

**Bensenville Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

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	
Karg	X	
Snyder	X	
Hernandez	X	

Staff in attendance: Director Joseph Vallez, Andrew Godfrey, Head Golf Professional; Louis Aguinaga, Superintendent of Building and Grounds, Paul Palian, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications, Laura Borshell, Front Desk, Phyllis Schmitt, Special Projects, Christine Shiel, Fischer Farm Manager, and Mary E. Dickson, Park District Attorney.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Commissioner Hernandez to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of September 4, 2024, and the meeting of September 18, 2024.

In discussion it was suggested that the minutes for September 18, 2024 were incorrect on p. 2 concerning Ms. Acevedo and the fitness classes. There was no error in billing residents for the classes, members were offered the opportunity to go to one or all of the 21 classes as part membership. The minutes will be revised accordingly.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

4. Approval of Accounts Payable

It was moved by Commissioner Snyder, seconded by Commissioner Karg to approve Accounts dated 9/26/24 of \$230,838.17 Payroll dated 9/20/2024 of \$186,554.32 for a Grand Total of \$417,392.49. Accounts Payable dated 10/10/24 of \$186,583.60, Payroll dated 10/04/2024 of \$181,898.95 for a Grand Total of \$368,482.55.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

5. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

6. Action Item

A. Approval of Ordinance #583 Providing for the issue of approximately \$3,705,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2024, of the District for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the pledge of certain revenues to the payment of principal and interest on said bonds and levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay such principal and interest if the pledged revenues are insufficient to make such payment and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

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It was moved by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Snyder to approve Ordinance #583.

In discussion, Aaron Gold from Speer Financial provided background information regarding the bond sale. Debt service payments will be made using existing Park District resources, with the backup call, as needed for a property tax levy. While the levy will be adopted, it will be abated each year as levy funds are not estimated to be needed to make the debt service payments. The closing on the bond issue is scheduled for March 2025, with the final payment on the debt to be made on March 1, 2035. The District secured a credit rating of AA on the bond sale, based on its healthy financial surplus, and proactive financial management. The number of bidders was lower than expected but it was competitive securing a good rate. According to Director Vallez, bond funds will be used to pay for the capital projects approved by the Board, including work on the pool, Veterans Park, Fischer Farm, Sunrise Park and a number of smaller projects.

On a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

7. Communications and Correspondence

Director Vallez reported (a) ComEd is conducting an efficient lighting assessment report for which the Park District might secure a rebate (b) on a review of Samantha DeCarlo on line, in which she received a 5.0 review for a wedding and (c) Monster Mash will be held out of doors this year.

8. Board Liaison Reports

- A. NEDSRA: Ms. Schmidt handed out various flyers for upcoming events.
- B. Community Foundation: Commissioner Karg stated the most recent meeting was cancelled.
- C. BBAA: Mr. Aguinaga reported the meeting was cancelled.
- D. Chamber of Commerce: Commissioner Karg reported that she, Director Vallez and Mr. Palian attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting. It was reported that the Holiday Train is not coming to Bensenville this year, but will go to Franklin Park instead. The Christmas Party is scheduled for 12/12, and the annual meeting for 11/20.

9. Staff Reports

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Staff reports are attached to the Agenda for the meeting. Commissioner questions arising from the Staff Reports:

Concerning the dog park planned for Veteran's Park, Commissioner Hernandez stated he had watched a webinar concerning community trends with dog parks that he recommended to be watched.

In response to a question concerning the lighting of the new LED sign, Director Vallez stated the lighting would be white only.

Commissioner Hernandez voiced a concern about the lighting at White Pines which is pretty dark, suggesting the installation of some ground lighting.

Commissioner Hernandez suggested staff look into multi-simulator systems which offer a variety of game options, including pickleball, tennis, football and soccer.

Director Vallez stated that Ms. Schmidt informed the Board she was looking into grants for the dog park.

10. New Business

Discussion was held concerning changing the meeting schedule to one meeting per month on the third Wednesday. The Board concurred that the meeting schedule to be approved can call for that.

11. Old Business

There was no old business.

12. Closed Session

Commissioner Karg moved, seconded by Commissioner Hernandez to enter closed session to discuss the sale of land pursuant to 5 ILCS 2(c)6.

On a voice vote, all Commissioners present voted "aye."

On return Closed Session, discussion ensued regarding the status of discussions with the School District regarding Mohawk School. Director Vallez encouraged the Board to continue discussions with the School District to add green space. The \$600,000 asking price could be met if the District secured a grant, or the School District would agree to partner with the Park District

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and allow the acquisition amount to be paid over time, similar to what occurred with the acquisition of Fisher Farm from the Forest Preserve District.

The Board directed Mr. Vallez to continue to work with the School District on terms that would allow the Park District to acquire the property.

13. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs to adjourn.

On a voice vote, all Commissioners present voted “aye.” The motion carried.

The meeting stands adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Approved:

President Rich Johnson

Secretary