

**Bensenville Park District  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

1. Call to Order

President Johnson called the Meeting to order at 6:00 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, Andrew Godfrey, Head Golf Professional; Phyllis Schmidt, Manager of Special Projects, Evelyn Struck, Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources; Mike Hayes, Superintendent of Recreation, Louis Aguinaga, Superintendent of Building and Grounds, Laura Borshell, Front Desk Manager, and Mary Dickson, Park District Attorney.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Karg 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. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Karg, seconded by Commissioner Snyder to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2022 as presented.

On a roll call vote:

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

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Snyder X

Motion carried.

4. Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll

It was moved by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Karg, to approve Accounts Payable dated 2/24/22 of \$104,125.90, Payroll dated 2/25/2022 of \$118,427.11 for a Grand Total of \$222,553.01, Accounts Payable dated 3/10/2022 of \$79,391.21, Payroll dated 3/11/2022 of \$101,794.06 for a Grand Total of \$181,185.27.

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.

5. Presentations

Beth Marchetti, Executive Director, DuPage County Convention and Visitors Bureau (“DCVB”), provided a presentation on the DCVB and its support of the District’s endeavors, specifically as it investigates future sports needs in the community which could be addressed.

Steve Lane, Lead Urban Forestry Consultant, Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management, provided a presentation on the update to the tree inventory work undertaken at the District, specifically relative to a proposed Tree Protection Policy recommended for implementation.

6. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment

Ms. Mamrake spoke in opposition to the lighting and installation of exercise stations at Brieter Palm Park.

Bill Hibner, who lives on the border of White Pines Golf Course spoke in opposition to the sale of any part of the golf course. He stated the public has the right to know what is being proposed concerning the sale, particularly as to the nature of any development which could occur next to his home and his neighbors’ homes. They are opposed to industrial development. He encouraged the District not to sell any land solely for economic reasons.

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Gary Gardner spoke in opposition to the sale of any part of the golf course for an industrial site. He stated this decision should not be made by the five commissioners on the Board, but, instead should be decided by public referendum.

President Johnson responded to concerns raised relative to the sale of any part of the golf course, stating there are a lot of rumors going around relative to the idea to sell part of White Pies, which has been an idea floated for more than 20 years. This is not a new proposal. Supporting the sale of the property is the financial need for capital improvements including work on the pool which is in the range of \$1.5 million and the need for new roofs on many of the buildings. The infrastructure of the District is aging, which prompts the Board to consider the sale of property to provide the funding mechanism to address these concerns without looking to the District's property tax payers. While residents living next to the course might be concerned with the potential of a sale of land, the Board must think of all of the residents of the District in making its decision.

For this reason, the Board is conducting its due diligence, which has included engaging experts to determine how many acres of the golf course could be sold, whether the land if sold would be best for industrial or residential.

Mr. Vallez commented that he had held a 90-minute meeting with Mr. Hibner, during which no questions were off the table. The Board has not made any decisions at this point, but is interested in securing public input once more investigatory work was completed. Two public forms are tentatively scheduled for May 11 and May 14. The District will let everyone know the dates so that anyone who wishes to can attend.

Commissioner Linder also commented that the Board has made no decision, and that everything is still open for discussion.

7. Communications and Correspondence

Mr. Vallez disseminated various communications received to the Board.

8. Board Liaison Reports

- A. NEDSRA – Ms. Schmidt reported that NEDSRA is finalizing summer events, including the annual golf outing.
- B. Bensenville Community Foundation – Commissioner Karg reported the next meeting is March 24. Mark Guido has submitted a grant request.
- C. BBAA – Mr. Aguinaga reported that the District and the BBAA are working to clean up the fields. The BBAA season opens on April 27.

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D. Chamber of Commerce – Commissioner Karg reported that the golf outing is scheduled for 7/12. Discussion was held relative to seeking a change in Chamber rules to allow a sitting elected or appointed official to serve in an officer position.

9. Staff Reports

A. Executive Director

Mr. Vallez discussed items set forth in his report.

Building and Grounds – Louis Aquinaga

Mr. Aquinaga discussed items set forth in his report.

Facilities Management - Mr. Vallez

In the absence of Todd Linder, Mr. Vallez stated the position was created to work with Ms. Aquinaga on management of the facilities. Among the duties already carried out, the District has addressed the need for storage of equipment, and will now inventory all equipment. It is also working on the master plan for the second floor, to provide additional office spaces for new employees.

Recreation – Mike Hayes

Mr. Hayes discussed items set forth in his report. He introduced to the Board to the new program coordinator.

Discussion ensued over whether the District has conducted a Profit/Loss report relative to the Sweetheart Ball, which was a successful sold out event. Staff did not have the information to provide, however, the Board discussed how it is appropriate to have an event as a financial loss because it will bring in people who will gain enthusiasm for the District and lead to increased participation in programming and events.

Finance – Evelyn Struck

Ms. Struck discussed items set forth in her report.

Special Projects - Phyllis Schmidt

Ms. Schmidt discussed items set forth in her report.

Discussion ensued relative to use of the tent to be erected at White Pines; it will only be used for golf outings.

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Front Desk – Laura Borshell

Ms. Borshell discussed items set forth in her report.

Communications & Marketing – Paul Palin

Mr. Palin was introduced to the Board. He discussed items set forth in his report.

Discussion ensued relative to whether the District is tracking the success of its various marketing endeavors, in order to determine which of the various modes of marketing are bringing people into the District and into the programs being offered. Staff indicated this is occurring.

President Johnson suggested that the District, in addition to use of its current printer, look into the services that could be provided by a competitor, as both are located in Bensenville, and both are active members of the community.

White Pines – Andrew Godfrey

Mr. Godfrey discussed items set forth in his report. Discussion ensued over the opening of the driving range. Mr. Godfrey discussed the concept of installing credit machines to allow patrons to purchase buckets of balls, which would reduce the demand on staff.

10. Action Items

**A. Resolution #307 Authorizing the Destruction of Audio Recordings of Certain Closed Meetings**

Commissioner Linder moved, seconded by Commissioner Karg to approve Resolution #307 Authorizing the Destruction of Audio Recordings of Certain Closed Meetings

In discussion, Board attorney Dickson informed the Board that the Illinois Open Meetings Act allowed for the destruction of tapes of meetings of closed sessions which were for meetings greater than 18 months ago, and for which written minutes have been approved.

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		

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Motion carried.

**B. Board Approval of Tree Protection Plan**

Commissioner Karg moved, seconded by Commissioner Snyder to approve the Tree Protection Plan as presented by Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management

In discussion, the Board commented on the proposal to engage an arborist, stating this was not within the Board's immediate plan. President Johnson commented that there has been discussion with the Village about sharing the services of an arborist. Also, as part of the plan, President Johnson suggested the District adopt a 2-for-1 replacement strategy.

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.

**11. New Business**

There was no New Business.

**12. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**13. Closed Session**

It was moved by Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs, to adjourn into Closed Session at 8:40 p.m., called for the purposes of discussion of personnel, pending or probable litigation, and acquisition of land, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) 1, 11, 5, respectively.

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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.

The meeting stands adjourned.

Approved:

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President Rich Johnson

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Secretary