

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

1. Oath of Office

The Honorable Mia McPherson, Circuit Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, provided the oath of office to Nancy Gibbs and Chris Hernandez. Ms. Gibbs was elected to fill the unexpired term of former Commissioner Greg Linder and Mr. Hernandez was elected to a full four-year term.

2. Call to Order

President Johnson called the Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll call was taken:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Gibbs	X	
Hernandez	X	
Johnson	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; Leslie DeMoss, Superintendent of Recreation, Louis Aguinaga, Superintendent of Building and Grounds, Phyllis Schmidt, Special Projects; Laura Borshell, Front Desk Manager, Paul Palin, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications, Todd Linder, Manager of Facilities and Special Events, Christina Shiel, Fischer Farm Manager, and Mary Dickson, Park District Attorney

3. Approval of Agenda

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

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Page 2**

4. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Karg, seconded by Commissioner Snyder to approve the minutes of a regular meeting on April 19, 2023.

In discussion, Commissioner Karg noted that the minutes should reflect in all cases, the name Andrew Godfrey, not Garfield.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

5. Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll

It was moved by Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Commissioner Karg, to approve Accounts Payable dated 04/27/23 of \$224,110.98 Payroll dated 04/21/23 of \$138,236.96 for a Grand Total of \$362,347.94. Accounts Payable dated 05/11/23 of \$511,007.45 Payroll Dated 05/05/23 of \$156,346.75 for a Grand Total of \$667,354.20.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

6. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment

- Paul DeMichele – stated it was very nice to see so many toddlers enjoying Fischer Farm, which features the oldest building in DuPage County. He would like to see the kids get into the building to see it too.

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Page 3**

- Mike Jaffe – He gave his congratulations to Commissioners Gibbs and Hernandez on their election and stated he is glad the election is over, as some of what happened during the election did not shine a bright light on the Village. People have differences of opinion, but he hopes that everyone is able to work together.
- Bill O’Malley, representing the West Shore Pipeline Company stated the Company had learned of the work planned for the park at Potter and Spruce (the Kaboom Project site) and had called the District to secure additional information on the project, and had not received any response. The Company wants to know the plan as it has a private easement for its petroleum line on the property, and needs to protect it. Director Vallez responded that there was a need for some confidentiality for the project until funding could be announced. The plan at present is conceptual only. He will discuss the project with Mr. O’Malley.

7. Communications and Correspondence

No communications or correspondence was presented, other than that which was distributed prior to the meeting.

8. Board Liaison Reports

- A. NEDSRA – New officers have been appointed, and various future events were announced.
- B. Bensenville Community Foundation – The Foundation next meets on May 25. The Park District has applied for a grant for it’s Snag Golf program, which is for children aged 3-6, to introduce them to golf.
- C. BBAA – At the last meeting on May 15, it appears play is all okay.
- D. Chamber of Commerce – No report.

8. Staff Reports

- A. Executive Director/Staff Reports

Executive Director Vallez and Staff reported on items set forth in their written reports, attached to the agenda. Commissioner questions/discussion on items reported included:

- Director Vallez commented on the White Pines Master Plan, which was distributed to Commissioners. The Plan provides a space analysis of what is present, and what is needed; a conceptual layout and additional information. As the work on the Plan proceeds, it will be made available to the public. President Johnson stated that the Plan focuses on the Clubhouse, which will include, initially, four golf simulators, with an additional four to be added depending on the success of the initial simulators. Cost of

the proposed Clubhouse is projected at \$2.5 to \$3.5 million. The District has bonding authority to \$5.5 to \$6.5 million.

- Director Vallez discussed the demolition of the old range building on the golf course, which should be completed in September.
- In response to Commissioner Snyder, Director Vallez stated the District should have its gaming license for video games within 30 days.
- In response to a question from Commissioner Snyder, Director Vallez stated the District does need an IDPH permit for the work at the pool.
- President Johnson reported that the Peace Pole at Breiter Palm Park had been repaired in response to a concern raised by resident Ms. Keane. She will be advised of the work being done.
- Director Vallez reported that the District will secure a proposal to replace the windows on the train.
- Funds raised by the Bensenville Park Foundation at the Fore the Kids Golf outing will be used to pay the District's share of the Kaboom grant.
- President Johnson led a discussion relative to the District's roll over bond process, by which the District rolls over its bonds to secure additional funding, which is not tax support based.
- In response to public comment regarding the Kaboom Project, Director Vallez stated that a utility search will be conducted prior to any work commencing at the Park. President Johnson commented that the District was in jeopardy of loosing the Kaboom Project, and recognized Director Vallez for his prompt action in securing all information needed to have the grant awarded.
- Director Vallez reported on non-golf related events scheduled at White Pines, which are designed to increase revenue at White Pines which is not related to golf.
- Discussion ensued regarding the Vet's Golf outing, with the Board directing staff to open the outing first to Park District residents, and then to non-residents to ensure that residents will be able to play.
- Director Vallez commended Phyllis Schmidt for the work she does in ensuring training is provided to staff. Since the change to PDRMA, and its robust training program, and Phyllis' work, the District has not had any workers compensation claims filed.
- In response to Public Comment regarding use of the cabin at Fischer Farm, Ms. Shiel stated that the cabin is not in good enough condition to allow unsupervised use, but that staff does allow it to be used as part of its programming.

10. Action Item

A. Motion: Continued Classification of Closed Session Minutes

Attorney Dickson prefaced the call for this Motion by stating that the Board, at its last meeting, had conducted its review of all minutes of past closed meetings to determine whether the minutes should remain classified. To allow the Board to continue its review, a recommendation was made for a motion to continue to hold all minutes as classified.

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Page 5**

Commissioner Gibbs moved, seconded by Commissioner Karg, to continue to hold all Closed Minutes classified pending further Board review.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

B. Resolution #312, A Resolution Forming A Committee on Local Government Efficiency

Commissioner Snyder moved, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs, to approve Resolution #312, A Resolution Forming a Committee on Local Government Efficiency.

Discussion: Attorney Dickson advised that the formation of the Committee is required by the Local Government Efficiency Act. Pursuant to the Act, the Committee is comprised of the Board of Commissioners, Executive Director Vallez, and two citizen members to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Board. President Johnson determined to appoint Nancy Panos and Dejan Gakovic, who had both recently sought election to the Board.

The Committee is required to meet three times in the next 18 months, and draft on report on government efficiency relative to the Park District. The report is then submitted to the County Board.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

C. Fischer Farm Collection Statement

Commissioner Snyder moved, seconded by Commissioner Karg, to approve the Fischer Farm Collection Statement.

Discussion: Fischer Farm Manager Christina Shiel stated that the Mission Statement is important to have for grant opportunities and is in keeping with the best practices of an historic farm such as the District's. It serves as a guide to operation and maintenance of the Farm and its collection of historic items.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

11. **New Business – Election of Officers**

President Johnson announced that Election of Officers, which is to take place in May, will be on the June agenda.

12. **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

13. **Closed Session**

It was moved by Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Commissioner Karg to enter Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) and (c)(6).

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Page 7**

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

13. Return to Open Session

There was no matter emanating from Closed Session.

Commissioner Snyder commented on the use of Breiter Park, which is loaded with people using the Park.

Discussion ensued relative to the pipeline easement on the Park, as addressed in Public Comment. Director Vallez will look into this, and will follow up with Mr. O'Malley.

It was moved by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Snyder to adjourn. On a voice vote, all members voted "aye."

The meeting stands adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved:

President Rich Johnson

Secretary