

Wauconda Park District  
Board Meeting  
September 12, 2023  
Community Center

At 6:00 pm Commissioner Starkey called the meeting to order. Commissioners Berrelez, Carr, Tallman, and Bianco were present, along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. Mayor Jeff Sode and Village Administrator, Allison Matson were in attendance.

**Comments from the Public**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from August 22, 2023, was motioned by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll Call: all aye.

A motion to approve the Special Session Minutes from August 29, 2023, was motioned by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.

**Communications**

The Board received a letter from Dick Reilly, whose family used to own Phil's Beach, commending Supervisor Yakimisky on all her efforts keeping the beach clean this summer.

The Board also received a copy of a letter from PDRMA outlining the District's receipt of the second installment of the 2023 Incentive Award for Risk Management. To date the District has received \$1000 of the \$1500 annual award for good risk management practices.

**Approval of Disbursements**

Approval of Disbursements from August 23, 2023 – September 12, 2023, in the amount of \$186,878.94 was motioned by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll Call: all aye.

**Committee Reports**

A. Recreation – Director Babicz reviewed her written report with the Board. Highlights of her report included the development of two after school programs with the Fremont School District, a cooperative program with the Wauconda Historical Society to offer boat tours on Bangs Lake, and the addition of two special events at Phil's Beach for the Fall. Enrollment for the programs at Fremont School and Historical Boat Tours have both filled. Additional events at Phil's include a concert on September 21 and age-appropriate spooky stories on October 13.

In addition, Director Babicz, Director Drinkwine, and Executive Director Staton met to discuss Holiday decorations. Staff will add Phil's Beach to the decorations list this season.

B. Finance – No written report. The Board will receive the end of August budget report at the next meeting.

C. Park Maintenance – Director Staton reviewed Director Drinkwine’s written report with the Board. The Parks Department continues to do routine maintenance of the parks. Dog waste stations were installed in Saddlewood and Meadowview Parks. Looking to have five trees removed or trimmed at Meadowview and Cook Park. Director Drinkwine is working with Mid-American Tree Service on a quote for this work. At this time, staff is still investigating the costs associated with rebuilding the piers at the Bangs Lake Marina.

D. Wauconda Fest – The 2023 recap meeting was held last week, and a main concern of the committee is tightening up security at this year’s event. Staton thanked the Wauconda Police Department for their efforts at this year’s Fest. They seemed to be stationed throughout the park in key areas and more visible to the patrons.

F. Administration – Staton reviewed his written report with the Board. The District recently began its fiscal year ending April 30, 2023, Audit. The first of two new trucks was purchased on August 31. He is currently reviewing village ordinances for the marina pier rebuild in addition to reviewing ADA guidelines.

### **New Business**

A.) Salt Spreader Purchase – Last winter the Parks Department brought to the Board’s attention the need for a new salt spreader. We were able to make it through last year but will need to purchase a new one for the upcoming season. Director Staton presented the Board with a quote from Knapheide in McHenry for the purchase of a new Snowex 2.0 cu yard stainless steel spreader in the amount of \$7513.89. The approval of this purchase was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll Call: all aye.

B.) FGM Proposal – There was no action taken on this item. The Board asked Staton to discuss with FGM a lower cost alternative to their proposal. This topic was tabled until more information could be collected.

C.) Parking Lot Permit Enforcement – Director Babciz outlined the beginning of a process for the Village of Wauconda Police Department to begin ticketing cars parked in the District’s permitted parking lots, including communication with students and the School District and placement of signage in the lots. Chief Wermes believes that Under Chapter 74 Parking Regulations of the Village Ordinances we can begin ticketing until a formal IGA is in place.

D.) Metal Detecting Request – Cook Park – The Wauconda Historical Society submitted a request to conduct metal detecting in Cook Park for the purposes of researching a possible location of the original Cook Cabin. A motion to approve the Wauconda Township Historical Society’s request to perform metal detecting, in Cook Park in an area defined in their request, no later than 180 days after the approval of their request was made Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.

E.) Metal Detecting Request – Phil’s Beach – A gentleman named Kyle Tobias submitted a request to the Board for permission to perform metal detecting in the swim area of Phil’s Beach. His purpose is to possibly locate a wedding ring that was lost in 1976. A motion to approve this request was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll Call: all aye.

### Unfinished Business

A.) FAQ Topics – Staff is on target to complete this project by the end of the month.

B.) Bangs Lake Marina Logo and Signage – Manager Ftacek inquired about making an additional sign for the Marina that advertises snacks and gas, as well as bait. The Board advised staff to use their best judgement regarding this request.

### Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bianco thanked Director Babicz for the quick turnaround on some of the program requests discussed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Carr asked if we had heard any feedback regarding the Marina's closing almost a week later this year. Staff have not received any feedback.

Commissioner Tallman inquired about what the relationship is between the District and the Parks Foundation.

### Executive Session

At 6:15 pm a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of:

1. Litigation – Pending or Imminent 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11)
2. Personnel – Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)
3. Real Estate – Purchase or Lease (Buy) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)  
Setting Price for Sale/Lease 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6)

was made by Commissioner Berrelez and Seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.

The Board reentered the regular Session of the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Issues to be voted on by the Board that were discussed in Executive Session.

None

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.