

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 26, 2022**

1. Call to Order

President Johnson called the Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll call was taken:

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

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

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Linder to approve the Agenda, 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		
Snyder	X		

Motion carried.

3. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment

Resident Paul DeMichele was in the audience but had no comment.

4. Staff Reports - Executive Director

Among the items outlined in his report, Mr. Vallez commented on:

- COVID-19:

The District has had a number of employees exposed to, or testing positive for COVID. For this reason, the District has released a restart schedule and guidelines for programs. The restart is based on starting programs that are able to managed and adhere to CDC/IDPH/BPD guidelines. The programs initially will have staff supervision to enforce strict mask wearing, social

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distancing and suggesting sanitizing hands. After a short reintroduction period, the District will allow for increased hours and more programming. Lengthy discussion ensued as to whether the District should remain a “mask mandate” entity, or if it should encourage, but not require, masks in the District facilities. The discussion included Mr. Vallez’ report on a recent incident at a basketball game, where a parent refused the request to mask, and the resultant pressure on staff to respond to such behavior.

Mr. Vallez was directed to poll staff to determine their thoughts on lifting the mask mandate of District patrons.

- Bensenville Park District 2.0:
 - a. Fenton HS: The High School has discussed the District scheduling activities on High School fields. The High School has suggested different managerial models for any potential improvements of fields at the HS location.
 - b. Breiter Palm: Construction has been paused until spring, and a change order for installation of lights shields has been received. Lights are being turned off until the install is complete. The Park will remain closed until lighting shields are installed and lights are turned back on. Outdoor fitness equipment has been delivered to the park and remains under tarps.
 - c. Paycom Installation: Paycom has been installed; staff are starting to use the software with the latest payroll.
 - d. Job Posting: Interviews were conducted on January 18 and 19 for the Cultural Arts Supervisor and Recreation Supervisor positions.
 - e. Bids: bids for grass cutting and landscape services at all parks will be finalized and issued in a few weeks.
 - f. White Pines: The ALTA Survey has been completed and has been provided to legal counsel for review and comment. Counsel stated she has asked Gewalt Hamilton for copies of some of the documents recorded against the property for review.
 - g. Marketing Plan: Mr. Vallez distributed the draft marketing plan and discussed the steps set forth in the plan.

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- Marketing:
 - a. Press Releases: Mr. Vallez complimented the current marketing efforts which include releasing information on a regular basis to local newspapers and news outlets.
 - b. Rachel Russo has increased her weekly hours to 40 effective immediately.
 - c. Mark Guido: Mark participated in the Park District's preschool program and Bensenville schools. He plans to climb the seven peaks and is currently training at the District to climb Mt. Everest. The District is sponsoring his climb. Mark will carry a Park District flag and secure a photo at the top of the mountain with it.
- Finance:
 - a. The Board approved the annual rollover bond at the January 19th meeting. President Johnson commented on the rate for the bond which was very good.
- White Pines:
 - a. Golf Course: Revenue reported is as follows:

2019 \$2,386,480
2020 \$2,453,292
2021 \$3,493,502
 - b. The sweetheart dance is scheduled for February 12. It will be catered.
- Special Services:
 - a. ADA Newsletter has been released and will be produced quarterly. Distribution to 9,700 residents on January 24th. It has been linked to all the Village providers.
 - b. KaBoom Meeting: The District has been informed that it is line for Kaboom funding most likely in the third quarter.
 - c. Tree Management Plan: The District is training two employees to be arborists.
- Maintenance:

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a. A collapsed drain at White Pines will require major excavation to replace the collapsed pipe. The cost of the repair is between \$10,000 and \$14,000.

- Facility Management:

a. Rental Program: the first draft of our formal rental program information is complete and being reviewed and will be distributed to the Commissioners for review.

5. Action Items

a. Approval of Pine Room Lease

Commissioner Snyder moved, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs to approve the lease of the Pine Room.

In discussion, Mr. Vallez stated he was approached by a COVID testing company to lease the Pine Room through the end of the year to provide a convenient testing center in the Village. He originally suggested a rent of \$5,000 per month, however, seeks approval to negotiate the lease rate from \$4,500 to \$5,000. Various provisions of the lease were outlined.

Resident Paul DeMichele was recognized, and commented that the Pine Room is a polling place in the June 2022 election, and asked that the lease provide for the lessee to recognize this and allow the testing facility to be closed on that date to allow polling at the Property. The Commissioners agreed to revise the lease for this purpose.

In approval of the lease, the Commissioners found that the Pine Room property is not necessary at this time for recreational or park district purposes and for this reason, it was available for lease.

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		
Snyder	X		

Motion carried.

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6. Closed Session and Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Linder, seconded by Commissioner Karg to enter closed session at 7:42 p.m. pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, sections 2(c)1, 2(c)5, 2 (c)11 and 2(c) 21, to discuss, respectively, acquisition of property, personnel, probable litigation and to approve minutes of past meetings lawfully closed.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

The meeting stands adjourned.

Approved:

President Rich Johnson

Secretary