

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 20, 2022**

1. Call to Order

President Johnson called the Meeting to order at 5:30 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; 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, Paul Palin, Jason Linder and Mary Dickson, Park District Attorney.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs 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 Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Snyder to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 15, 2022.

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On a roll call vote:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Johnson	X		
Karg	X		
Gibbs			X
Linder	X		
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 6/30/22 of \$224,397.65, Payroll dated 6/17/22 of \$218,551.88 and Payroll dated 7/1/22 of \$225,484.88 for a Grand Total of \$668,434.41, Accounts Payable dated 7/14/22 of \$394,564.75, Payroll dated 7/15/22 of \$210,499.10 for a Grand Total of \$605,063.85.

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. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment

Residents spoke in opposition to the sale of any White Pines property:

- Mike Jaffee - White Pines was purchased in 1967 as a result of a referendum. Selling the property without a referendum is wrong; he suggests a binding referendum be held.
- Gary Gardner - Spoke in opposition to industrial uses and the use of the White Pines property for a sports facility. He stated the Board should not sell the property for a one time windfall for the little benefit the sale will bring.
- Valeria Special – Cited a May 21, 2018 article in a club and resort magazine concerning the potential sale of the golf course, where Commissioner Johnson spoke in opposition to the sale of the property, and the District’s attorney suggested the possibility of a referendum prior to consideration of the sale.

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- Chuck Rizzo – The Board has spent \$400,000 in due diligence to sell land, but is not taking in account staff and attorneys fees to support the sale of the land, which increases the amount of money spent without having studies to determine the negative impact of the sale on the community, impact on property values, impact on environment and the possible increase in traffic, police need and crime.
- Bill Hibner – Opposes the sale of the Course which is making a profit, and does not want to see the land sold for industrial development. He suggests a referendum on the sale.
- John Wassinger – Encouraged the Board to have a binding referendum to sell the White Pines Property, which will let the public decide what should be done.

6. Communications and Correspondence

Communications were distributed.

7. Board Liaison Reports

- A. NEDSRA – An advertisement for the upcoming fundraiser was in the communications distributed.
- B. Bensenville Community Foundation – No report.
- C. BBAA – Mr. Aguinaga reported that the BBAA ended its season on July 18, and will soon prepare for the start of the fall season.
- D. Chamber of Commerce – Commissioner Karg reported the Chamber’s golf outing was success. August 10 is the new teacher breakfast.

8. Staff Reports

Executive Director Vallez discussed those items set forth in his written report.

President Johnson complimented staff on the Breiter Palm Park opening event, which was very well received. He also notes seeing people using the park.

Recreation – Mike Hayes

Mr. Hayes highlighted items in his written report.

Building and Grounds – Louis Aquinaga

Mr. Hayes highlighted items in his written report.

Facilities Management - Todd Linder

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Mr. Linder highlighted items in his written report.

Finance – Evelyn Struck

Ms. Struck discussed items set forth in her report, among them that she is meeting with the new auditor relative to the current audit.

Special Projects - Ms. Schmidt was absent, and Mr. Vallez referred the Board to her written report.

Front Desk – Laura Borshell

Ms. Borshell discussed items set forth in her report.

Communications & Marketing – Paul Palin

Mr. Palin discussed items set forth in his report.

White Pines – Andrew Godfrey

Mr. Godfrey discussed items set forth in his report.

9. Action Items

- a. Motion Authorizing an Advisory Referendum Regarding the Sale of a Portion of the White Pines Golf Course Property.

Commissioner Snyder moved, seconded by Commissioner Karg to authorize staff to prepare a resolution authorizing an advisory referendum on the sale of a portion of White Pines Golf Course Property.

In discussion, Mr. Vallez stated if the Board was going down the path of an advisory referendum on this issue, it should also consider other topics as well, including whether the public would support an indoor aquatic facility, and a binding referendum on whether it should issue \$20 million in bonds for capital projects.

President Johnson suggested going for the proposed bond issue, to take care of antiquated buildings, including the White Pines Club house which has major roof issues. A binding referendum on the sale of \$20 million in bonds would add to funds the Park District currently has or will have to repair the club house, the pool, and splash pad, all of which are antiquated and in need of repair.

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He noted that a bond issue would increase taxes and asked whether Mr. Vallez could comment on this. He stated he would need to speak with bond counsel and Speer Financial to address those questions.

The motion was expanded to direct staff to prepare documents needed for the three topics proposed.

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.

Mr. Vallez will prepare the three referenda questions available for review and vote at the next meeting.

10. New Business

There was no New Business.

11. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

12. Closed Session

It was moved by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Snyder, to adjourn into Closed Session at 6:52 p.m., called for the purposes of discussion of pending or probable litigation, and approval of minutes pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) 11 and 21, 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:

President Rich Johnson

Secretary