

Wauconda Park District
Board Meeting
October 8, 2024
Community Center

At 6:00 pm Commissioner Starkey called the meeting to order. Commissioners Berrelez, Carr, Bianco, and Tallman were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. David Jakubek, Monica Glavey, JoAnn Freeman, Aaron Gold, Mike Fluery, and Roger Wooten were present at the meeting for various reasons.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the regular session minutes from September 24, 2024, was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll Call: all aye.

Comments from the Public

None

Communications

Commissioner Carr submitted to the Board a copy of his notes from a recent Bangs Lake Management Committee meeting. The Board also received a card from a participant who attended the Senior Picnic stating how much of a good time she had and that the staff and volunteers did an excellent job. Staff shared this card with Wauconda Township, the Village of Wauconda, Wauconda Fire, and Wauconda Police who all assisted with the event.

Approval of Disbursements

A motion to approve the Disbursements from September 25, 2024 – October 8, 2024, in the amount of \$56,729.44 was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.

Committee Reports

A. Recreation – Director Babicz reviewed her written report with the Board. Highlights included twenty-three (23) participants in the annual Scarecrows on Main contest. Three hundred voters have voted for their favorite scarecrow, with voting ending at the end of the week. We are sure to surpass last year's total.

Fourteen (14) houses have registered for the annual house decorating contest. This number is up from four (4) houses in 2023.

Annual preschool pumpkin field trips will be taking place next week. Firefighter Clint came to the preschool to talk with the children about fire safety basics and the four-year-old students visited Wauconda Fire Station 1 for a tour in recognition of fire safety month.

Seven (7) registered for our first family fishing event on September 29. The participants caught a variety of fish including bluegill, perch, and walleye. The next event will be held on October 12.

Staff have been working hard at collecting program evaluations for the end of summer and first session of fall classes. Babicz shared some of the results of these surveys with the Board.

B. Finance – No report. Staton will provide a report at the next meeting on October 22.

C. Park Maintenance – Director Staton reviewed Director Drinkwine’s written report. The Parks Department recently set up and took down the party tent at Phil’s Beach for the Foundation’s Corks and Kegs event. They also spent a lot of time cleaning up flower beds at Phil’s in preparation for the winter. Several repairs were recently made to the 2003 Ford F450 dump truck. The vehicle needed new tires, brakes, and rotors. The aqua patios at Phils Beach have been removed for the winter along with the floating fishing pier in Cook Park. With the marinas closing next week, the parks department is preparing to take both marinas out for the winter. President Starkey asked if the Parks Department would be able to take the old piece of equipment out of Beach Park this fall. Staton thought this was something that could be done and he would talk with Director Drinkwine about it.

D. Wauconda Fest – No report. The next Fest meeting will not be until mid-December or early January. Commissioner Starkey asked when the best time for bands to reach out would be. Staton replied early November.

E. Administration – Director Staton reported to the Board that the recent Parks Foundation Event held at Phil’s Beach was a success both financially and from a program perspective. Staton thanked the Foundation for their efforts with the event and recognized Phil Costello and The Side Lot for their assistance in organizing the event, securing beverages, and donating food.

Staton also informed the Board of a disagreement with Schroeder Asphalt and Hitchcock Design over the elevation increase in the court areas of Osage Park. This disagreement is currently holding up the paving aspect of the project. Staton plans to reach out to district counsel to determine what next steps may be. Staton is also waiting on a resolution proposal from Schroeder.

F. Comprehensive Plan – No report.

New Business

- A.) Approval - Ordinance 2024-09 –An ordinance providing for the issue of \$242,955 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, 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, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding alternate bonds of the District

and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof. – Aaron Gold and Mike Fleury attended the meeting to review the District’s recent bid for 2024 General Obligation Bonds. Gold reviewed with the Board the Bids that were received and reminded the Board that it was important to do this process, so that the District can capture all the real estate taxes that it levies for. The Board had no additional questions. A motion to approve Ordinance 2024-09 - An ordinance providing for the issue of \$242,955 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, 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, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding alternate bonds of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof. was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll Call: all aye.

- B.) Decennial Committee Meeting – At 6:05 pm a motion to take a brief recess for the purpose of holding the District’s Decennial Committee Meeting was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: all aye.

See Decennial Committee Notes for details of this committee meeting.

Commissioner Starkey called the Regular Meeting of the Board back into session at 6:25 pm. Commissioners Starkey, Berrelez, Carr, Tallman, and Bianco were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz.

- C.) Approval – District’s Health Insurance Plan Selection – The District purchases Health Insurance through PDRMA Health. In the past the District has offered two options for employees to choose from for their health insurance. The District pays 87% of the health care costs with the employee paying 13%. Employees can choose from a PPO/HRA or an HMO. Dental and Vision insurance is included in this cost. Staton recommended to the Board that the District keep its current plan options and keep the cost share the same for the coming year. A motion to approve the insurance options presented by staff to include a PPO/HRA and an HMO option, along with vision, dental, and a life insurance benefit was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll Call: all aye.

Unfinished Business

- A. Tree Carving at Phil’s Beach – The Board held further discussion on tree carving at Phil’s Beach. They would like a rendering of what it may look like with the Phil’s Beach sign and owls covered into the tree. They also asked for a cost estimate. The Board wants to make sure that this is done right as it will be a focal point for patrons entering the park.

B. Audit Presentation Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2024 – Roger Wooten, CPA was present at the meeting to provide the Board with this year’s audit presentation. Wooten stated the District has improved its process for reconciling revenues through Active.net. Commissioner Starkey inquired if fund balances are equal to what should be expected by a District our size, to which Wooten replied yes.

A motion to approve the Audit for the Fiscal year ending April 30, 2024, was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll Call: all aye.

Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Carr stated with slow progress at Osage Park that he had heard some concerns about the tall grass and bushes needing some attention. Staton said that he would have Director Drinkwine cut what he can.

Executive Session

The Board did not go into Executive Session.

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

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:24 pm was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll Call: all aye.