning Units at the Annerino Community Center.

The Board had no comments or questions.

**Review of District Business**

- Banking RFP Status - Debbie Chase, Director of Business and Technology reported the district is in the process of reviewing a RFP (request for proposal) for banking services. The district has utilized BMO Harris for many years. The Finance Team decided to go out to see what services were available to the district. Chase said most important to the district is the cost and services other banks can provide and possibly partner with the district. More information for board review will be presented at June board meeting.
- CAFR Status – Chase said staff has been hard at work in the last couple of months working with the auditors. The audit will be presented to the board at the pre meeting in June.
- LCSRA Update – Jill Mukushina, Superintendent of Special Recreation:
  - LCSRA is working on a SWOT analysis to gather information to use for a long range plan for the department.
  - Working towards building a Sensory Room to use for programming. A sensory room is a specifically designed room which uses a combination of stimuli to help individuals develop and engage their senses, and use self-regulation skills. The team will be touring 3 other SRA sensory rooms.
  - Upcoming Events: May 12-the autism program is attending the Autism Speaks walk and on May 20-hosting ITRS soccer tournament.

Jill Mukushina shared an email she received from a woman regarding a staff member who she saw help a young disabled girl at the register ringing up their groceries at Walmart for the lunch they were making that day. She watched the staff member work with her and the time taken with her was an unexpected experience which was so positive. The woman said to please let her know that she touched her with her attentiveness and compassion and multi-tasking with the young girl and another girl. As the woman waited in line she was conscious in the relationships the staff member

had built with these girls and how she gave a safe and caring hand to these girls all while ringing out at the register. The women also praised how the girls were spoken to. The women said it amazes her how responsive and bright eyed the girls were to the staff member. She very much appreciated seeing this. Jill said it was the Cruisers group shopping at Walmart.

John Chase announced Famous Dave's will be the partnering with the park district for Parkie's 5K/10K race which will be called Parkie's Famous 5K/10K. Everyone who participants in the race will receive a Famous Dave's sandwich along with two sides at the finish line. Also, a Kid's 100 yard dash will be added. All participants will receive a Super Parkie Cape which will also include Wilber the mascot from Famous Dave's.

John said Famous Dave's also does Sauces for Troops. For a \$1 donation you can write a message on a bottle of BBQ sauce and Famous Dave's will send bottles of BBQ sauce to our troops overseas. You can make your donation during registration on race day.

### **Communication from the Public**

Alice Murray a resident and employee of the park district said she was out in Territorial Park around lunch time and was very surprised to see how crowded Remington Park's walk around and ComEd Greenway Trail was. Ms. Murray made a suggestion for next year to budget for a walking trail around the park with seating areas that connect to the Lily Cache Greenway system.

Ms. Murray asked why Cricket has a gigantic storage/construction container on the field and why is all their equipment lying around. Executive Director Ron Oestreich said the structure or container is there to store Cricket's equipment. Oestreich will talk to Mir Ali regarding this matter.

Ms. Murray commented Cricket had something to do with putting a water line in and all the dirt where they dug sank down and she saw the baseball people fixing it. Ms. Murray said if Cricket is going to dig they should be responsible to repair it. Oestreich said he would look into this.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

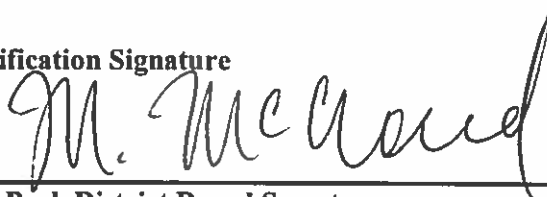
None

### **Executive Session**

None

Commissioner Vastalo made a motion to adjourn from the Workshop Meeting at 6:43pm. Commissioner Allen seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud. Nays: None. Absent: Hix. Motion passed 4/0.

**Minutes Verification Signature**



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**Bolingbrook Park District Board Secretary  
Melissa McCloud**

**BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT**  
**Annerino Community Center – Board Room**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2018**

President Hix called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Commissioners present at roll call: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud, President Hix.

President Hix asked Kim Smith to begin the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Hix made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment moving Item 7 *Communications from the Public* to Item 11C.1. Hix said this is being done to get through the required business of the meeting and have ample time for anyone who chooses to address the board.

Commissioner Vastalo seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud, President Hix. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

Motion Commissioner Hix, second Commissioner Traczek to approve the following meetings:

- Workshop Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2018
- Closed Session Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2018
- Board Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2018

Roll Call: Ayes: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud, President Hix. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No Formal Report

**LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT**

No Formal Report

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve disbursements including travel reimbursement in the amount of \$676,999.51, subject to audit. Commissioner Traczek seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud, President Hix. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration and Personnel** – Commissioner Hix reported:

Commissioner Hix welcomed two employees who went from part-time to full-time positions. Hix said this is a tradition the district has followed for many years.

Hix announced the Equalized Assets Valuation of the district grew by approximately 5% in past year. Hix said this is a broader tax base some of it based on increased values with an active real estate market. This gives the district three years running with growth in EAV after six years of rapid decline. The district is gradually seeing the value move back. The result of that growth will result in a decrease in the tax rate used to levy the districts funds.

Hix announced All Staff Training, which is conducted annually be Saturday, May 19 at Living Water Community Church.

**Finance and Technology – Commissioner Denise Allen reported:**

The auditors have begun the process of reviewing the Park District’s finances. The 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval at the June 21 Board meeting.

The District is in the process of reviewing Banking Requests for Proposal to review bank service options. The Finance Team will update the Board on the status of the RFP’s next month.

Sheila Ubelhor the new Accounting Clerk has joined the Business Office as a full-time Accounting Clerk-Outflows. Sheila has provided business office support for several months on a part time basis, and she brings an extensive bookkeeping background to the District.

All District firewalls were upgraded in March. This upgrade allows the district to meet new requirements of the PCI (Payment Card Industry).

Several printers and digital copiers have upgraded throughout the district.

**Buildings, Grounds and Natural Resources – Commissioner Sue Vastalo reported:**

The ADA Transition Plan requires accessible routes at Hidden Oaks Conservation Area. The routes will consist of concrete walkways and plazas as well as boardwalks that connect Hidden Oaks Nature Center and nearby parking lots to various park elements. This is the largest ADA improvement project in the 2018 budget. Construction is planned to begin once summer camp ends in late August.

The low bid received is 1,210 less than the districts architects pre-bid. With staff recommendation Commissioner Vastalo made a motion to approve Resolution 18-06 awarding a contract in the amount of \$141,738 to Hacienda Landscaping, Inc. of Minooka, Illinois for the Hidden Oaks Conservation Area ADA Improvements. Commissioner Traczek seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud, President Hix. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

The 2018 budget includes funds to replace roof top air conditioning units at the Annerino Community Center. This is the second year of a three year plan to replace the units originally installed in 1999. The lowest bid of \$134,780 is substantially over the \$108,300 budget. At this time, staff is not comfortable with the timing, scope of work and other issues associated with the project and the project may be rebid at a later date. With staff recommendation Commissioner Vastalo made a motion to reject all bids for replacing package roof top heating & air conditioning units at the Annerino Community Center. Commissioner Allen seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Vastalo, Traczek, Allen, McCloud, President Hix. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC

Norman Brown a resident of Bolingbrook said if he heard right the Bolingbrook Park District has been profitable and there is a possibility that the tax rate may drop. Commissioner Hix said this does not mean your individual taxes may go up or down. The rate per 1,000 of EAV for the park district will go down. Mr. Brown said that is very good. Mr. Brown came here tonight to commend the district. He looked at his tax bill and his increase was only \$1.

Mr. Brown commented on how much the district spent on labor union fees since 2014. He said \$320,000 was a bit excessive. Mr. Brown did not understand the cost and asked for an explanation. Hix chose not to comment and said he would have some information later in the evening and the board was not here tonight to debate professional fees.

Alice Murray a resident and employee of the park district corrected Mr. Brown stating it is over a half of million dollars that has been spent.

Ms. Murray stated she works for the park district and is a member of a union that was formed 4 years ago and is currently in contract negotiations. Ms. Murray stated they have gone 4 years without a pay raise and at this point have only been offered a 1% raise. Ms. Murray went on to say these people make \$10.75 an hour. These are the people who dig holes for the trees, pick up the garbage, clean the toilets, and keep the floors clean. Ms. Murray said is that all the board can come up with.

President Hix asked if there was anyone else who wanted to address the board. No one came forward to speak.

President Hix shared comments, stating the following:

- The Board is fully aware of negotiation progress and open issues. The negotiation team has made progress in many areas and have additional topics to be resolved. We are down to the more critical issues, and we remain far apart.

Our negotiation team will continue to follow the bargaining process at the next meeting scheduled for May 1. The April 9 meeting was cancelled at the Union's request.

- In regard to Mr. Brown's concerns regarding the cost of attorney's fees, The Bolingbrook Park District selects the best advisors available when we need professional advice. This is true for liability and safety management, architectural work, construction management, personnel law, technology advice, employee development, and general legal counsel.

Professional advice is costly, but not having appropriate advice is often more costly. We, the Board and Administration, are very satisfied with the advice we receive including services provided by Mr. Epstein and his law firm.

- There are multiple factors contributing to the length of the negotiation process.

The union is on their 6<sup>th</sup> negotiator. Each time a new negotiator is introduced, they spend time playing catch-up on past meetings, and at times, move backward. On at least one occasion, the new representative was not aware of topics already agreed to. This takes time and drives up costs.

- Our bargaining team meets as scheduled with the Union. We have accommodated requests based on mutual calendars. Thus far there have been seven meetings cancelled; six by the Union and one by the District. We offered to reschedule our cancellation both earlier and later than the original date. Both offers were declined by the Union.
- The Unfair Labor Practices charges filed by the union, and later retracted, also consume time and drive up costs.

Our employees filed for a decertification vote with the ILRB. The election process was long, also increasing our attorney fees to ensure we were in legal compliance with the decertification process. The vote resulted in the Union receiving approval of less than half the represented employees. Of those who did participate, the winning decision margin was one vote.

- The District did not ask our employees to unionize nor did we have anything to do with the decertification petition.
- I believe the length of negotiations was also impacted by SEIU Chicago being placed in receivership by their National office. Disruption to an organization is prevalent when major management changes occur.
- We are still in negotiation. The District has consistently moved forward with counteroffer offers. The same is not true of Union proposals. New negotiators have back-tracked on previous proposals. Even with the substantial negotiation period, the District remains competitive with the open market.
- While we will continue to agree to reasonable requests in negotiations which are consistent with our mission “To provide world-class park and recreation services in a fiscally responsible manner to enhance the community’s quality of life,” we will not agree to compromise the high standards we maintain or jeopardize the District’s long term financial welfare.
- He had no further comments.

**Buildings, Grounds and Natural Resources continued:**

The Buildings, Grounds and Natural Resources Department announced the promotion of Ron Tomasek, permanent part time Custodian, to full time Custodian.

Staff was able to repurpose the turf from Remington Lakes Sports Complex warning track installation to Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm, where the west side of the lakes was washed out. This repurpose of materials was a demonstration of fiscal responsibility.

Working with the Village of Bolingbrook, staff made improvements to the banks of the Lily Cache Creek tributaries at Lions Park and Knights of Columbus Park. Thanks went out to the Village of Bolingbrook.

This year’s Arbor Day annual tree planting with the Village of Bolingbrook Beautification Committee will happen on Saturday, April 21 at 10:00 am at Volunteer Park (south).

A prescribed burn was the first step in the process to restore sections of Gateway Wetlands to a more native ecosystem. Gateway Wetlands will be a main focus for the NR crew this year and many changes will be seen in the coming months. Bolingbrook Sign & Apparel has partnered with the district on this project and are donating heavy duty/ all-weather signs. Thank you to Bolingbrook Sign & Apparel for their partnership.

## **Recreation & Facilities – Commissioner Melissa McCloud reported:**

The Block Party Application packets are available for residents hosting a block party or community service organizations hosting a community wide event. Application packets are available at Village Hall, Annerino, Hidden Oaks and BRAC. The Block Party Package is available for weekends from Memorial Day – Labor Day.

Bolingbrook Park District was chosen as GYM OF THE MONTH by Ninja Zone for “overcoming obstacles, embracing the hard stuff, and starting Baby Ninjas all by word of mouth.

The May Concert Series, ‘We Interrupt This Broadcast’ will be held on May 19 and 20 at Bolingbrook High School Auditorium. May 19: 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm shows, May 20: 2:00 pm show.

Excel Music Theater will perform “Alice in Wonderland” on May 19 and 20 at the 2:00 pm show.

The 2018-2019 preschool enrollment grew by 20 over the past month as a result of active promotion by staff and parent anticipation for the new year.

Week of the Young Child begins this Sunday with Tons of Trucks and the Kids Vendor Fair at BRAC from 11:00am to 2:00 pm. The fun runs all week at different locations. More information can be found on the website.

## **Fitness**

De-Stress at Hidden Oaks on April 20 will feature a live demo of Silver Sneakers Yoga, a Naturalist-guided hike, door prizes, drawings, and light refreshments from 11:00am - 1:30pm. Saturdays event will have 6 classes running throughout the morning by our highly trained team members including 3 demo classes: LA Blast, Meditative Yoga and Strong by Zumba. Child care is available for this free event.

## **Aquatics**

Season Pass sales began in February and escalated in March due to targeted marketing. 163 more memberships were sold in March than projected. A large push for summer memberships and early bird discounts will be made in April as Week of The Young Child and the early bird deadline approaches.

Opening day for Pelican Harbor Outdoor Aquatic Park is Saturday, May 26. Admission will be \$5 or \$1 with Resident ID. All admission receipts will be donated to the Foundation for Bolingbrook Parks. The annual staff training week will begin May 21 with daily emergency action plan training, scenarios, and drills.

## **Museum**

On March 15, staff attended the VVSD Middle School STEM-cathalon at Romeoville High School. Naturalists did STEM experiments for students and families and Melinda judged the catapult event.

Nature staff attended the Garden Expo at Fountaindale Library on March 24. Staff discussed the benefits of gardening with visitors and promoted the Community Gardens.

Nature staff and LCSRA Cruiser groups are gardening together this season. Currently the groups are preparing to grow vegetables from seeds. They will be gardening in two locations this season: in grow bags on the South side of the Nature Center and in garden plot #14 in the community gardens. They will also be growing flowers and herbs in the planters on the Green Roof.

**Special Recreation (LCSRA) – Commissioner Traczek reported:**

The first week of Spring Break Camp serving participants in Plainfield was a huge success. All four days of camp ran with 5-8 participants each day. This was a 50% increase from 2017 when LCSRA first launched Spring Break Camps. Participants enjoyed traveling to the following places: Strike and Spare Bowling, Gizmos, Cantigny and Bolingbrook Park District's very own, Pelican Harbor. Each day was a new adventure filled with laughs and new learning opportunities.

The LCSRA track and field team will compete at the Special Olympics Spring Games on Saturday, May 5, while the soccer team will compete at the Regional qualifier on May 6 at Hinsdale South High School. First place finishers will advance to the Special Olympics Summer Games at Illinois State University in June.

**Marketing – Commissioner Traczek reported:**

The marketing team is finalizing plans for a Family Park Challenge during the summer months. Residents will be encouraged to follow Parkie's path and try different parks throughout their community. Those that complete the challenge will be eligible to win prizes and get their very own Bolingbrook Park District playground ball.

The Customer Care management team is wrapping up interviews for our Customer Care Spanish Ambassadors. The goal of the first six months for the team is to evaluate and implement support documents and tools to help our Spanish speaking community members feel more comfortable with Bolingbrook Park District and its offerings.

**Golf Course & Ashbury's – Commissioner Traczek reported:**

Overall revenue exceeded March target by 21%, YTD by 14%. and last year by 12%.

Both Men's and Women's Golf Leagues and permanent tee times will begin play in late April with the Men's league beginning Monday, April 23 and the Women's league beginning on Wednesday, April 25. Also there is a Monday and Thursday men's league which will start April 26.

**Special Events:**

- Spring "Fling" Golf Scramble on Saturday, April 21
- Comedy Night on May 4
- Mother's Day Brunch on May 13
- Nine, Dine & Wine on May 18

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Commissioner Hix received two communications from residents; 1) regarding contest and winner at the health club and 2) monitoring and management of outdoor lap swim lanes. Hix will discuss with the Executive Director subsequent to the meeting.

Commissioner Hix acknowledged Mr. Robert Jaskiewicz a Village Trustee with the Village of Bolingbrook.



Alice Murray a resident and employee of the Park District said she gets the board's comments about the union. Ms. Murray is an active member of the negotiating team and has been to most every single meeting. Ms. Murray said she respectfully disagrees with the information the board has received about how the negotiations are going. Ms. Murray said to the board that they need to remember that no matter what happens, union or no union there are reasons people come together to form unions. She said, at this point, none of the underlying problems have been addressed. Ms. Murray said she believes in having engaged staff and believes the district has unengaged staff at B&G.

Commissioner Hix said he respected Ms. Murray's opinion, but whole heartily disagrees. Ms. Murray said she is there and the board is not. Ms. Murray said the board has been invited to sit in on the negotiations to see what really happens, but the board chooses not to, which is their choice because the board trusts in their million dollar lawyer. Commissioner Hix commented that the board trusts in their entire negotiation team and thanked Ms. Murray for her comments.

Kelsy Walker a resident of Bolingbrook said she hopes the board can find a resolution soon to the union issue and to please give them a raise. Ms. Walker said they do a wonderful job and hopes they will be able to continue to a wonderful job.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Commissioner Vastalo, second Commissioner Traczek to adjourn from the regular board meeting at 7:31pm. All in favor "Ayes".

Minutes Verification Signature



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**Bolingbrook Park District Board Secretary  
Melissa McCloud**