

APPROVED

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2019 IN THE RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOUSE, LOCATED AT 908 SEWARD STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS.

Commissioners Present: Debby Braun, Ann Covode (President), Dan Coyne, Pat McCourt
Commissioners Absent: Rob Bady (Vice President)
Also Present: Gerald Gibbs (Treasurer), Julie Larson (Minute Taker), Brian Rosinski (Director of Parks and Recreation), Natalie Sallee (Program Director), Charles Valente (Attorney)
Citizens: Matthew Mitchell, Pat Schumacher, Jean Zuiker

President Ann Covode called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Citizen Comment Part 1:

Matthew Mitchell introduced himself as a candidate who will be on the ballot for the Ridgeville Park District Board of Commissioners in the upcoming election. He shared that he lives in the 8th ward neighborhood with his wife and children, and he is looking forward to hosting his kids' birthday party at Ridgeville in the coming weeks. He shared a local contact he met who lives in the district who runs pop-up museum exhibits; he will discuss the idea with Natalie Sallee.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1: Dan Coyne moved to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2018 Board meeting. Pat McCourt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills:

Brian Rosinski distributed and discussed the documents entitled "Ridgeville Park District-Corporate Monthly Bills Report- Summary January 10, 2019" and "Ridgeville Park District-General Account Monthly Bills DETAILS Report January 10, 2019." Brian noted, among other items: ADP for three payrolls, ASCAP for music, D&S Flooring for sanding and varnishing the Community House floors this week, IAPD has required a very low fee of \$500 compared to \$5,000 in years past, stamps, and paper.

Motion #2: Dan Coyne moved to approve payment of January 2019 bills in the amount of \$24,861.64. Pat McCourt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Petty Cash Expenditures:

Brian Rosinski distributed and discussed the documents entitled "Ridgeville Park District Monthly Report PETTY CASH #6417 January 10, 2019" and "Ridgeville Park District Monthly Report PETTY CASH January 11, 2019." Brian noted, among other items: soap dispenser, fire

hydrant for water use, water for ice rink, holiday lunch, IAPD conference for Natalie Sallee and Jesseca Parr (Office Assistant), and winter camp supplies.

Motion #3: Dan Coyne moved to approve payment of January 2019 petty cash expenditures in the amount of \$1,326.35. Pat McCourt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Update offered by Brian Rosinski, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- ComEd is no longer willing to indemnify the park from nuisance claims, and Charles Valente will explain in detail later in the meeting.
- There are renderings from NU Toys for viewing; the cost of the equipment would be \$58,000. Brian is hoping to come to a consensus about one of the many options to move forward.
- The ice rink has not been open for skating due to warm temperatures. It is flooded and partially frozen at this time.
- The garage Art Studio has a new drop ceiling and a new floor is being installed. Our crew did all of this excellent work. The Community House floors will be redone this week and will be completed by January 17th. Therefore, our district 65 half day workshop will be held in the newly refurbished Art Studio next week.
- We have scheduled the removal of several trees east of the Elks Park garden and before the train tracks. "Trees of Heaven" are actually weeds which have taken over the area and are giving too much shade to existing park gardens. They are scheduled to be removed on January 20th for \$3,500.

Financial Update offered by Gerry Gibbs, Treasurer:

Gerry Gibbs distributed and discussed the following documents:

1. "Ridgeville Park District Board Meeting Treasurer's Report (prepared by Gerry Gibbs) January 10, 2019,"
2. "RPD: APPROPRIATIONS LEDGER SUMMARY: Annual Report Format FY18/19 as of 12/31/2018,"
3. "RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT Statement of Revenue and Appropriations Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as of 12/31/2018,"
4. "Ridgeville Park District Balance Sheet - Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as of 12/31/2018," and
5. "RPD: Outstanding / Unresolved Items From 07/01/2018 to 12/31/2018." Gerry acknowledged Jesseca Parr, Office Assistant, who has been very diligent at resolving any outstanding items, and our grand total of \$(522.43) is the lowest it has been in years.

Gerry offered the following motion and actions:

Motion #4: Dan Coyne moved to approve the following: the adjustment of November General Bills report by \$95.00 (from \$23,465.63 to \$23,370.23), the reclassification of \$360.00 from Accounts Payable-Misc to Misc. Revenue, and the adjustment of October General Bills report by

\$43.32 (from \$37,853.66 to \$37,810.34). Pat McCourt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Program Update offered by Natalie Sallee, Program Director:

- Ridgeville Readers: Our new monthly book club, the Ridgeville Readers, will celebrate Social Justice by reading *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. The book club will meet on Sunday, January 27th to discuss the book and social justice topics. Details can be found on the Celebration Board of the RPD website.
- 2019 Spring/Summer Brochure: New brochures should arrive to households this week. Summer Camp registration opens Friday, January 11th at 10:00am.
- Winter Break Camp: Camp was a huge success! We made a profit of over \$1,000.
- TGIF Party at the Park: Our first "Thank Goodness it's Friday" Party at the Park will be Friday, January 25th. The theme is Game Night and all are welcome; this is a family friendly event coming out of our district survey where many respondents requested more family activities.
- Special Needs Social Dance: Our first dance with Jutta & the Hi-Dukes was December 29th with four families; we had a great time with structured folk dancing. The next scheduled dance will be January 26th and will likely have a great turnout from Misericordia. Participants pay a fee and can bring an aide/supporter for free.
- IAPD/IPRA Conference: Natalie will be attending this conference from January 24-26. She is planning to attend several workshops and will report back to the Board in February.

Update offered by Jesseca Parr, Office Assistant:

There was no update offered at this time

Old Business:

- **Strategic Planning and Goals (Covode):** Ann Covode shared that the Board will meet to discuss Brian Rosinski's evaluation in Executive Session tonight; the form that Commissioners used came out of the strategic planning meeting Commissioners participated in this past year. Ann hopes to come up with a list of new strategic goals by our next meeting. This topic can also be discussed in the Executive Session tonight.
- **Discuss ComEd Switchgear Box at Kamen East Park:** Charles Valente shared that we have had some back-and-forth conversation with ComEd concerning indemnification. There are two things ComEd is refusing to indemnify: 1) nuisance cases and 2) if any citizens lose electrical service and included the park district in a lawsuit. Charles noted that ComEd originally said they *would* indemnify the nuisance case, but once their legal department learned about the existence of an alternative method (installing overhead power lines instead of the switchgear box) they stated that they would not offer the indemnification. Charles noted that, even though it may be unlikely to receive either claim against the park district, such a case could eat up most of the \$20k that ComEd is

offering for the easement. He said that he cannot offer advice one way or the other, but reminded the Board that it should do what is best for the community. Ann Covode expressed that she would like to see ComEd cover the additional risk by asking for \$30k instead of \$20k; Debby Braun wondered if even \$30k would offer enough protection against a lawsuit. Charles said he did not know and said it will remain an unknown. The Board discussed the alternative to the switchgear box and the location where the proposed overhead poles would be installed. They would not be on park district property, but rather on the existing easement along Asbury between the sidewalk and street. There was a desire to know the exact locations, but that is not clear at this time. Charles offered a list of pros and cons. Pros include: better electrical service for the community, avoidance of unsightly overhead lines, and \$20k for RPD. Cons include: loss of park property, interference with aesthetics for some people, possibility that a neighbor will bring a nuisance suit, installation of switchgear box doesn't necessarily advance RPD's core mission for the park other than receiving money, and the minimal risk of having the box on park land if a child were to collide with it. He offered that the question mostly comes down to the Board's appetite for risk. Pat McCourt offered that his appetite is low. Gerry Gibbs asked about our insurance coverage to cover such a claim. Charles thought a general liability coverage probably would not cover a nuisance claim, but he can look more deeply into our coverage details. Ann offered that Charles can go back to ComEd to state that we want the nuisance indemnification or else we are not interested in having the switchgear box installed and that will be our final offer. The Board agreed with this plan. Charles agreed to contact the ComEd attorney tomorrow, explaining that RPD won't be interested in moving forward unless they indemnify nuisance claims.

- **Leider Park Update:** Brian Rosinski presented several artistic renderings from Little Tikes and NU Toys. He explained that Options 1 or 2 from NU Toys would cost \$58k whereas options from Little Tikes would cost \$63,800. When the costs of removal, installation and etc. are added, the total costs of NU Toys would be \$88,500 and Little Tikes \$96,500. There is a 3-6 week delivery time for NU Toys and a 12 week delivery time for Little Tikes. The service is great with both companies. Both options comply with ADA requirements to enable individuals with disabilities to access the equipment. Brian expressed his opinion that Little Tikes has better and longer-lasting equipment and that we have had great experience with their equipment at Brummel Park. The equipment we currently have at Ridgeville Park is from NU Toys and is also good, but not as durable. Ann Covode asked about obtaining additional money for the Little Tikes options, and Brian shared that we could pay them in next year's budget and Little Tikes is happy to accommodate. They have also agreed to offer 2018 prices for us. Several people in the room expressed their opinions about the various renderings. The Board agreed that Brian can move forward with Little Tikes, requesting that they add a "scoop" piece of play equipment to the proposed arrangement. Brian agreed to talk with them

about this, asking for the additional request considering that we have a cheaper proposal on the table from NU Toys.

Motion #5: Pat McCourt moved to approve the Little Tikes proposal at the price of \$96,500 with the condition of Little Tikes adding a “scoop” piece of play equipment. Debby Braun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gerry Gibbs offered the following motion:

Motion #6: Debby Braun moved to approve the transfer of \$30,000 from the Recreation Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund per the plans of the Appropriations and Levy Ordinances for funding the Leider Park improvements. Dan Coyne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

Call of the Commissioners:

Bady: absent

Braun: passed

Covode: passed

Coyne: Dan Coyne shared that the window of challenging is over and we now have four candidates running for three open seats for the Ridgeville Park District Board of Commissioners: Rob Bady, Dan Coyne, Martha Gaines, and Matthew Mitchell. April 2nd is the date of the election.

McCourt: passed

Citizen Comment Part 2:

Jean Zuiker asked about Rob Bady’s level of commitment to the RPD Board of Commissioners as he hasn’t been present for several meetings that she has been present at. Ann Covode offered that Jean should review the Commissioner’s attendance via the Board meeting minutes (available on the RPD website), since Rob has been present for all meetings in recent memory.

Motion #7: Pat McCourt moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. Debby Braun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Larson, Minute Taker