

BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT
Annerino Community Center – Board Room
Workshop Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020

President Vastalo called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Roll call: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo.

Motion Commissioner Vastalo, second Commissioner Hix to approve agenda as submitted. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

Presentation of the 2020 CAFR

Tricia Dubiel, Superintendent of Business and Finance reviewed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2019. Dubiel said this is the first year her team completed field work, working remotely from home. It was different and challenging. Her team adapted and completed the work successfully.

Dubiel asked the board to make two motions, the first is to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of Certification from Disclosure Officer and the second is to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Year Ended December 31, 2019. The certificate formerly documents her opinion as Disclosure Officer for the District. Dubiel asked the board if they found any information in the report to be misleading or incorrect. Commissioner Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo answered “no”.

Dubiel talked about how the 2019 activity impacted the district’s fund balances. Dubiel reviewed the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and changes in the Fund Balances.

Dubiel introduced Dan Berg from Sikich. Mr. Berg has over 33 years of experience in public accounting and has participated in more than 900 audits from municipalities and other governmental units. Dubiel said it has been a pleasure working with Dan Berg.

Dan Berg gave a quick overview of how the audit went.

Mr. Berg thanked staff for their responsiveness in turning in all the documents very quickly.

The Board had no questions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

David Ellsworth, a resident of Bolingbrook, asked the Board for permission to have a volunteer group, that he arranged, to clean Lake #1 at Hidden Lakes.

Executive Director Ron Oestreich said Mr. Ellsworth, a resident of Bolingbrook is requesting permission to have a group of volunteers to clean Lake #1 of weeds and debris and surrounding area. The goal is to improve Lake #1 so kids can have a lake to fish in without having to remove weeds at every cast.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Vastalo made a motion to adjourn from the Workshop Meeting at 6:45pm. Commissioner Andrews seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

Minutes Verification Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise Allen', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Bolingbrook Park District Board Secretary
Denise Allen**

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Annerino Community Center – Board Room
Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020

Commissioner Vastalo called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. Roll call: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo.

President Vastalo began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion Commissioner Vastalo, second Commissioner Hix to approve the agenda as submitted. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

Motion Commissioner Vastalo second Commissioner Allen to approve the following meetings:

Board Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2020

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Hix made a motion for the payment of bills including travel reimbursement in the amount of \$1,257,029.63 subject to audit. Commissioner Allen seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Executive Director Ron Oestreich reviewed the following items for action:

Approve Ordinance 20-02 annexing certain territory to the Bolingbrook Park District, Pulte Homes - Liberty Green Complex.

Approve Ordinance 20-03 update of Section 19, Bolingbrook Park District Operations Manual pertaining to limited alcoholic beverage consumption in limited circumstances and also lightning detection system.

Motion to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Year Ended December 31, 2019.

Motion to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of Certification from Disclosure Officer confirming that the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is complete and accurate in all material respects and the EMMA disclosure will be filed in a timely manner.

Mike Baiardo said the Administration team, Operations team and Recreation/Facilities team and staff would like to thank the Bolingbrook Park District Board of Commissioners for their leadership and support through these tuff times.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration and Personnel – Commissioner Vastalo reported:

With staff recommendation President Vastalo made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-02 annexing certain territory to the Bolingbrook Park District, Pulte Homes - Liberty Green Complex. Commissioner Allen seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

With staff recommendation President Vastalo made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-03 update of Section 19, Bolingbrook Park District Operations Manual pertaining to limited alcoholic beverage consumption in limited circumstances and also lightning detection system. Commissioner McCloud seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motioned passed 5/0.

Finance and Technology – Commissioner McCloud reported:

Commissioner McCloud made a motion to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Year Ended December 31, 2019. Commissioner Allen seconded. Roll call: Ayes: McCloud, Andrews, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

Commissioner McCloud made a motion to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of Certification from Disclosure Officer confirming that the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is complete and accurate in all material respects and the EMMA disclosure will be filed in a timely manner. Commissioner Andrews seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passes 5/0.

Special Recreation (LCSRA) – Commissioner Andrews reported:

This is the final report for LCSRA as a program and operational business unit of Bolingbrook Park District. Staff will transition to Northern Will County Special Recreation Association beginning on July 1, 2020. The Board and Staff of Bolingbrook Park District have been honored to work alongside the amazing and talented LCSRA team and wonderful and fun participants.

The Merge with NWCSRA allows for our special recreation programming and services to grow in ways that will benefit our participants and their families.

We will miss Jill, Gina, and Carrie (and Sherrie – now working for Illinois Special Olympics) as part of our BPD family. NWCSRA is getting the best of the best.

Staff are scheduled to move offices, equipment and supplies by June 19 to the NWCSRA offices. Starting the week of June 22, as BPD day camp starts, staff will be officially moved to their new offices at NWCSRA.

There are a handful of inclusion requests from the new NWCSRA member agencies. One request from the Bolingbrook Park District for Day Camp. The other members are also Day Camp participant needs.

Commissioner Hix said this is both a happy day and bittersweet day. A lot of good things happened over the course of the years. There has been a lot of change, and growth and an increase in participation. Hix said he is sure it will continue on. His said he is happy to see the merge occur.

Commissioner Andrews thanked Executive Director Ron Oestreich for all that he does for the residents of Bolingbrook and for his staff. Andrews thanked staff and said she appreciates all their diligence and professionalism, and how they are handling the new norm.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Executive Director Ron Oestreich received an email from a resident, Robert Widuch on June 17. Oestreich proceeded to read the email

My name is Robert Widuch. I am a local resident of Bolingbrook since 1978. I have seen the growth of Bolingbrook and the expansion of the park district. The district has created a great variety of things to do in Bolingbrook. Thank you for the hard work and long-term planning to give the community our current resources. My concern today is the quality and experience at Hidden Lakes. When the property was purchased years ago by Bolingbrook it was in disarray. Over time Bolingbrook has spent time and money on improvements to the park. This park is one of our hidden gems in the area. Over the last several years I have seen a gradual lack of effort to improve the ponds. These ponds used to offer a quality fishing experience to our residents. Now we are met with silt in the ponds, aelge ealege and invasive weeds that fill the ponds. Trash is found on the grounds and the handicap fishing docks are rotting. The American flag was left out over night without regard. What happened? Does the park district have any long-term plans for Hidden Lakes improvements? If so, what are they, when will they begin? Do the funds from Hidden Lakes fishing licenses pay for improvements or is there a budget associated with maintaining and improving the park. Will the park district bring in a professional to check the water and check invasive species to offer guidance? I am a concerned citizen who hesitates suggesting non-residents to use the park. The park conditions are becoming embarrassing. Thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you regarding any future plans.

Oestreich informed the board that he responded to Mr. Widuch's requesting via email today with the districts Hidden Lakes Long Range Plan. We have had subsequent conversations after.

Oestreich said he received an email this afternoon from a resident David Ellsworth at 3:43pm. His request was that I shared his email to the board this evening. He is asking if the board has a digital spreadsheet of permit holders and the fees charged for 2019 and 2020. Oestreich said he would be sending a response to Mr. Ellsworth within the 5 business days per FOIA requirements.

Commissioner Hix received feedback from one of his neighbors. Very appreciative of the park district trying to keep people involved and active while we endure the pandemic. They thought the effort was sterling and very much appreciative of what the district is trying to accomplish. Commissioner Hix thanked the staff for accomplishing this.

President Vastalo addressed Mr. Ellsworth and all. Vastalo read the following:

Mr. Ellsworth and all,

I am going to review all of the maintenance and upkeep conducted at Hidden Lakes Trout Farm over the last year, what we yet have planned for this year, and what we have planned for Hidden Lakes in our future regarding upkeep and events.

Bolingbrook Park District Board, Administration, and Staff are committed to our Mission. Hidden Lakes Trout Farm is one of many business units within our District and one that we all very much enjoy.

In 2019 we completed the following facility / park upgrades

- *Repaired the canoe launches at both Hidden Lakes and Royce Road*
- *Repaired – rebuilt the peninsula on pond 3*
- *Shoreline restoration of pond 3 – west side*
- *Pruning of trees/shrubs*
- *Restoration of pump house area (herbicide applied, removal of invasive species)*
- *Provided a larger water tank for Bait Shop*
- *Treated ponds for aquatic algae*
- *More clearing completed along trail (wooded area) heading west from Hidden Lakes*
- *Dollars spent on Hidden Lakes improvements in 2019. \$10,000 (including materials and labor)*

Regarding the Hidden Lakes Plan for 2020, *I want to remind everyone that Bolingbrook Park District, along with many other units of local government and business have felt the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. A little more than 50% of the District's annual revenue comes from property taxes. The remainder comes from programs and*

services. Due to Governor Pritzker's COVID-19 Executive Orders, most of these programs and services have been closed since March 16. This has resulted in millions of dollars in revenue either refunded or lost. The District has implemented more than \$2 million in cost reductions in order to keep some programs and services operational. In fact, all of the part time staff district wide have been on furlough since the beginning of April. The district is also on a full-time staff hiring freeze. What does this mean for Hidden Lakes? There are only 25 full time Buildings, Grounds, and Natural Resources staff to maintain 50 properties, 1,100 acres, and all facilities. Our Recreation Managers are operating Hidden Lakes Bait shop with the help of one part time employee. Despite all of that, we continue to be committed to the maintenance and upkeep of Hidden Lakes and the DuPage River Greenway.

In 2020 we will be completing the following:

- Plantings Maintenance (trimming, lifting, and removal change to: pruning back foliage and invasive species removal) along all trails connecting to Hidden Lakes.
- Monthly Mowing and cutback of vegetation impeding upon trail (DRG)
- Poison Ivy control near DRG trail.
- Hidden Lakes turf to native vegetation conversions.
- Begin work on the 2020 IL American Water Grant. Hidden Lakes Pond 4 area and adjacent DuPage River terrestrial shoreline.
- General Landscaping e.g. Hidden Lakes (pump house bed), Hidden Oaks- Rain water Garden, community gardens, and general grounds.
- Sealcoating of the pathways
- Hidden Lakes Pond Maintenance
 - Aquatic treatments were scheduled to begin June 17. We will not be treating during this current hot spell. Favorable temperatures are forecasted for the week of June 22nd.
 - ¼ of each pond will be treated at a time. The duration between applications will be based off of aquacide label recommendations.
 - Precautions will be taken to avoid rapid drop of pond dissolved oxygen levels due to dying vegetation.
 - Projected Dollars spent on Hidden Lakes improvements in 2020. \$25,000 (including materials, labor, and sealcoating expense)
- We are committed to bringing a new source of water to Hidden Lakes. Currently the lakes are filled through water discharge from the Quarry. This has been in place since before Bolingbrook Park District owned the property. Early in the spring we worked with DuPage Well and Septic to study the two wells. They may not be adequate enough to fill the ponds consistently. Staff is meeting with representatives from Engineering Resource Associates who will do a study on the lakes to see what it will take to increase the flow of water in hopes of abandoning the fill pipe from the quarry.
- The Village of Bolingbrook is also working with Illinois American Water to bring in Village water to the Trout Farm property.
- We continue to be committed to the \$75,000 we allocated for water issues at Hidden Lakes Trout Farm, even with a Pandemic and cost reductions in place.
- 2020 Programming at Hidden Lakes was planned. We were committed to multiple fishing derbies this summer. Many of them have unfortunately been cancelled due to gathering restrictions from Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Our promoted Fishing Derby Dates were

DATE	TIME
Saturday, April 18, 2020 cancelled	12-3pm
Saturday, May 16, 2020 cancelled	3-6pm
Saturday, June 13, 2020 cancelled	3-6pm
Saturday, September 19, 2020	3-6pm

- We are hopeful that we can move into Phase 4 in July, which will open up more programming options.
- As part of Unplug Illinois (a state-wide outdoor commitment to Recreation), Hidden Lakes will be offering FREE fishing to **Everyone** on Saturday, July 11 from **8:00 am to 6:00 pm**. We have not offered free fishing all day in many years. We believe this will expose Hidden Lakes to many new families. Fishing pole rental will be available for \$7 and live bait will be available for sale.

- *We are also doing an innovative and fun Adult Night Catfish Derby on August 15 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. A portion of the stocking for this event was generously donated by David Ellsworth and I believe Mayor Claar during a Facebook fundraiser. We have secured Bass Pro as a prize sponsor.*
- *Lastly, we will be doing a traditional Catfish derby on September 19 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.*

Despite the negative opinions shared about the Board and Administrations on our commitment to Hidden Lakes Trout Farm, we want to bring people to this facility

Looking ahead to 2021

- *We have a continued commitment to treating the ponds and controlling the surrounding vegetation.*
- *We have submitted an application for a Museum Grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for a complete tear down and re-build of the Bait Shop, complete with a pavilion and flush toilets. It would be great to get this grant, however if we are unsuccessful, BPD has committed more than \$250,000 for this project.*

In summary, Bolingbrook Park District Board and Administration have committed more funds to this operation than any other single park or facility in the District. We also follow plans and do not just haphazardly throw resources to projects when residents complain.

*Has the staff accidentally left the American flag out over night? Yes. We apologize for that.
Is there garbage blowing around at times? Again – Yes. We apologize that we cannot get to all of the blowing garbage all the time.*

If the maintenance of Hidden Lakes is in question this year – we are doing our best to keep ALL 50 properties maintained. What we ask for is your patience. Our plan was built on timing and resources. Unfortunately, the Pandemic has affected both.

Spreading un-warranted and un-deserving criticism across social media, when you don't know the full operation of Bolingbrook Park District is unfortunate and not fair. Mr. Ellsworth, we have shared these plans with you specifically on multiple occasions in meetings or via email. We are respectfully requesting you to be supportive of our efforts in this very trying time.

Commissioner Hix requested Vastalo's notes be included in this month's meeting.

Commissioner Hix referred the request for volunteer clean up of Lake #1 to staff for review. Hix reminded staff the district has a volunteer policy in place and make sure we adhere to that.

NEW BUSINESS

President Vastalo made a motion that Election of Board Officers and Board Committee Appointments remain the same during 2020-2021. Commissioner Andrews seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, Hix, McCloud, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motioned passed 5/0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Vastalo said she agreed with Commission Andrews regarding staff and what they have had to put up with during the pandemic. Staff have remained very calm and appreciated. Vastalo thanked the staff.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Commissioner Vastalo, second Commissioner Hix to adjourn from the regular board meeting at 7:14pm. Roll call: Ayes: Andrews, McCloud, Hix, Allen, President Vastalo. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed 5/0.

Minutes Verification Signature



**Bolingbrook Park District Board Secretary
Denise Allen**