

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

1. Call to Order

President Johnson called the Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Roll call was taken:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Geils	X	
Gibbs	X	
Johnson	X	
Linder	X	
Karg	X	

Staff in attendance: Joe Vallez, Executive Director and Mary Dickson, Attorney.

Pledge of Allegiance: President Johnson led the Pledge.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Geils, seconded by Commissioner Linder to approve the Agenda, as presented.

At the request of President Johnson, actions items in #9 will be moved for discussion after #6 in respect of the visitors present who are interested in the action items.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder	X		
Geils	X		

Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Linder, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs to approve the minutes of March 17, 2021, as presented.

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Page 2**

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder	X		
Geils	X		

Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Linder, seconded by Commissioner Karg to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021 special meeting, as presented.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder	X		
Geils	X		

Motion carried.

4. Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll

It was moved by Commissioner Linder, seconded by Commissioner Karg, to approve Accounts Payable dated 3/25/21 of \$119,419.50, Payroll dated 3/26/21 of \$81,278.46, for a Grand Total of \$200,697.96, Accounts Payable dated 4/8/21 of \$54,498.91, Payroll dated 4/9/21 of \$86,303.03 for a Grand Total of \$140,801.94.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder	X		
Geils	X		

Motion carried.

5. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment

John Wassinger commented in opposition to the plan for improvement to Breiter Palm Park, for which an OSLAD grant was applied for to make it an open prairie area. The reason it is in its current state is due to neglect. Instead of changing the park, it should be properly managed and maintained.

Emily Mamrak commented in opposition to the plan for improvement to Breiter Palm Park, stating that the park planned would be better constructed at Redmond in partnership with the Village, or at Sunrise Park, which is a smaller park with an existing large parking lot.

Chris Mamrak commented in opposition to the plan for improvement to Breiter Palm Park, stating it is the only park in the District which is surrounded by native species plantings, including several rare plants. Also additional lighting planned will upset the park's ecosystem.

6. Communications and Correspondence

Executive Director Vallez stated the following:

- PDRMA application has been made
- The draft operational manual for commissions is underway
- IDPH guidelines for April were distributed
- A letter from Openlands was distributed

7. Liaison Reports

A. NEDSRA – Mr. Vallez commented on news that the Village of Itasca sponsored a vaccination event for special needs individuals.

B. Bensenville Community Foundation –Commissioner Karg commented on the check presented to the Foundation as a result of Subaru days.

C. BBAA – No report.

D. Chamber of Commerce – Commissioner Karg reported a vacancy on the Board.

8. Staff Reports

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Page 4**

President Johnson commented that staff provided a very comprehensive presentation to the Forest Preserve District Board.

Mr. Vallez summarized certain activities:

- Covid-19 Update:

IDPH restrictions continue to be cautious. The list of activities that allow for different guidelines with respect to mask wearing have changed slowly. The main high risk activities have not changed. The District has received some criticism for not opening the basketball court and indoor gym, however this activity is high risk and requires mask wearing.

- PDRMA Update:

The District has completed the application and it has been submitted.

- Chuck Lynch Letter:

Mr. Lynch has removed his equipment from the District.

- House Lease:

Remediation has been completed and a lease for the House will be presented at a coming Board meeting, with the lease period being May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022.

- Train Donation Proposal

This item is to be tabled.

- Special Services

Training in various areas is ongoing; the new commissioner handbook is being finalized.

- White Pines:

The golf course opened March 22 and on April 2 for golf cart use; rounds through April 14 equaled 2,676; there have been good sales of season passes and permanent tee times; hiring is ongoing and the District is bringing back staff, carts, front desk, maintenance, and grill cook.

9. Action Items

A. A Resolution #304 authorizing Engaging Mike Purich to Serve as an Independent Contractor Filling the Position of General Manager of the White Pines Banquet Facility.

It was moved by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Karg, to approve A Resolution #304 authorizing Engaging Mike Purich to Serve as an Independent Contractor Filling the Position of General Manager of the White Pines Banquet Facility.

Discussion: Mr. Vallez informed the Board that Mr. Purich had been previously considered for a position with the Park District due to his professional background in course management. At present, Mr. Vallez is interested in engaging a contract employee rather than hiring full time for the position.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder	X		
Geils	X		

Motion carried.

B. Organizational Structure

President Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Geils to table consideration of this item.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder	X		
Geils	X		

Motion carried.

C. Train Proposal

Mr. Vallez informed the Board he had received a proposal to convey the train at no cost to the District to a train organization. The estimate to move the train is approximately \$30,000, and to paint and restore it would be \$16,000-\$20,000. The District would not be required to pay any of these costs if it is conveyed. If the District chose to keep the train, it would cost approximately \$10,000 to restore it. President Johnson opened discussion on this item stating he needed additional information prior to voting on a proposal to convey the train as he suggests restoring it and making it inviting and safer so that it can be used.

Commissioner Linder questioned the decision to keep the train, as he thought the decision had been made to convey the train as it would cost too much to restore it and it will still rust over time. He added the District does not have the resources to keep the train.

Commissioner Karg and Commissioner Gibbs questioned the nature of the programming that could be had if the District keeps the train. Inside use is limited to 15-20 people; therefore its use would be birthday parties and special events.

President Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Karg to table consideration of this item.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder		X	
Geils	X		

Motion carried.

D. Breiter Palm Park Approval

It was moved by Commissioner Karg, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs, to approve the design for Breiter Palm Park and the budget associated with the work.

Discussion: Mr. Vallez reported that the present plan eliminates the dog park and 2 shelters. The cost of the improvement is \$739,280 with two alternates. ADA funds will pay for 75% of the park improvement. In response to resident concerns voiced, Mr. Vallez stated that east of the playground will remain as is and there is currently surface parking that will be expanded.

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Page 7**

Commissioner Linder suggested the matter be tabled until the Board can secure an annual operations plan. Commissioner Geils questioned whether the planned park improvements could be moved to Veterans Park, which already has plenty of room and parking.

Commissioner Linder moved, seconded by Geils, to table the matter

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson		X	
Karg		X	
Gibbs		X	
Linder	X		
Geils	X		

Motion Failed.

On the main vote, a roll call was held:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder		X	
Geils	X		

Motion carried.

10. New Business

Mr. Vallez informed the Board that stickers regarding liability waiver have been affixed to the golf carts.

Mr. Vallez was asked whether smaller key ring type cards could be issued for the gym. He will review this.

Relative to a question concerning on-line registration, Mr. Vallez stated that it is currently cost prohibitive being approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000. Staff continues to investigate whether it could be implemented.

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Page 8**

In response to questions, Mr. Vallez stated that adult softball teams are being recruited, and the District is working to open its facilities as much as possible and still be within IDPH and CDC guidelines.

11. Old Business

There was no Old Business

12. Closed Session

There was no Closed Session called.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Geils moved, seconded by Commissioner Karg, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs	X		
Linder	X		
Geils	X		

Motion Carried.

The meeting stands adjourned.

Approved:

President Rich Johnson

Secretary