

Minutes of a Regular Session of the
Board of Commissioners of the Lemont Park District
Held on August 27, 2024, 6 p.m.
Canal Center, 55 Stephen Street, Lemont, IL 60439

CALL TO ORDER – President McAdam called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Commissioner Richmond, Commissioner Scarlati, Commissioner Wagner, Commissioner Mescher, President McAdam. Staff in attendance were Executive Director Louise Egofske, Anthony Morelli, Jerry Hernandez, Lauren Raspanti, Colleen Ganzer, Lisa Dian, Greg Hooper, Christine Aguirre and Carlene Dickman as recording secretary. Matt Corso from SEASPAR was in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by President McAdam

CHANGE TO AGENDA – None

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – No visitors to address the board.

COMMUNICATIONS – Thank You from Dan Lipowski family. Louise mentioned that we are planning on doing a Community Courtyard brick for Dan Lipowski, former board member, to recognize his years of service for the Lemont Park District. Community members have taken up a collection for a tree and bench.

VALUES IN ACTION, DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT AWARDS –

Lisa Dian read the nominations for Joe Loburgio for the Values In Action Award for the month of August. Joe was not in attendance this evening. There were three nominations for Joe. Here is what the three nominations said about Joe.

From Lauren Raspanti: Joe goes above and beyond when it comes to working special events. Joe is professional, detailed, and accountable. He leads his team with motivation, patience, and professionalism. Joe is always one of the first to step up to work an event, gives valuable feedback and has great ideas. Joe is an outstanding member of the Parks team. Thank you, Joe, for everything you do!

From Kathy Cliff: When I first started working on events, I was lucky enough to have Joe work them with me, he always went above and beyond and taught me the true meaning of teamwork. I thoroughly enjoy having Joe as part of our team during events and appreciate all that he does for the Park District and our community.

From Jerry Hernandez: Joe is a hardworking, motivated and dedicated individual. He goes above and beyond on a daily basis. Joe has taken on any all-additional responsibilities with open arms. Some examples would include Productive Parks administration, budgeting, training staff, leading team members and taking our athletic fields to the next level this year. Joe continues to put the district and his team as a priority.

Presentation – Matt Corso from SEASPAR provided a presentation to the Board and staff. Matt spoke about some of the overall stats for SEAPAR. programs and services offered in Lemont, highlights and challenges as well as operations.

CONSENT AGENDA – The following items were presented to the board as consent:

- C.1 – Approval of Minutes – July 23, 2024, Special Meeting
- C.2 – Approval of July 2024 Treasurer’s Report
- C.3 – Approval of August 2024 Payables in the amount of \$1,014,399.93

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, with a second by Commissioner Scarlati.

Roll Call – Ayes – Commissioners Wagner, Scarlati, Mescher, Richmond, McAdam
Nays – None

BOARD BUSINESS –

President’s Comments – President McAdam thanked the staff for today’s park opening. The park turned out great. He complimented the staff on the way we engage the community on projects like these. He also commented about how great The CORE locker rooms look and thanked staff for adding an additional SilverSneakers class to the schedule.

Commissioners Comments – Commissioner Richmond commented about what a great summer it was and that the Sunset Soirees were a huge hit with the community.

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS –

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Executive Director Louise Egofske thanked staff for a great summer season. Staff did a great job on July 3rd and we’re excited to see the final numbers from the outdoor pool season. Louise also thanked staff for working with the Lemont Park Foundation on the golf outing last week. Quite a few vendors and Lemont residents were in attendance. Louise thanked the staff for another great ribbon cutting at Connemara Park today. Lauren provided the board with a few photos of Athens Park. Louise referenced a utility line that may have an impact on the Stephen Street bridge project. We are working with the contractor on the continued construction plan and progress. We are anticipating the opening of Athens Park in early spring 2025. Louise spoke about Gleneagles Park and the final corrections being made so that it can be turned over to the Park District. The ribbon cutting for Gleneagles Park will take place in the spring even though the park will be open before then. There was a discussion about Derby Farms Park and putting a traffic light at 131st and Derby Road. We will continue to work with Hitchcock Design and WT on the final park design and plans. Louise mentioned that with the departure of our Aquatics Manager, we have rearranged some responsibilities. Greg Hooper will now be overseeing Aquatics and all rec programming will be under one person. This will also allow Anthony to focus on facilities and programming space with all of the construction projects/plans coming up. Congratulations to Lauren and Christine on their new Director titles after all of their accomplishments over the last few years. Commissioner Richmond congratulated staff on being accepted to present at the state conference in January regarding how to pass a referendum.

RISK MANAGEMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT – Director of Risk and Personnel, Christine Aguirre had nothing to add. There was discussion regarding the policy for extreme heat and our programs. We will review our policies and make sure we have clear guidelines to follow for extreme weather.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Executive Director Louise Egofske participated in the August 9th quarterly meeting with other community administrators. District 210 is beginning a new superintendent search since Dr. Ticknor is retiring at the end of the school year. District 113a has concerns about over-crowding with all of the new rooftops and those moving into current homes in the community. This could also impact us as our participation continues to grow. The Lemont Fire District did vote to put the \$46M referendum question on the ballot in November. They are looking to relocate/build two of the fire houses and renovate two of the fire houses. The Lemont Police Department is working on launching their new communication tool. This new tool will have the ability to send an alert to everyone at a large

event even if they are not subscribed to the service. There were also concerns about resources for events in the community. Lemont Emergency Management is mostly volunteers so they are not always available. Reciprocal services from surrounding communities are becoming cost prohibitive. We need to realize that these services may cost us more in the future so it may be hard to add additional events.

MARKETING REPORT – Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, Lauren Raspanti had nothing to add to her report other than she hopes the board have had a chance to view our new website. Great job from commissioners.

RECREATION REPORT – Director of Recreation Greg Hooper nothing to add. There was discussion regarding the west parking lot and space available for weekend program parking. The south lot can also be used for weekend program parking.

FACILITIES, FITNESS, AND AQUATICS REPORT – Director of Facilities, Anthony Morelli mentioned that the search for the new Aquatics Manager has begun and they have conducted two interviews so far. Would like a few more applicants to interview before moving forward with the second round of interviews.

MAINTENANCE REPORT – Director of Maintenance and Planning, Jerry Hernandez, mentioned that Athens Park is moving along well. Footing for walkways and parking will be put in soon. They are close to being done with bringing in dirt. Public Works has been great about cleaning the streets. There was a discussion regarding the BNSF bridge work that needs to be completed.

FINANCE REPORT – Director of Finance and IT, Josephine Wimunc, mentioned everyone turned in the first round of budgets and we are working through that. Department meetings will be taking place soon.

POLICY & PROCEDURE – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

The next Lemont Park District Board Meeting will be held on September 24, 2024, 6 p.m. at the Lemont Park District Canal Center, 55 Stephen Street, Lemont.

ADJORN TO CLOSED SESSION – Commissioner Richmond made a motion to adjourn to closed session, with a second by Commissioner Scarlati for the items listed below at 7:04 p.m. for the items listed below.

Roll Call – Ayes – Commissioners Richmond, Scarlati, Mescher, Wagner, McAdam
Nays - None

Those invited into closed session were Commissioners Richmond, Scarlati, Wagner, Mescher, McAdam, Executive Director Louise Egofske

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in park, recreational or educational setting or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational or educational setting or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, pursuant

to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Open Meeting Act.

RECONVENE FOR ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION – Regular meeting resumed at 7:14 p.m.


K.1. Action – Approval of Amended Employment Contract for Executive Director with a contribution of \$6,000.00 to the 457b Plan

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the amended employment contract for the Executive Director with a contribution of \$6,000.00 to the 457b Plan, with a second by Commissioner Scarlati.

Roll Call – Ayes – Commissioners Wagner, Scarlati, Mescher, Richmond, McAdam
Nays – None

FINAL ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Richmond made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Mescher. All Ayes, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



President



Secretary