

Wauconda Park District  
Board Meeting  
January 14, 2025  
Community Center

At 6:00 pm Commissioner Berrelez called the meeting to order. Commissioners Carr, Bianco, and Tallman were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. All Commissioners present agreed to allow Commissioner Starkey to attend the meeting remotely. The following members of the public attended the meeting: JoAnn Freeman.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the regular session minutes from December 10, 2024, was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll Call: all aye.

A motion to approve the executive session minutes from December 10, 2024, was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll Call: all aye.

**Comments from the Public**

None

**Communications**

Executive Director Staton shared with the Board a letter from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources acknowledging the District is a recipient of a \$600,000 OSLAD Grant to be used for the redevelopment of the Bangs Lake Marina. The Board received invitations to several social events at this year's annual IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago.

A letter from Vernon Hills Park District Executive Director Matthew LaPorte was shared with the Board. This letter announced the upcoming legislative breakfast on February 19 hosted by the Vernon Hills Park District. The legislative breakfast is a good opportunity for staff and board members to get to know their representatives and share thoughts on upcoming initiatives. Director Staton will attend and asked that any Board Member that would like to attend to let him know by the February 11 Board Meeting.

**Approval of Disbursements**

A motion to approve the disbursements from December 11, 2024 – December 24, 2024, in the amount of \$386,319.25 was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll Call: all aye.

A motion to approve the disbursements from December 25, 2024 – January 14, 2025, in the amount of \$270,917.79 was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll Call: all aye.

## **Committee Reports**

A. Recreation – Director Babicz reviewed her written report with the Board. Highlights included Candy Bar Bingo had twenty-three participants on January 10; youth basketball leagues are beginning with seventeen total teams in all leagues this year; our first indoor pickleball league will begin on January 19; we currently have eight teams registered the maximum is ten. She also reviewed program enrollment numbers for youth, early childhood, and cultural arts classes.

Babicz also updated the Board on the District’s PDRMA SMART Goal for the upcoming year. Staff plans to revamp the work order process to ensure better documentation of safety related repairs and notifications.

B. Finance – No report

C. Park Maintenance – Director Drinkwine submitted a written report. The Parks Department has performed some repairs to the HVAC system in Fitness First, installed a new washer and dryer in the community center; began painting the stairwells at the Community Center; and began ice checks at Beach Park.

The Parks Department has also begun to take down all the Christmas decorations throughout the District.

D. Wauconda Fest – The next Wauconda Fest meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00 pm. The committee will be discussing bands and security for this year’s Fest.

E. Administration – Director Staton reviewed his written report with the Board. Most items in his report were discussed under Communications and New Business. He did provide the Board with an update to the FOIA process which included him and Director Babicz updating the District’s general information, Organizational Chart, and FOIA procedures that will be posted at our front desk and on the District’s website.

F. Comprehensive Plan – No report

## **New Business**

A.) Approval – Ordinance 2025-01 Annual Abatement Ordinance Series 2021A General Obligation Park Bonds – After a short discussion, Commissioner Tallman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carr to approve Ordinance 2025-01 – An Ordinance abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2024 to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021A of the Wauconda Park District, Lake Couty, Illinois.

B.) Approval – Ordinance 2025-02 Annual Abatement Ordinance Series 2021B General Obligation Park Bonds - After a short discussion, Commissioner Carr made a motion,

seconded by Commissioner Bianco to approve Ordinance 2025-02 – An Ordinance abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2024 to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021B of the Wauconda Park District, Lake County, Illinois.

- C.) Budget Timeline – Executive Director Staton reviewed the proposed budget timeline for Fiscal Year 25-26 with the Board.
- D.) Approval – Bangs Lake Marina Hours of Operation – Manager Ftacek was not in attendance at the meeting but submitted a recap report for the Marina Operations during Summer 2024. He also included a recommendation to change the Bangs Lake Marina hours for the Summer of 2025. Director Babicz reviewed the report and recommendation with the Board. A motion to approve the hours of operation for the Bangs Lake Marina as presented by staff for the 2025 boating season was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll Call: all aye.
- E.) Approval – Osage Park Pay Order #2 – Executive Director Staton presented the Board with pay order #2 for the Osage Park redevelopment project. Staton reviewed the recommendation to pay the invoice submitted by Schroeder Asphalt, provided by Hitchcock Design. After a short discussion, a motion to approve pay order #2 in the amount of \$153,945 to Schroeder Asphalt for work completed on the Osage Park redevelopment project was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.
- F.) Approval – Wauconda Township Historical Society Request – The Board discussed a request submitted by Wauconda Township to install a historical marker along the walking path in Cook Park where they believe the original Cook cabin was located. With the Park Board's approval, the historical society will begin the process for approval of a state recognized historical marker from the Illinois Historical Society.

A motion to approve the Wauconda Township Historical Society's request to place a historic marker at a location along the walking Path in Cook Park, where it is believed the original Cook family cabin was located, was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.

### **Unfinished Business**

None

**Commissioner Comments** – Commissioner Carr asked if receiving the grant would accelerate the tear down of the old apartment buildings at the Bangs Lake Marina. Director Staton replied that it would not accelerate this portion of the project and that he wanted to get a bid together to complete the tear down of the apartment buildings and house this spring prior to boating season beginning May 1. Commissioner Carr asked that Staton talk with the property neighbors to see about trimming the trees for better sight lines.

Commissioner Berrelez commented on how wonderful the eagle addition to the tree carving at Phil's Beach was and asked if staff could share this finished project on social media.

**Executive Session – The Board did not meet in Executive Session**

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

None

**Adjournment**

At 6:48 pm a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll Call: all aye.